

From This Day Forward

MOVING AHEAD WITH FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE

13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, 14 I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

~Philippians 3:13-14 (CSB)

GRACE
REDEEMS
RESTORES
RENEWS
HOPE

AUGUST 16: GRACE IS STILL AT WORK



A SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY: ROMANS 11:1

1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? Absolutely not! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. {CSB}



A MAINLINE FOR TODAY:

Grace redeems what is behind us and renews our faith for what is ahead.



A THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

Paul begins Romans 11 with a question that can surface when life has not gone the way we expected: "Has God rejected his people?" His answer is immediate and emphatic: "Absolutely not!"

Paul knew the situation was complicated. People had wandered from God. Opportunities to trust in Jesus had been missed. The present did not look like the future he had once expected. But Paul refused to

interpret a difficult chapter as evidence that God had rejected His people. He knew something else was at work: the faithful, persistent, redeeming grace of God.

Grace changes the way we look at the past. It does not pretend the pain did not happen or call every decision a good one. Grace does something better. It takes what cannot be changed and refuses to let it control what can still become. God can redeem yesterday without repeating it. He can bring wisdom from mistakes, strength from disappointment, healing from hurt, and fresh purpose from places that once seemed wasted. That means the past can teach us without trapping us.

Romans 11 reminds us that God's grace is still at work even when circumstances seem unfinished. God has not walked away. His mercy has not been exhausted. His purposes have not reached their limit. What has happened matters, but it does not have the authority to determine everything that happens next. *Grace can redeem what is behind us and renew our faith for what is ahead.*

That is an important word for Kingswood Church. Kingswood does not have to deny the disappointments of the past in order to believe God for a hopeful future. There have been missteps, missed opportunities, difficult conversations, and moments we would handle differently if we could do them over again. But grace means yesterday does not get the final word. Jesus does.

Jesus still loves His church. The gospel still changes lives. Scripture still speaks with truth and power. Prayer still opens hearts to God. Grace still restores people. And our community is still filled with children, families, neighbors, and friends who need the hope, forgiveness, belonging, and new life found in Jesus Christ.

When grace renews our view of the future, something begins to change in the church. We pray with greater confidence because we believe God is working. We worship with greater expectation because we know His presence is among us. We look at people differently because every person becomes someone God loves and someone grace can reach. We begin looking ahead instead of allowing yesterday to set the limits of tomorrow.

God's grace gives Kingswood Church permission to move forward without being chained to what happened before. There are people we have not met, relationships we have not built, ministries waiting to be launched, gifts waiting to be discovered, and opportunities God has not yet placed before us.

The past may explain some things, but grace can redeem it. The present may still be unfinished, but grace is working in it. And we can face the future with faith because the God who was faithful then is still faithful now. *Grace redeems what is behind us and renews our faith for what is ahead.*



AN ACTION FOR TODAY:

Think of one experience from the past that has lowered your expectation for the future. Instead of allowing it to become a limitation, write beside it Paul's answer from Romans 11:1: "Absolutely not! Grace Is Still at Work." Then ask God to show you how His grace can redeem what has been and renew your faith for what can still be.



A PRAYER FOR TODAY:

Lord, thank You that Your grace is greater than my past and Your faithfulness is greater than my disappointments. Redeem what is behind me so it does not limit what I believe You can do ahead of me. Renew my faith, restore my expectation, and help me see the future through the promise of Your grace. Do the same in Kingswood Church. Teach us from yesterday, meet us with grace today, and lead us with confidence into the good work You still have for us to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Kingswood
CHURCH



God is still working.

NEW POSSIBILITIES REMAIN.
BETTER DAYS CAN STILL BE AHEAD.