

# Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture.

## Topic 2 - The Doctrine of God Lesson 30 - The Attributes of God: Grace

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# Mercy, Grace, and Patience

- “God’s mercy, patience, and grace may be seen as three separate attributes, or as specific aspects of God’s goodness.” - Grudem, pg. 200
- God’s mercy means His goodness toward those in misery and distress.
- God’s grace means His goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.
- God’s patience means His goodness in withholding of punishment toward those who sin over a period of time.
- Psalm 103:8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

# Grace

- “God’s grace describes God as perfectly bestowing favor on those who cannot merit it because they have forsaken it and are under the sentence of Divine condemnation.” - MacArthur, pg. 182
- God’s favor toward those who deserve no favor but punishment, is never obligated but is always freely given on God’s part as He decides.
- Romans 9:15 (quoting Exodus 33:19) For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”

# Common Grace

- Common grace is not saving grace.
- Common grace is God's general care for His creation and is favor given by His sovereign will without any consideration of merit or lack of merit.
- God always gives grace because He wills to do so.
- Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

# Saving Grace

- God's freely given favor toward sinners that gives them salvation.
- Romans 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
- Romans 5:15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

# Grace

- It's object is mainly God's people.
- Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.
- Exodus 33:12 Then Moses said to the Lord, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.'
- Exodus 33:17 So the Lord said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

# Grace

- God's grace is abundant.
- Psalm 86:15 But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.
- Psalm 103:8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
- Psalm 111:4 He has made His wonderful works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

# Grace

- God's grace is manifested (shown, made known, demonstrated) in Jesus.
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
- 1 Peter 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;



# Grace

- God's gifts of spiritual and earthly blessings are called "grace."
- Romans 12:6-8 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." 9 (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

# Grace

- God's grace is unmerited; it does not allow for good works of merit.
- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
- Romans 4:4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.
- Ephesians 2:7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

# Grace

- Grace is not a work, but means we are able to work!
- 2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.
- Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
- Grace can be imparted by edifying words.
- Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

# Grace at The End

- Revelation 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.