

JONAH

The Depths of Grace

CROSSWINDS

TOO FAR GONE FOR GRACE

NOVEMBER 2

JONAH 3:1-10

MAIN IDEA

Salvation is not a right but a gift, therefore no one is too far gone for God's grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have you ever been overlooked for a promotion or an award that you felt you deserved? How does it make you feel when less deserving people are awarded while you are overlooked?

Have you ever been tempted to think that you are deserving of God's favor? How does such thinking contradict the gospel?

> READ JONAH 3:6-10.

Which phrase from these verses stands out to you the most? Why?

On Sunday, we learned that "salvation is not a right but an undeserved gift." How could this realization change the way we approach God in prayer? In worship?

> READ 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17.

If you are a Christian, what was your life like before coming to faith in Christ?

Compare and contrast Paul's life before coming to Christ (vv. 13-15; see also Acts 26:9-11) with what you know about the Ninevites.

Despite his years of service, even being imprisoned for preaching the gospel, Paul referred to himself in the present tense as the "foremost" sinner. Do you agree with Paul's self-description? What was his motive in describing himself this way?

What trustworthy saying, or theological truth, did Paul learn from his testimony?

What advantage was there for Timothy in being reminded of Paul's conversion? How might considering Paul's testimony encourage us in our walk with Christ?

What power does your testimony have to inspire others? How can it change others' opinions of their own abilities?

Why did Paul receive mercy (v. 16)? Why did the Ninevites receive mercy? What do these two stories tell us about the character of God?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

How might ascribing to a gospel of works keep us from worshiping God wholeheartedly?

What are some practical steps we might take to make sure that the gospel doesn't become old news?

On Sunday, we learned that God's grace extends to all people. Is there anyone in your life who you have been viewing as too far gone for God's grace? How could you reach out to that person this week with the hope of the gospel?