

GOD'S GRACE

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MAN IS THE RECIPIENT AND BENEFICIARY OF GRACE BECAUSE OF CHRIST

The most important study we will ever learn is the Doctrine of Grace - (God's graciousness). We cannot even begin to know our Great God and Savior until we metabolize His Grace. The word Grace in the Greek is "charis." Charis means limitless and measureless. Grace is God's Pre-designed Plan for believers before, during and after salvation.

The Grace of God is not withdrawn because of our sin-failure. Grace comes to mankind from God because of the Cross work of Christ. Human merit has no part in Salvation and it has no part in living the Christian life after salvation. Grace cannot be changed, improved upon or weakened in any way because Grace depends on who and what God is, not on who and what man is or what man does or doesn't do. Grace is provided by God because of sin, regardless of sin. The sin problem was paid at the Cross. Sin is no longer the issue, forgiveness is the issue for mankind. Grace does not mean that God overlooks our sin, it means He accepts the Cross as payment in full for all sin, past present and future – once and for all, for all time. Hello! Grace is the action of Christ on the Cross, accepted by God, removing the ordinances against us (Colossians 2:14).

One of the greatest reasons for denominationalism is failure to understand God's Grace. Another reason is interpretation. Both are the result of man's ego and Satan's counterfeit Gospel (the Gospel of works). Man, by his very nature just cannot let go of self and let God. God is perfect and he has a perfect plan called grace.

Grace under the scrutiny of Scripture. Romans 11:6 tells us, "*But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace*". Grace and works are mutually exclusive. By God's plan of grace He receives the credit (glory) because sinners are saved by God's Plan through Christ, and believers are transformed to God by God's plan through the Holy Spirit. Grace is God's free gift of love without man's qualification because man is unqualified, except for Christ and that is why He died in our place – He had to die if we were to be saved! (2 Timothy 1:9).

Grace glorifies God. When you try to pay back God for your salvation, or His Plan of eternal blessing, you take away from God the glory that belongs to Him. We serve Him because **we cannot** repay Him. There are no strings attached to salvation or God's Plan of Grace; Grace flows from God toward man. Man has no grace of his own and no debt to pay God - Christ paid it once and for all time, in FULL (Romans 4:4-8; Colossians 2:13-14). When we serve God it is an expression of appreciation of what He has done for us through Christ for salvation, and to the Holy Spirit who fills us.

Salvation is by Grace. Spirituality is by Grace (Ephesians 2:7-9; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19). Salvation is a gift not a reward. Spirituality (filling of the Spirit) is a gift not a reward. The Christian Life is a gift not a reward. (Note this is Acts 11:17, Romans 5:5 and II Corinthians 5:5.)

If we are ever going to fully appreciate God's Plan, the Cross of Christ and the function of the Holy Spirit, we must master Divine Grace.

Grace means kindness, mercy, forgiveness and blessing. Grace is free, unmerited and undeserved. Grace is how great God is. Grace depends on the character of God not on the character of man. Grace and religion are totally exclusive of one another.

Religion is the antithesis of Grace. Religion is ritual without reality, without God. Religion is all about man. Religion is Satan's counterfeit of God's Grace. Grace is: God does all the work – He delivers the believer from the kingdom of darkness. He delivers us and literally deposits us in His Eternal light – He (Christ) is eternal light – He is the light of the world (Acts 26:18; John 3:19). He brings to light the hidden things by the light of His Gospel and His Word (I Corinthians 4:5; II Corinthians 4:4, 6). Grace is the Pre-designed Plan of God (referred to in this website as PPG).

God is perfect righteousness. God is Just. Grace did not judge our sins, God's justice and righteousness judged our sins on the Cross. Our forgiveness is not because of God's Love or His Grace, it is because of the Cross. Christ satisfied the perfect righteousness and justice of God by living and dying a perfect life. He knew no sin. But He was made sin for us (Colossians 2:13-14; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 7:24-26). The Cross is the judicial action of God exercised on the person of Christ for the benefit of mankind. Our forgiveness is made possible through the Cross which propitiated (satisfied) the righteousness and justice of God (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 4:10). Therefore, forgiveness of sin is based on the righteousness of God and the justice of God – not on the grace of God.

Grace freely flows because of God's Son. God found (always knew) a way to save us and keep us saved. His Son saved us; His Holy Spirit keeps us saved – this is Grace (Matthew 27:27-51; Mark 15:16-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:16-37; Hebrews 9:3-8; 10:19-20). It is not God's Love that saves us, it is God's faithfulness to His own character and the Cross that saves us and keeps us saved. Grace frees God's Love... and mankind is the beneficiary. God designed Salvation and the Christian Life and the title of His Plan is called Grace. Grace is the deliverance of the Lord.

The Holy Spirit sustains the believer throughout his life – this is God's Grace. To appreciate God's Grace we must experience it. This is one of two reasons we are left here on earth after salvation, so that we can personally learn and experience God's wonderful Grace. The second reason is to be ambassadors to a condemned world that is lost and dying without Christ. We are to watch the deliverance of the Lord.

Grace is our freedom to approach the very Throne Room of Grace in Prayer. Hebrew 4:16, "*Let us therefore draw near (to God) with (humble) confidence to the Throne of Grace, (here is the reason) that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.*" We are to watch the deliverance of the Lord.

Grace is experienced in suffering (deserved or undeserved). II Corinthians 12:9, "*And He said to me 'my Grace is sufficient for you, for power (God's) is perfected (manifested or experienced) in weakness (our weakness)'*". We are to watch the deliverance of the Lord. We are weak, but he is

strong. We are perfected in suffering. We suffer because he first suffered. Grace sustained Christ on the Cross and grace will sustain the believer in suffering. *"Take up you cross daily and follow Christ"* (Matthew 10:38; 16:24).

Grace is our stabilizer. I Peter 5:12, *"We are to stand firm in Grace. We are to watch the deliverance of the Lord."*

We are to *"grow in Grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ* (through Bible Doctrine) (2 Peter 3:18).

Grace defines eternal security. God's Eternal Plan since the foundation of the world is designed to save us and keep us saved. He saves us by the Cross Work of Christ. He keeps us saved by the Sealing and Indwelling work of the Holy Spirit. In II Corinthians 1:22 God tells us that He has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our heart as a pledge (covenant). We are "sealed for the day of redemption" – (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30).

"Grace to you." "Grace and Peace be with you all." These two statements were delivered by the greatest of believers - the Apostle Paul in most of the openings and closings of his letters. Make this a study for yourself – read every introduction and closing of Paul's letters. God's Grace was everything to Paul. Grace is for our benefit and God's credit (Glory). Amen.

Happy Studying!