

# “Grace and Truth Came Through Jesus Christ”

Introduction: John 1:17

- A. Grace is a word that instills hope and comfort in every Christian.
  - 1. Grace is a word the apostle Paul loved to use
  - 2. Every epistle he wrote (with the possible exception of Hebrews) begins and ends with mention of this word - 1Thes. 1:1, 5:28
- B. In this lesson, we will learn of God’s grace at work in us and dispel the sectarian notion we’ve allowed it to become in our teaching

## I. WHAT IS GRACE?

- A. “That which gives joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness and charm” is the original connotation of the Greek word charis (Strong’s)
  - 1. It is used in the New Testament in this way in reference to speech
    - a. The words of Jesus were spoken with grace - Luke 4:22
    - b. The words of Christians are to impart grace to the hearers Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6
- B. “Good-will, loving-kindness, favor” (Strong’s)
  - 1. It is used of the kindness of masters toward servants, and brethren toward one another - 2Cor. 8:4; 1Peter 4:10
  - 2. And especially of God towards men
    - a. “Charis contains the idea of kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved. The NT writers use CHARIS preeminently of that kindness by which God bestows favors even upon the ill-deserving, and grants to sinners the pardon of their offenses, and bids them accept of eternal salvation through Christ (Thayer) - Eph. 2:5
  - 3. It is this particular definition of grace that prompts us to think of it most often as “unmerited favor”
    - a. If you want to be clear when you speak of grace as unmerited favor, you must specify that in scripture, it is in salvation
    - b. Grace operates in many other parts of our spiritual lives
- C. A spiritual state or condition in which one enjoys God’s favor
  - 1. When one receives God’s grace, he is in a “state or condition of grace”
    - a. Rom. 5:1-2; 1Peter 5:12
- D. An expression of gratitude for favor bestowed
  - 1. 1Tim. 1:12 - The English word is “thank”
  - 2. This is the origin of the old figure of speech to “say grace” before eating

## II. HOW DID GRACE COME TO US?

- A. In the beginning, God created humankind to be His children. He loves His children, and wants them to come to His home to live after life in this world
- B. Humans sinned, creating a terrible dilemma for God
  - 1. Sin is expensive; the only way to pay for sin is with innocent life; sin must be paid for before God can have fellowship with us. If God ignores sin in order to have fellowship with us, He ceases to be God

2. If God abandons us in our sins, He no longer loves us, and again ceases to be God
  3. Man cannot afford to pay for his sins; he no longer has an innocent life
  4. So what can be done? God says, "I will pay for your sins so that you will be free from them and can return to fellowship with Me. I will pay for your sins with the life of my only begotten Son.
  5. God created us to be with Him and we chose sin instead. But God loves us so much that He will withhold nothing in order to be with us
  6. What do we have to offer to Him for God to love us in that manner? Nothing; not an innocent life, not a perfect love; He loves us when we have nothing to offer to win, earn, or deserve that love
- C. That is how grace came to us.
1. Do you trust it? You have never experienced it from anyone in the world
  2. Exhale and do not take a breath. How long can you do that? You need air to live. You need grace more than you need air.
  3. John 3:16; 1John 4:9-10

### **III. WHAT DOES GRACE MEAN TO CHRISTIANS?**

- A. We are saved by grace. Salvation is first, foremost, and always by grace
1. Eph. 2:5-8; Acts 20:24
  2. God doesn't owe us anything; what we've earned is eternal damnation for our sins - Rom. 3:23, 6:23
  3. Salvation is a gift, which God in loving-kindness offers to humankind
  4. Rom. 6:23; Titus 3:3-7 - Note damnation is earned; salvation is a gift
  5. No matter what God may call on us to do in order to receive His grace, when we do those things (believe, repent, confess, be baptized), we do not earn or merit salvation - Luke 17:10; Isa. 64:6
- B. It is essential to live godly to remain in God's grace - Titus 2:11-14
1. But godly living requires God's grace, too. We must depend on God's help - Phil. 2:12-13, 4:13
- C. It is possible to increase in the state of grace - 2Peter 3:18
1. We can grow in grace through:
    - a. Heeding the Word of God - Acts 20:32
    - b. Drawing near to God in prayer - Heb. 4:16
  2. Heb. 12:28, 13:9
- D. Grace is essential to doing our work for Christ.
1. Or did you think that what you do for the Lord is all you?
  2. Acts 14:26, 15:40; 1Cor. 3:10, 15:10; 2Cor. 1:12, 8:1, 9:14
- D. Grace is necessary to remaining saved
1. Or do you really believe that you can keep the entire law of Christ omnisciently aware of all of your own deeds good and bad?
  2. Ecc. 7:20; Prov. 20:9; James 3:2; 1John 1:6-10
  3. Do you as a Christian, live completely without sin?
  4. When you confess your sins, do you do so perfectly listing all of them without a mistake?
  5. Remembering every sin and the full scope of its influence?

6. No? What are you going to do about the sins you committed in ignorance, or inadvertently, or without thought and failed to list when you asked for forgiveness?
7. So upon what must you still trust and depend? The grace of God

Conclusion:

A. Gen. 6:5-8; John 1:12-17