

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Undone: Is Everything Coming Undone?

Read/Reflect

- 1. Read II Corinthians 13:11-14. Scan any of Paul's other letters to see his use of "Grace be with you." Do you think these were just nice words to include in his letter writing? What's distinctive about his use of grace in II Cor. 13:14?
- 2. Review the previous chapters 10-13 and consider the corrections he has had to make in the church at Corinth as well as the personal accusations he's had to endure. Do you think it was hard for him to conclude his letter the way he did?

Explore

- 3. Do you think things are falling apart more than ever before? If so, what are some of the feelings you have with that thought? Does it make you scared, anxious, frustrated, angry, etc.?
- 4. When things around you feel out of control or like they are falling apart, to what do you turn?
 - Complaining
 - □ Things of beauty
 - □ Work, especially to fix things

- □ Stricter rules
- □ Pessimism & cynicism
- □ Turn inward, focus on self
- 5. What impact upon your own spirit, identity, and attitude does "the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit" have on your life?
 - Renews me
 - Transforms me
 - Encourages me

- Humbles me
- Calms me
- Other: _____
- 6. When has the grace of the Lord Jesus ever surprised you so that suddenly you saw yourself or the world differently; or you were empowered to press on or press through?

Pray

- Lay before God any worries, fears and anxieties. Be specific. Allow yourself to complain before God, express your frustration, your sadness, your fear for how things appear to be in your life or in the world.
- God's grace is not a magic trick that makes everything immediately better, but pray that in the midst of all that's bad in life the grace of Jesus can refresh you, the love of God can embrace you, and the Holy Spirit can accompany you always.