

## GRACE: REFERENCE POINTS

Message 2

Date: 2019-11-17

Text: Esther 6

Words: 6155

INTRO: This is now the second message on grace. Let us briefly review. We are talking about God's grace, so the One who extends grace is God Almighty. And just what is this grace? It is that which is given to man by God through His unmerited favor. If we are saved, what was graced to us was salvation and it is a gift. It is unmerited favor. Unmerited means it cannot be earned. The meaning of favor, according to the site, "Gotquestions.org" was 'demonstrated delight.' The favor of God as this site gave it can be described as: "'tangible evidence that a person has the approval of the Lord.'" When we favor someone, we want to be with him or her. We delight in him. We connect with her in a way we don't connect with everyone. We usually favor people who also favor us." Now I would conclude that favors can be bought, but unmerited favors cannot be bought, and that is grace.

Next we asked what the reason is for grace. Why does God extend grace to some and not to others? Now my Calvinist friend says that since grace is unmerited favor, therefore it can be nothing in the person to whom God shows grace. We do not know what it is. He just shows grace to those He elected and we have to rest content with not knowing why. In my view, that is a horrible answer. In the reference point we are considering now, I want to disprove that. Why does God show grace to some and not others. Because some people please Him and others don't. And who pleases Him? We will see that under yet another point.

In the last message we began looking at why God extends grace to some and not others. You might want to turn to Esther 6 again. What is it in God that causes Him to extend grace? We were looking at the story of Esther. We were beginning to look at how, when one person is pleased with another, that causes the pleased person to extend unmerited favor to the one that pleases him or her. Esther had a request to ask from the king. When she came, unbidden, into his presence; a dangerous thing to do, she found favor in his sight. She pleased him. And he said, "What

would you like?" She invited the king and Haman to a banquet, which they did.

So the king said, "What is your request. I will give you anything you wish, up to half my kingdom." And she said, "If I have found favor in your sight, if I please you... etc." She then invited the king and Haman to another feast and you remember, Haman was ecstatic. You will remember how the king was reminded of what Mordechai had done for him and how Haman prepared the most wonderful things for a man he thought was himself, and it was Haman. And the last verses we read were verses 10-11 which says:

*10 Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken."*

*11 So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"*

We are looking at what it is that causes the person who extends grace, to extend that grace. We continue now in verse 12:

### III. THE REASON FOR GRACE Cont'd

*12 Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.*

*13 When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him."*

*14 While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.*

We keep reading in the next chapter:

*1 So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther.*

2 And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

Because the king was so pleased with his wife, she could request almost anything she wished. And it would be granted to her, not out of debt, but by grace, given as a gift. Verse 3:

3 Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.

Note again the words, "found favor," which is to find grace.

4 "For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss."

5 So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?"

6 And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

7 Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king.

8 When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?" As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

9 Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him on it!"

So we go to chapter 8:

- 1 *On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her.*
- 2 *So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.*
- 3 *Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to counteract the evil of Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews.*
- 4 *And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king,*
- 5 *and said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.*

Now we note the word 'pleases' and 'grace' or 'favor' used together again. When we, as humans, are pleased by another we favor them. We are glad to do things for them which they have not earned.

Many of these things in God are in man too. At creation God said, "Let us make man in our image and in our likeness." One of those likenesses is that there are things that please man and things that please people. The problem is, because of our flesh, or the sin nature, we like things we should not like. But there are good things that please us as well. When we see our children grow up and they obey God and walk right, as Christians that pleases us.

So I ask, if what pleases people causes them to extend grace to others, does God work like that too? And if so, is there any way in which sinful man can please God, or find favor with God? Is there anything even very wicked people can do that pleases God and causes Him to extend unmerited favor

to them? Can we please Him even before we get saved so that He can extend unmerited favor toward us then?

Well, go now to Hebrews 11. We'll read verses 1-6:

- 1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
- 2 *For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.*
- 3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*
- 4 *By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.*
- 5 *By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*
- 6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Here we see that it is possible for man to please God. The only time the unsaved can please God, as far as I can find, is when they repent of their sins and put their trust in Jesus Christ. Well, we have to leave the rest for another point.

#### IV. THE RECIPIENTS OF GRACE

So we look at reference point 4. Our question is, who are the recipients of grace? Well, from a human standpoint we have seen this from the story of Esther in the OT. Favor is bestowed on the one who pleases the one who can do things for them. We saw this in the book of Esther and even in the case of wicked king Herod. Then we saw in Hebrews 11 some of those with whom God is pleased. We'll read verses 1-6 once more:

- 1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

- 2 *For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.*
- 3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*
- 4 *By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.*
- 5 *By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*
- 6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

King Ahasuerus was displeased with queen Vashti. He got rid of her. He was pleased with queen Esther, and he gave her what she desired of him. Herodius pleased King Herod, and she got what she wanted.

