

## P R E F A C E

The material included in these pages, is meant to give you something as a basic help in your presentation of the OBSTACLES TO GRACE talk. You are encouraged to follow the outline guide for DIRECTION OF CONTENT, but NOT AS THE CONTENT itself.

As the fourth talk of the second day, this talk looks at Grace from the viewpoint of sin. The spirit of the rollo is explanatory and positive; God in us and with us can triumph over every obstacle. As you prepare your talk, please be sure to read all of the supporting Scripture passages, then choose those passages which seem most appropriate for your rollo. When you give your rollo, please read the passages you choose as a part of your talk. The amount of time allotted for this talk is a maximum of 30 minutes. ★

There are a few additional materials listed that might be helpful to you. All material given to you is meant to guide your thinking while at the same time you have the freedom of your individual expression.

God's blessings be yours as you prepare for your presentation of the OBSTACLES TO GRACE rollo.

### SYNOPSIS

The OBSTACLES TO GRACE talk, is meant to give the candidates a sense of the realism about the difficulties they may encounter in living a personal relationship with Christ; also, to encourage them, that God in us and with us can triumph over every obstacle.

#9 OBSTACLES TO A LIFE OF GRACE

I. Introduction

- A. Life in Grace is God's plan of living the perfect Ideal (Rollo #12 - so only a brief reference, please)
- B. Recognize grace in life as God's gift to us because He loves us through Jesus. In Jesus we are given the gift of salvation from sin, and we receive our true potential as God's workmanship created for good works (Eph. 2:8-10).
- C. The obstacles are anything that gets in the way or hinders us from living that full and true potential.
- D. The good news is that no matter what the obstacles, God keeps His promises (Lamentations 3:22,23).

II. Definition of Obstacles to Grace

- A. Anything which stands between God and us, and that hinders or keeps us from enjoying all that God has for us in Jesus Christ
- B. That which keeps us from meeting God's ideal
- C. Anything that prevents the flow of God's grace through us

III. Basic Obstacle is Sin

- A. In the beginning God gave life.
  - 1. Humanity deliberately rebelled by choosing a way of life different than and contrary to God's way of life. Gen. 3
    - a. The way of disobedience was chosen.
    - b. Result: humanity falls short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23  
This is a missing of the mark, a falling short of the ideal.
  - 2. Our human nature is now corrupted by sin.
    - a. Our sin-affected nature commits sins -- thoughts, words and deeds.
    - b. We sin because we are sinners.
- B. We receive death because we have inherited sin.
  - 1. The wages of sin is death Romans 6:23
  - 2. Death is separation from God Matt. 25:30,41
- C. Sin affects every dimension of our lives.
  - 1. Our human nature/person
    - a. Our heart becomes self-centered refusing piety
    - b. Our mind rejects truth and refuses study
    - c. Our body chooses disobedience and rejects service
  - 2. Our relationships
    - a. With God - we refuse to submit to Him
    - b. With others - we refuse to love them and care for them
    - c. With self - we refuse what is best and have low self-esteem
    - d. With nature - we abuse God's world and fail to keep it for Him

IV. Enemies of Grace Which Present Obstacles: the devil, the world, corrupt self -- I John 2:15-17, Heid. Cat. Q & A 127

- A. The devil
  - 1. Is a rebellious, fallen angel
    - a. Is our enemy seeking to destroy us I Peter 5:8
    - b. Knows our weaknesses Eph. 6:10-18
    - c. Strives to lead us contrary to the Holy Spirit Eph. 4:30,31 *Angel of light*
  - 2. Assisted by hosts of evil spiritual forces Eph. 6:12
    - a. Tempt us II Cor. 11:3, I Tim. 4:1
    - b. Discourage us I Peter 5:8
    - c. Deceive us II Cor. 11:14

- B. The world
  - 1. Attitudes and values which compete for our loyalty and allegiance to God; the world tries to seduce us.
  - 2. ~~A~~ basic attitude that leaves God out
    - a. Uses people
    - b. Craves the materialistic life
    - c. Seeks wealth, status, fame

- C. Corrupt self Gal. 5:17
 

"I have met the enemy, and the enemy is me."

  - 1. Taking care of self first James 4:1-3
  - 2. Refusing to accept and live God's gift
  - 3. Self-pity - persistent
  - 4. Pride in self achievement I John 2:16

- D. Summary: persistent problems
  - 1. This is spiritual warfare. Eph. 6:12
  - 2. It is a life-long battle. Phil. 3:12-14
  - 3. The conflict is always present. Romans 7 ~~book~~ *Matt 7:143*

V. Specific <sup><i>What is your</i></sup> Obstacles <sup><i>'discipline'</i></sup> and	Remedies
A. Guilt James 2:10, I John 1:7 Isaiah 1:18, I John 1:8,9	Grace
B. Doubt I John 5:4,5	Faith
C. Fear I John 4:18	Love
D. Anger Ephesians 4:26,32	Forgiveness
E. Bitterness Hebrews 12:14-16	Peace
F. Covetousness I Timothy 6:8	Contentment
G. Indifference Is. 29:13, I Tim. 4:15	Diligence
H. Pride James 4:5,6, I Peter 5:5	Humility

VI. Power Tools Through Which God's Grace Flows

- A. Prayer (piety) Phil. 4:6,7
- B. Scripture (study) II Timothy 3:16,17
- C. Worship and Sacraments Hebrews 10:24,25, Acts 2:42
- D. Christian fellowship (action) Acts 2:44-47, Romans 12:15,16, Galatians 6:2

VII. Conclusion

- A. Hope is real
  - 1. God's grace has provided One who is greater than the devil, One who was not infected or seduced by the world around Him, and One who did not possess a sinful nature.
  - 2. Through Jesus who knew no sin we are able to fellowship with God and receive strength to meet the obstacles that confront us. II Cor. 5:21, I Peter 2:24, I John 4:4
- B. Jesus is the victory over the obstacles.
  - 1. Power over sin Romans 8:1-4, I John 3:1-3,9
  - 2. Power over Satan Hebrews 2:14,15
  - 3. Power over the world I John 5:3-5
- C. Ultimate victory: Keep your eyes on Jesus Hebrews 12:1,2