

## BY THE GRACE OF GOD

Without him I could do nothing; Without him I'd surely fail;  
Without him I would be drifting, Like a ship without a sail.

Without him I would be dying; Without him I'd be enslaved;  
Without him life would be hopeless; But with Jesus, thank God I'm saved!

Jesus, O Jesus! Do you know him today?  
Please don't turn him away; O Jesus, O Jesus,  
Without him, how lost I would be.

Written by Mylon LeFevre

I love this song. I think it beautifully expresses the thoughts of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:10, *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me* (ESV).

Paul begins that chapter by reminding the Christians in Corinth that it is the gospel that saves. The heart of that gospel message is seen in verses 3-4, *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures* (ESV).

He also stresses in the first two verses that this is a preached message. Paul uses two words which are translated “preach” in this context. One means “to declare a good message” and the other means “to herald or announce.” The gospel is not some mystical thing that comes along and zaps certain people. The gospel is not a feeling that you get in your heart. The gospel is something that you are told! The gospel is words – *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ* (Romans 10:17 ESV).

Paul felt unworthy for the task of declaring the good news (1 Corinthians 15:9). So Paul gave every effort to carry the message of Jesus to others. Do you ever feel that you are inadequate for the task of sharing of the gospel? How can I possibly be like the great Apostle Paul?

You and I can do it the same way he did – by the grace of God! We must put in the effort, but it is the grace of God that is with us that will win others to Christ. May we appreciate God's grace, those who have received it, and make every effort to declare and announce it to others so they can receive it as well

Greg Surles