

Morning Sermon Outline – September 3, 2017
“Receiving Grace” John 1:16-18

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*. (John 1:16-18 NKJ)

I. Understand the magnitude and marvelous nature of God’s / Christ’s grace –

And of His fullness we have all received, ... (John 1:16 NKJ)

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. (John 1:14 NKJ)

1. Fulness –

πλήρωμα pleroma {play'-ro-mah}

Meaning: 1) that which is (has been) filled 1a) a ship inasmuch as it is filled (i.e. manned) with sailors, rowers, and soldiers 1b) in the NT, the body of believers, as that which is filled with the presence, power, agency, riches of God and of Christ 2) that which fills or with which a thing is filled 2a) of those things which a ship is filled, freight and merchandise, sailors, oarsmen, soldiers 2b) completeness or fullness of time 3) fulness, abundance 4) a fulfilling, keeping

Clearly, not empty, when we have Christ no spiritual blessing is not available, nothing is missing –

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, (Ephesians 1:3 NKJ)

2. His “fulness” is the “fulness” of the Word made flesh, His fulness is the of the only begotten of the Father –

- A. *Since He is the “only” begotten of the Father, we can say His “fulness” is not only abundant in quantity, but also matchless, unique in quality –*
- B. *The grace we receive from Christ, is also from the Father and from Heaven, it is found in God’s Word, attained through Spirit empowered prayer; but it is not found in other places –*

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (James 1:17 NKJ)

- C. *There is a certain kind of “fulness” we can have from eating natural food, and we are taught to pray for such food –*
Give us this day our daily bread. (Matthew 6:11 NKJ)

However, the “fulness” spoke of in John 1:16 is beyond this –

But He answered and said, "It is written, `Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4 NKJ)

- 3. *Note this fulness is a fulness, an abundance of real life –*
"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. (John 10:10 NKJ)

- A. *This “life” “fulness” “abundance” is not an abundance of food and drink or riches of this world, rather this fulness is a fulness of spiritual, God’s Kingdom, blessings –*
for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17 NKJ)

- B. *Because, this “fulness” is all about spiritual, invisible things many people don’t see it –*
Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJ)

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Not only do they NOT see the fullness Christ offers, but they also do not really desire or relish it –

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJ)

II. Understand these great graces are meted out, or measured to us gradually, as we need them, as we can handle them or as we properly appreciate them –

... and grace for grace. (John 1:16 NKJ)

Grace on top of grace, or one grace to prepare you for a higher grace

... But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NKJ)

1. Understanding Christ's blessings, God's Kingdom, His grace starts when God's SPIRIT reveals things to us –

Consider what happens in John 6, after Jesus fed the 5,000 –

A. The people wanted more bread –

Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled." ²⁷ "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." (John 6:26-27 NKJ)

B. Jesus offered Himself, as the True Bread of Life –

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:35 NKJ)

C. When speaking to them, arguing with them a long time, without their understanding, Jesus finally says –

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life. (John 6:63 NKJ)

They just were NOT GETTING it ... finally they leave Jesus –

From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. (John 6:66 NKJ)

D. However, Jesus' true disciples got it –

Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" ⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." ⁶⁹ "Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (John 6:67-69 NKJ)

2. Properly appreciating these blessings, this fulness, advancing in this understanding is usually connected to Christ's cross, see –

A. John 3, which speaks of the need to be born again to SEE God's Kingdom also includes –

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (John 3:14 NKJ)

B. 1 Corinthians 2, which speaks of those things of which eye has not seen, follows right after –

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (1 Corinthians 2:2 NKJ)

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJ)

3. The cross was the aspect of Jesus' teaching, it took even His apostles a longer time to get –

A. Note Jesus called Peter blessed regarding his understanding – He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah,

for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 16:15-17 NKJ)

B. *However, in his understanding and appreciation of Christ's cross, Peter was Satanic, in his thinking –*

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." (Matthew 16:21-23 NKJ)

4. *The cross of Christ, also our own crosses, those God brings, are God's hiding places for many of His best spiritual blessings –*

John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit **and fire**." (Luke 3:16 NKJ)

A. *He gives us His Holy Spirit, Who helps us understand all things*

B. *But He also baptizes with fire, which many equate with fiery trials He by His provident allows into our lives –*

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested **by fire**, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, (1 Peter 1:6-7 NKJ)

The clouds in a believer's sky have not only silver linings, but they also have golden fillings.

5. *This is why we read in the Bible of people rejoicing in trials –*

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:2-5 NKJ)

And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. (Romans 5:3-4 NKJ)

III. *Understand these "graces" are sent to us through our glorious Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ –*

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17 NKJ)

1. *Christ is our Mediator, our One True Mediator –*

For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man* Christ Jesus, (1 Timothy 2:5 NKJ)

A. *However, the John 1:17 refers to Moses as a sort of mediator, Moses was the mediator of the law –* ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses

B. *We see the people desired a mediator –*

Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." ²⁰ And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." (Exodus 20:18-20 NKJ)

C. *Moses as a temporary mediator was a type of Christ, Who is the only True Mediator -*

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, ¹⁶ "according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, `Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' ¹⁷ "And the LORD said to me: `What they have spoken is good. ¹⁸ `I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. (Deuteronomy 18:15-18 NKJ)

2. *The law was our schoolmaster / tutor –*

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. (Galatians 3:24-25 KJV)

Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. (Galatians 3:24-25 NKJ)

3. *There were aspects of the law that were types, shadows, previews of what was to come –*

Consider ---

For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. (Hebrews 10:4 NKJ)

By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. ¹¹ And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Hebrews 10:10-14 NKJ)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29 NKJ)

- IV. *Jesus is that Mediator, Who knows and sees all, even when we do not –*

And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹ And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." (John 1:46-51 NKJ)

1. *Sometimes there are things that bother us –*

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

In Nathaniel's case, Jesus overcame these, quickly –

"Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵

2. *Jesus refers back to Genesis 28, the Ladder in Jacob's dream was a type of Him -*

And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." (John 1:51 NKJ)

Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. ¹² Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I *am* the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. ¹⁵ "Behold, I *am* with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know *it*." ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome *is* this place! This *is* none other than the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven!" (Genesis 28:10-17 NKJ)

Jacob had fled his home, his brother desired to kill him, because he stole the blessing. All alone, Jacob's pillow was a stone!

Jesus, the Son of Man, is the Mediator of God's blessings to us, even when things don't seem right, even when we are alone at night! How awesome is this place!

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