

Are you a procrastinator, someone who is constantly putting things off to the last minute? Or are you a planner, someone who has everything so well organized that it all come together at just the right time? The danger in procrastination is that you don't always have enough time to do things right, or you don't have all of the necessary resources.

Some things just require a little advanced planning. Spring is officially here. So that means that barbecue season can't be far behind. If you like to barbecue, you know you can't just do that at the last minute. A good barbecue takes time and preparation, especially if you're like me and prefer to use a charcoal grill. You can't plan to eat in 30 minutes and haven't even started the grill yet. It just doesn't work. Some things need to be done at the right time.

God gives us His love and grace at just the right time.

Jeremiah was God's prophet to the people of Judah and Jerusalem at a very difficult time. The Kingdom of Israel had divided in the nations of Israel and Judah after the time of King Solomon. Both nations functioned independently for many years. The northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrian in 722 BC. Jeremiah came on the scene in Judah about 100 years later when Judah was being threatened by the great powers of Egypt and Babylon. This was a very turbulent time for the people, especially since most of them had turned their backs on God and broken the covenant God had given them.

God had a choice. He could dump the nation of Judah and abandon the people for breaking His covenant. Or He could remain faithful to this unfaithful people and give forgive them for their sins. God chose to forgive the people and promise to give them a brand new covenant. Jeremiah recorded the promise with these words. (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

**"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."**

God kept this promise when He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into our world. God did not procrastinate. He didn't put off helping His people. Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT) tells us, **"But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children."** Jesus paid the full price for our sins. Today, as we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we

remember that this is the New Covenant in Christ's blood. God has established a new relationship with us in Christ, one based on God's Grace, not on the Law.

God's grace is the gift that He gives us every day. He doesn't give us a one month supply to use as we see fit. His grace is a daily gift. The story is told about a very rich man who gave an allowance to his son. At first the man gave the allowance to his son once a year. Of course he only saw his son once a year, the day the allowance was given. When he started giving his son his allowance on a daily basis, he saw his son every day.

God wants to be connected to us, to be part of our lives. He wants to see us every day. God gives us what we need every day. God didn't give the children of Israel a week long supply of manna; He gave them a fresh supply every day. Jesus teaches us to pray for our "daily bread." Lamentations 3:22-23 (NLT) tells us, **"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning."** God has a fresh supply of His love and grace for us every day.

But it may be difficult to trust in God one day at a time in tough times. We want security. We want to know where our next meal is coming from. We want to know that we will have a roof over our houses a year from now. Sometimes we worry about these things, especially in tough economic times. But Jesus says to us, **"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries."** (Matthew 6:33-34 NLT)

As we have seen over the past several months, real security doesn't come from the stock market, from a bank account, from a retirement fund or from a job that you've held for a long time. These things can all disappear faster than we ever thought possible. Real security is in the Lord. God gives us what we need. The prophet Isaiah (33:2 NLT) trusted in the Lord and prayed, **"Be our strong arm each day and our salvation in times of trouble."** God can help us face all of the challenges of life, if we will only let Him.

God has supplies for all of our needs. The key is to stay connected to the supplier. God's grace is God's gift to us for today. Amen.