

**Subject: *Receiving God's Grace***

**Scripture: *John 1:14-18***

The Bible has some great themes that run from Genesis to Revelation. These themes are like threads in a quilt. There is the black thread of sin and death and the scarlet thread of blood sacrifice and redemption. And there is the golden thread of God's grace and glory. The first Bible reference to grace is ***Genesis 6:8*** *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.* And the very last verse of the Bible speaks of God's grace, ***Revelation 22:21*** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

D. L. Moody was studying his Bible on the subject of God's grace. He walked outside his study for a breath of fresh air, when he saw a man coming down the sidewalk. Moody greeted the man and then asked him, "Sir, what do you know about grace?" To which the man replied, "Grace who?" The coming of Christ to earth is all about grace. The message of Christmas is all about God's grace for the human race. ***2 Corinthians 8:9*** *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.* Love reaching up is worship. Love reaching out is compassion. Love reaching down is grace. Listen to the words of our song, *At Calvary*:

*Oh the love that drew salvation's plan,  
Oh the grace that brought it down to man  
Oh the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary.  
Mercy there was great, and grace was free,  
Pardon there was multiplied to me  
There my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary.*

**THE SOURCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

The source of God's grace is Jesus Christ. He is the source that never runs out. There is a fullness of grace in Him. 1 Peter 5:10 speaks of "the God of all grace." He is full of grace and truth (vs. 14). We have received of His fullness (vs. 16). Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (vs. 17). An old Puritan prayed: "As the sun is full of light and the ocean is full of water and heaven is full of glory, so may my heart be full of Thee." The word "fullness" is the same as found in ***Colossians 1:19*** *For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell,* and in ***Colossians 2:9*** *For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*

Verse 17 says the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. This doesn't mean that grace and truth were not in the world before Christ came, but Jesus brought them in a new and complete. The law reveals sin; grace forgives sin. The law shows us our need of a Savior; grace provides a Savior. The law demands perfect obedience and righteousness; grace provides perfect righteousness by faith. The law tells us what we must do; grace tells us what Christ has done.

**THE SUPPLY OF GOD'S GRACE**

We receive the fullness of God's grace. The Bible speaks of grace in these ways:

**Abounding grace** ***Romans 5:20*** *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:* Grace is greater than all our sin.

**Reigning grace** ***Romans 5:21*** *That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.* All through human history sin and death have been reigning. Through Christ the grace of God is reigning and eternal life conquers death.

Sufficient grace **2 Corinthians 12:9** *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

The riches of God's grace **Ephesians 2:7** *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

The manifold grace of God **1 Peter 4:10** *As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. The word “manifold” means many-faceted or many-colored. For every shade of trial, God has a corresponding shade of grace.*

### **1. We are saved by grace**

**Ephesians 2:8-9** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.* How well do you understand grace?

- Do you think some people are so bad they could not possibly be saved? It's no harder for God to save a person on death row than to save a young child.
- Do you think that coming to church and serving the Lord will help get you into Heaven?
- Do you think God loves you more when you are good? **Romans 5:8** *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
- Do you think you have to keep the Ten Commandments to get to Heaven? **Galatians 2:21** *I do not frustrate (set aside) the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

In Acts 15, the Jerusalem Conference considered the question of how Gentiles are saved. Do they have to keep the Old Testament Law? No. They are saved the same way as Jews—by grace through faith. **Acts 15:11** *But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.*

You cannot mix grace and works. **Romans 11:6** *And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.* Why then do so many people think they have to do something to earn God's favor? Almost everything in the world operates of the merit system, but God operates on the grace system. In school, you get what you work for. At work you earn your salary and you get a raise based on good work. But we are saved by the grace of God plus nothing. Works are the result of salvation, not the reason for salvation.

### **2. We serve by grace**

**1 Corinthians 15:10** *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.* Even our works are the result of God's grace working in us and through us.

**Hebrews 12:28** *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:*

### **3. We grow in grace**

**2 Peter 3:18** *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.* We grow in grace as we in our understanding of His word. **Acts 20:32** *And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up...*

#### **4. We are strengthened by grace**

*2 Timothy 2:1* Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

*Hebrews 4:16* Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

#### **5. We speak by grace**

*Colossians 4:6* Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

The Bible says we praise God and sing by the grace He gives. *Colossians 3:16* Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

#### **6. We give by grace**

*2 Corinthians 8:7* Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. God wants us to give out of grace, not out of guilt.

*2 Corinthians 8:9* For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. God's grace motivated Christ to give Himself, and grace motivates us to give ourselves.

#### **7. We live by grace**

*Titus 2:11-12* For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. You've probably heard someone say, "Well, if I believed like you believe in the grace of God, I would get saved and then live any way I wanted." No you wouldn't, because the same grace that saves us is the grace that changes us. Grace means that God loves us just the way we are, but He loves us so much He doesn't leave us that way.

Who receives God's grace? Who gets the benefits from this rich supply? In a sense everybody benefits from His grace because God's grace is available to all people.

*Titus 2:11* For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

In another sense every person receives as much of God's grace as he wants to receive. There is an ocean of God's grace, but we must be willing to receive it and we must receive grace on God's terms. The Bible says that we receive God's grace by faith and humility. Grace is God's hand reaching down to man. Faith is our hand reaching up to receive it. Humility is an attitude of utter dependence on God.

*James 4:6* But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.