What people receive the grace of God? Those who please Him! So here is a most important question: Who pleases God? We are in reference point five, the conditions of grace.

Once more, I do not find that any unbeliever ever experiences the grace of God. Only when the sinner bends in repentance to be saved, does he begin to experience the grace of God. Sinful man may find grace with man but sinful man can never find favor with God. Why? Turn to Numbers 23. Sinful man can never please God! You will remember the account of Balaam and Balak. Balaam wanted Balak to curse Israel. And no matter where he took Balak or what they did, Balak could not curse Israel. So after he had tried once more and Balak blessed Israel Numbers 23:25-27 says:

- 25 *Then Balak said to Balaam, "Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all!"*
- 26 *So Balaam answered and said to Balak, "Did I not tell you, saying, 'All that the LORD speaks, that I must do'?"*

27 *Then Balak said to Balaam, "Please come, I will take you to another place; perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there."*

Now notice that Balaam knew if He could please God, then God would grant him what he wanted. That would be grace and he sought God's favor. Why could he not find grace? Listen to Romans 8:6-8:

6 *For to be carnally (i.e., fleshly) minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

7 *Because the carnal (fleshly) mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*

8 *So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

The unsaved cannot please God. It is not possible, and so they cannot find grace unless they repent of their sins and learn to live by faith. Here is what Hebrews says: "For without faith it is impossible to please God." Can the unbeliever exercise faith? Not until he repents of his sin! Unbelievers are never the recipients of the grace of God unless they repent of their sins.

There is no assurance for any unbeliever that he will experience the grace of God. There is no assurance for a believer who turns his back on God, that he will ever experience the grace of God. Listen as I read John 3:16-18 and expand on them:

16 *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes (pres. Tense, goes on believing) in Him should not perish but have (Pres. Subj.) everlasting life.*

The word, to believe, is in the present tense. Do you know why? It is not he who once believed who has eternal life, it is he who goes on believing. Then it says it is so that he should not perish but have everlasting life. The 'having eternal life' is a present subjunctive. Do you why it is in that mood? Only if he continues to believe will he ultimately not perish, and ultimately have everlasting life. Verse 17:

17 *"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

Might be saved is aorist, subjunctive. I believe it is aorist because the world may begin to be saved. It is subjunctive because it is now possible for the world to be saved.

Verse 18:

18 *"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

He who believes is not condemned. That is present tense. He who goes on believing. But he who does not believe is condemned already. Once more this is a present tense. It is not, "He who has never believed is condemned already." It is a present tense. It means he who does not go on believing is condemned already. Why? Because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. It is not saying, "Because he has never believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." It is saying, "Because He did not go on believing, (present tense) in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The person who starts living in sin, and then goes on living in sin stops believing. How can you say you believes in Christ if one continues in sin? You can't!

Now go to verse 30. The Apostle John said of Jesus:

30 *"He must increase, but I must decrease.*

31 *"He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.*

32 *"And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.*

33 *"He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true.*

34 *"For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.*



35 *"The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.*

36 *"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*

Because of the present tense verbs, verse 36 could read: "He who goes on believing in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not go on believing the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

There is no promise of the grace of God in anything for the unbeliever, other than repentance, turning from sin, and putting his or her faith in Jesus Christ. There, God begins to be pleased with such a person and he or she finds favor with Him.

There is no promise of the grace of God in anything for the believer who strays from God, unless one repents and turns back to the Lord. Anyone who turns from the Lord is not pleasing Him.

Who are the recipients of God's grace? Only those who choose to repent from their sins and then live their life by trusting in Christ by faith. Those are the only ones who find the unmerited favor of God.

But even the Christian cannot always please God with what he wants. Listen to Job 6:8. Job said:

8 *"Oh, that I might have my request, That God would grant me the thing that I long for!"*

Job is saying, "Oh, I want this thing so very badly. If God would only give me what I long for." But we are not always wise in our requests. Here is his request, verse 9:

9 *That it would please God to crush me, That He would loose His hand and cut me off!*

Oh, if only I could get God to where He would be pleased with my death. If He was pleased with my death, He would grace it to me. He has come to the throne of grace for mercy for help in a time of need, but God has said, "It is not a

legitimate need." And later, no doubt, Job said, "I'm so glad God wasn't pleased with my request."

Who are the recipients of grace? The Humble! Those who please God. Those who repent and live by faith!

#### V. THE CONDITIONS OF GRACE

So we look at reference point 5. What are the conditions of grace? This is a question I had never pondered before. Here is the question: What causes God to extend grace to some and not to others? Is there something people can do that will cause God to extend grace to them? Or we might ask it like this: what is the means of grace? What causes God to do special things for some people and not others? Who are the recipients of God's grace and how do they become so privileged? What are the conditions of grace, if any? In other words, what do we have to do in order for God to be pleased with us so that He will extend His grace to us?

