

Grace is REALLY amazing!

By God's grace... (part 6)

Scriptures: 1 Cor. 15:1-10

1. Did you find Steve's illustration of likening Mohammed Emwazi (Jihadi John) to Saul of Tarsus surprising or even shocking? (Whilst readily acknowledging that there would have been differences between the two men, why was this such an effective comparison?)
2. Read 1 Cor. 15:8-10. What did Paul mean by stating that he was like one "abnormally born"? Why did Paul regard himself as the "least of the apostles"? (see also 1 Tim. 1:13-15).
3. Paul stated: "By the grace of God I am what I am." What in his life shaped such humility? Do you think that approving of Stephen's death became a scar on his soul throughout the rest of his life?
4. In which ways did Paul's view of himself before his conversion differ to his view of himself after his conversion? (see Phil. 3:5-7; 1 Tim. 1:13-15).
5. Paul says that God's grace to him was not without effect. What do you think he meant?
6. Read Luke 7:36-50. In which ways does this story illustrate the changes caused by an awareness of God's grace? Do you believe that there is an appropriate response to grace? (Might this be misconstrued as a salvation of works?)
7. Steve provided a number of responses to God's grace (Mother Teresa's nuns in Calcutta; Chuck Colson and Prison Fellowship; Millard Fuller and Habitat for Humanity; Dame Cicely Saunders and the hospice movement; Dr Bill Magee and Operation Smile). Which spoke to you most deeply?
8. C. S. Lewis "Those most conscious of another world have made the most effective Christians in this one." Thoughts?
9. What did Paul mean when he said: "...yet not I but the grace of God that was with me"?