

# GREG'S NOTES

## A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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### THE PIECE DE RESISTANCE

Ephesians 2:1–10

Have you ever heard that French expression *piece de resistance*? It's a French expression used to describe the best of something. The showpiece, the ultimate, it is the masterpiece. Did you know that God has a masterpiece? We are God's *piece de resistance*. Not the Alps or the islands of Hawaii or Tahiti. Not the solar system or the galaxies. It is us! We are His crowning achievement in creation.

#### PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **We are Christians entirely and solely as a result of the grace of God.** My salvation did not come through any human effort on my part. I did nothing to merit this. I did nothing to deserve this. It was grace. Grace is getting what you don't deserve, and this is how we are going to get into heaven—because of the grace of God.
2. **We are to extend to others the same grace God has given to us.** The Bible says, "Let your speech be seasoned with grace." What does that mean? It means you should extend grace and love to people. Some people are so quick to judge people. They are so quick to criticize. It is much better to have a lot of grace and say we don't know all of the facts. Speak grace to that person because God has given grace to you.

#### RELEVANT REMINDERS

- Mankind is God's greatest creation. We are not a highly evolved animal, as some would say. We are uniquely made in the very image of God.
- In addition to being fearfully and wonderfully made physically, God has a custom-designed work He wants to do in and through you. Just as no two snowflakes are exactly alike, God has a unique plan for each of our lives.
- There are things in life that happen to us that in the moment are not beautiful. But one day God will make them beautiful in His time.

#### APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Let God have His loving way with you. Yield to the strokes of His brush, to the molding of His hand. He is just trying to help you fulfill your reason for existence. He is putting His finishing touches on you as His masterpiece. By grace you have been saved through faith, not of works, lest any man should boast. God extends the grace. You apply the faith. What is faith? It is putting your complete trust in Him.