We are not talking now about what it is in God that causes Him to extend grace. We are now asking what it is in certain people that causes God to extend grace to them? I have read numerous times of the teachings of the Catholic church regarding the means of grace. They have seven main sacraments and when you do any of these, you become a recipient of God's grace. These seven sacraments are: baptism, confirmation, holy communion, confession, marriage, holy orders, and the anointing of the sick. So what is the means of grace? Well, it is those seven things. If you do those, that will cause God to extend His unmerited favor to you.

The condition of grace, according to Calvinism is being one of the elect. And how do you know if you are one of the elect? Well, you don't. If you are one of the elect, you will suddenly be born again though you may not even have any interest in the new birth. If all of a sudden you think you are born again, now you may be one of the elect. But you can't know that either. So all you can do is wait. If the new birth all of a sudden seems to have happened to you, then you might be one of the elect. If that never

happens, then God made you in such a way that there is nothing you can do to be a recipient of God's grace. You were doomed before you were born.

So here is our question: What causes God to extend grace to some in salvation, and not to others? What causes Him to forgive some and not others? What causes Him to bring about the new birth in some and not in others? How does one become a recipient of God's grace? How do we get this free grace? Does it just happen to some, and they are what we call 'lucky'?

If baptism, confirmation, holy communion, confession, marriage, holy orders, and the anointing of the sick are not conditions of grace, what is? If election is not a condition of God's grace, what is?

Let's go to the very first occurrence of the word 'grace' in the Bible. We go to Genesis 6. In the first 2,000 years of man's history man had corrupted himself to such an extent that God was ready to do away with mankind. We pick up there in Genesis 6:1:

- 1 *Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,*
- 2 *that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.*
- 3 *And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."*
- 4 *There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.*
- 5 *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*
- 6 *And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*

7 *So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."*

8 *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

Here we meet the word 'chen,' 'favor,' or 'grace' for the first time in the OT. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. How did Noah find favor with God? Just what did Noah do to find the unmerited favor or grace with God?

Well, go once more to Hebrews 11. We'll read verses 1-6 first:

1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

2 *For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.*

3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

4 *By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.*

5 *By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*

How did they find favor with God? How did these people please God? By faith! Look at verse 6:

6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Turning the negative, 'without faith it is impossible to please God' into a positive, we have the truth when we exercise faith, now we please God. Queen Esther pleased king Ahasuerus. A very well executed dance pleased Herod, but what pleases God? Is there anything man can do that pleases God so He will grant unmerited favor to them? Yes!

Here it is: Faith! The whole chapter of Hebrews 11 is faith, faith, faith.

Look at verse 5. God extended such grace to Enoch so that he took him to heaven without Enoch seeing death. Why? He had this testimony, that he pleased God! How? By faith! Herod wanted to give Herodias half his kingdom because he was so pleased with her. Enoch pleased God so much that God took him home without him seeing death!

And how did Noah find grace in the eyes of the Lord? For the answer we go not to Hebrews 11:7 which says:

*7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

Noah lived by faith, and the outcome was that it pleased God. When Noah pleased God, God said, "Noah will need to be spared. I am going to destroy the world with a flood, but I like Noah. He pleases me. So here is what I will do. I will tell him to do something that will seem very ludicrous. But if he continues to trust Me, he will do what I have said. And if he does what I say, I will save him by his faith." What was the outcome of Noah's faith in God? God extended grace to Noah. When the rains came, Noah was saved by the very same thing that destroyed the rest of mankind. This is the first mention of the word 'chen.'

So let me now ask, just what is being pleased? The word, 'to please' in the NT is *euaresteo*. This word comes from the word *arestos*, and this word comes from *aresko*. The online Bible suggests this is 'through the idea of exciting emotion.' To be pleased is to have pleasurable emotions raised or excited within. So we ask, what excites the emotions of God to so please Him as to cause God to extend unmerited favor to them?

Well, in Hebrews 11 we saw that it was faith. Go now to 1 Peter 5. We begin in verse 5:

*5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and*

*be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."*

What pleases God so that He extend grace here? Humility! The recipient of God's grace is the one who becomes humble! So listen to verse 6:

*6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,*

Now I ask you, who can obey that command? Anybody! It is a choice! And how does one do that? Verse 7, by:

*7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*

To whom does God give grace? To the humble! Why? Because that is what pleases Him! Now let me ask you, who is a humble person? Here is the truly humble person. It is one who casts all his or her care on the Lord. May I ask you, are there cares in your life? Who carries them, you or the Lord? One may look very humble and be very proud. One may look proud and be humble. Here is the question: Do I trust the Lord? And if I do, He will give grace, unmerited favor to me.

