

THE CITY OF GRACE

INTRODUCTION

Timothy Keller says we learn 3 things from almost every Genesis narrative.

1. How people were ruined
2. The Culture of Death
3. The Future city of Grace

DISCUSSION

In your best words, define our current culture or death, and also, the City of Grace.

EXPLANATION

How do Christians continue to add to a culture of death?

How do you specifically add to the culture of death?

How do you specifically point to the City of Grace?

APPLICATION

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Do you think the City of Grace is all future?

Why or why not?

What ways did Jesus reach into your pain (your ruin) and restore you to life?

MISSION

How do you treat your “enemies?”

How can we define our own idolatry in order to put it away?

In what ways can our culture better see Jesus by Christians putting away their idols?

HOMEWORK FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Genesis 50:22-26.

What is the last promise you broke?

What was the last promise you saw God fulfill?



GENESIS

THE FINAL CHAPTERS

THE CITY OF GRACE

PART 71

GENESIS 50:15-21

Genesis 50:20
Genesis 4:9-10
Genesis 4:19
Genesis 2:24
Genesis 4:17

Jeremiah 29:7
Genesis 4:25-26
Matthew 5:14-16
Genesis 5-6
Genesis 11:4

Genesis 12
Genesis 50:15-17
Romans 8:28

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

MOE PAINTBALL

July 7th, 2p \$30

GOSPEL CLASS

July 7th, 9:30a in Classroom

MOTORCYCLE RIDE

July 27th
info@ourelement.org

BBQ FUNDRAISER

7/14, after services - \$8

ARROW FOSTER INFO MTG

7/17, 6p at Element

STUPID SUMMER

ourelement.org/stupidsummer



GENESIS THE FINAL CHAPTERS: PART 71

THE CITY OF GRACE

Genesis 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.”

Timothy Keller says we learn 3 things from almost every Genesis narrative.

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2. The Culture of Death
3. The Future city of Grace

Martin Luther’s definition of sin is “*Homo in se incurvatus*,” it means man curved in upon himself. The bible defines sin as always focusing on yourself, choosing yourself above God and others.

The narrative in Genesis turns once more to the scene of Joseph and his brothers and in so doing returns to the central theme of the Joseph narratives: “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good...”

Behind all the events and human plans recounted in the story of Joseph lies the unchanging plan of God. It is the same plan introduced from the very beginning of the book where God looks out at what he has just created for man and sees that “it is good.” Through his dealings with the patriarchs and Joseph, God had continued to bring about his good plan. He had remained faithful to his purposes, and it is the point of this narrative to show that His people can continue to trust Him and to believe that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Rom 8:28).

Joseph’s takes all of the sin that has been done to him, all that his family has done, and shows the graciousness of grace. The last description of Joseph’s dealings with his brothers is the statement that “he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.” It is difficult not to see in this picture of Joseph and his brothers a foreshadowing of the future community of the sons of Israel, and the eventual church that would come.

Joseph tells his brothers:

- 1) I am not fit for worship (don’t fall at my feet).
- 2) He says he is not in the place to judge them. Only God has judgment over people’s hearts.
 - Because only God knows everything.
 - Because only God is Just.

Joseph tries to put away what ruined them, he tries to put away their death, and show them how to live in grace.

We should be horrified with sin, but always have hope because God can redeem it, this is the City of Grace.

You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

- God had me in Potiphar’s house to learn about business
- God had me in prison to interpret Pharaohs dream
- God used me and a famine to save many people so they could hear about Him
- God used your sin to make us a blessing and now people want to hear about our God

To bring about a CITY OF GRACE.

If we look at our lives in hindsight, God has done great things.

- It is usually through our pain 1) How we were ruined,
- How we lived lives that didn’t glorify God 2) The Culture of Death,
- and our restoration 3) The city of Grace.

The saving of many lives

The “city” does not need more idolatry or religion, it needs people who will cast aside their pride and simply love Jesus. We should never stop loving the city around us...while we BECOME the City of Grace.

We were ruined, caught up in the **Culture of Death**, but have been given redemption, **the city of Grace**.