

Sermon Notes for 8/30:

charis = grace = free gift

charism = a specific gift

charismatic = people who exercise these free gifts

chen = unearned goodwill or favor

chesed = faithful lovingkindness

Grace is the free gift of God's approval *of* us and God's love *for* us—a love that causes God to be generous to us, for our healing and our benefit, to make us whole and to repair the world.

Acts 8:1-3—That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

Acts 9:3-9—Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

"If you don't like the road you're walking, start paving another one." –Dolly Parton

1 Corinthians 15:9-10—"For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain."