It takes humbling to truly repent and confess one's sins in order to be saved. It takes a ton of humility to confess a wrong to another person. It takes huge humbling for a Christian to truly repent and confess his or her sins to the one they have wronged. When we humble ourselves before God and place our faith in Christ, God is pleased and He grants unmerited favor to us and saves us.

So faith pleases God. Humility pleases God. We go to yet another passage, and that is Hebrews 13:16. It says:

*16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

Go to 1 Thessalonians 4. I believe this passage is about knowing how to take a wife in sanctification and honor. Verse 4 says that each one should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor. That can well be translated, that each one should know how to take a wife

in sanctification and honor. But verse 1, which introduces this section says:

*1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;*

How do we please God? By walking a godly walk. Paul has taught the Thessalonians how to walk and to please God. The unsaved, who are in the flesh, cannot please God. The saved who walk in the flesh cannot please God in the flesh; not ever!

So how do we please God? By living by faith! How do we please God? By repenting of sin. How do we please God? By confessing our sins. How do we please God? By humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God. How do we please God? By living a godly sacrificial life for the Lord. By faith in learning to trust Him for everything in life. By faith in obeying His Word; by faith, by faith, by faith!

Now a word to any Calvinist who may listen to this message: let me tell you something very plain and very simple. If you think you are born again but you never came to a point where you repented of your sins and trusted Christ for salvation, you are lost, very lost. One gets saved before the new birth, not after. All of salvation is by grace through faith, even election, predestination and the new birth. One must repent from one's sins and exercise saving faith before one is truly born again, not after. If you think you are born again and you have never come to a point of realizing your lost condition, and you have not truly repented and truly believed, you are not born again. No amount of election can make you born again if you do not repent and believe. Maybe you say, "Well the unbeliever cannot believe. He is too dead in sins." That is wrong. The unbeliever can and must repent and believe. It is the capacity of every normal human being.

Now turn to Isaiah 66. We'll read verses 1-2:

1 *Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?"*

2 *For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.*

Well, if I were to boil down to one word who becomes a recipient of God's grace it is this: humility! Humbling in repentance. Humbling in putting one's trust in Christ. Humbling in sacrificing! These are the things that please God and these are the things that cause Him to extend grace.

#### VI. THE PURPOSE OF GRACE

So we ask, just what is the purpose of God's grace? Well, first and foremost, it is to provide salvation as a free gift to man. God's love for man called on Him to provide a means of salvation. But no man ever experiences the love of God until he repents and believes. We think God has this great longing for man, these wonderful feelings of love for sinful man. No! God is angry with the wicked every day (Psalm 7:11). God's wrath abides on a believer who does not continue to abide in Him. God has demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. But God does not pour out His love on anyone until they humble themselves before Him in repentance and faith.

What is the purpose of grace? Well, anyone who will truly come to God in repentance and faith will find he needs God's unmerited favor. First of all, without unmerited favor he cannot even be saved, for by grace are ye saved through faith. So we need God to extend His favor to us and grant us the thing we desire, which first and foremost must be to be delivered from sin's penalty. Second, to be delivered from sin's power. And third and last, to be delivered from sin's presence. All of that is not possible without God granting us those things required to bring that about. God's grace does all that. That is the purpose of grace.



God's purpose for grace is not so He can justly overlook my weaknesses or sins. God's grace is not there so that when my son or daughter or anyone else lives in sin, I can just put it all under grace. God's grace is not there to give an indulgent smile when I dabble in pornography or any other sin. God's grace is there to help me overcome all those things.

#### VII. THE FULFILLMENT OF GRACE

So, reference point seven, the fulfillment of grace. God's grace is fulfilled when we are faithful till the day we die, or until the Lord comes for us in the great catching up of the Church.

CONCL: So we conclude. In a previous message I mentioned that I never find any unbeliever experiencing mercy from God. From what I can find, no unbeliever ever experiences the grace of God either. The unbeliever partakes of the providence of God just like the believer. It rains on the just and the unjust.

According to my number of words, my time is up. But I want to do one message by concluding thoughts on the love of God, the mercy of God and the grace of God. I want to especially mention the love of God as some things came to light on one of the seven points that caused me to do more study on the love of God as well.

But let me say this to anyone who may listen to these messages who is not saved or is not sure of their salvation. You can repent and you must repent. You can believe in Christ, and you must believe in Christ. And if you don't and you die today, today you will be in hell. There is nothing in you that keeps you alive this very minute. There is no promise of tomorrow. So the Bible says, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts." And from all of life we learn this, we have no assurance that we will be here tomorrow. And Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."