

God's Amazing Grace

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

1. **Grace is one of the most beautiful words in all of Scripture. The apostle Paul uses it often in the closing of his letters.**
 - A. It is the foundation of the gospel and the heart of God's love.
 - B. We sing about it, we pray for it, and depend on it every day.
 - C. But – do we truly understand it?
2. **Let's explore what the Bible teaches about God's grace – its definition, source, purpose, and our proper response.**

What Is God's Grace?

1. **Grace is "unmerited favor." God giving us what we don't deserve.**
 - A. **We deserved judgment, but God gave us mercy and salvation.**

Romans 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (24) being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Titus 2:11-14

2. **A judge who not only pardons the guilty but adopts them as his children. That's grace!**

The Source of Grace

1. It begins with God the Father – the originator of grace.

John 3:16

2. It continues with Jesus Christ - the embodiment of grace.

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.

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

3. It is included in the Holy Spirit – The agent who applies grace.

Titus 3:5-7

4. Grace is not just some concept – it is a person: Jesus Christ.

- A. To know Him is to know grace. No wonder Paul mentioned “grace” so often!

The Purpose of Grace

1. In scripture we can read about several purposes of grace:

- A. To save us.

Titus 2:11

Ephesians 2:8

- B. To justify us.

Romans 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

C. To sanctify us. (To set us apart)

Titus 2:12

D. To strengthen us.

2 Corinthians 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

E. To equip us for His service.

1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

2. How is God's grace working in our lives today:

A. Saving, strengthening, or equipping us?

The Power and Character of Grace

1. Grace is unmerited – it cannot be earned.

Romans 11:6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

A. If by grace, then is it no more of works. The salvation of the gospel is by grace, that is, it is the gift which springs from the love of God. If that be true, it is not to be earned by the works of the Jewish law. Paul is very emphatic in showing that the Jewish Christians were saved, not because they deserved it on account of keeping the law blameless, but because they accepted the offered mercy of God.

2. Grace is abundant – it's greater than all sin.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

- A. Grace did much more abound. The grace of the gospel offers a free pardon to all who have broken the law if they will come to God through Christ.

3. Grace is transforming – it changes who we are.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- A. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." Because, he has been crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6), buried into his death (Romans 6:4), has died with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14), and has risen to walk in a new life (Romans 6:4).

- 1) The old life ended when we died and were buried. Born anew, we are new creatures who must live a new life.

- B. All things are become new. The affections, the motives, the thoughts, the hopes, the whole life. (B.W. Johnson)

4. Grace is sufficient – It meets every need.

2 Corinthians 12:9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

- A. My grace is sufficient for you. The Lord answered his prayer, not by removing the thorn, but by giving grace to bear it, and by the assurance that Paul's sense of weakness, caused by it, fitted him to receive the divine strength.

Our Response to God's Grace

1. **Our response to God's grace shows and proves a lot. When we know that we have received God's grace (that "unmerited favor") then it will show in the following ways:**

- A. **In our FAITH – receiving it through trust.**

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom also **we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- B. **In our OBEDIENCE – living according to it.**
Romans 6:1-4

- C. **In our HUMILITY – acknowledging dependence.**

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, **BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**"

- D. **In our SERVICE – using grace to serve others.**

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; **but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

2. **Paul said, "by the grace of God I am what I am." Grace doesn't make us lazy – it moves us to work harder for God out of gratitude!**

The Results of Grace

1. **The results of God's grace is so very LIFE CHANGING for everyone who accepts His grace. It what ways?**

- A. **We have a new life in Christ Jesus!**

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new.**

- B. **We have peace with God!**

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**, (2) through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- C. **We have eternal hope! We have confidence in gaining our eternal home with God.**

2 Thessalonians 2:16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, **who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace**,

- D. **We continue to gain spiritual growth.**

2 Peter 3:18 but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

2. **Grace no only saves us – it sustains us every day until we are with Him in eternal glory.**

Conclusion

- 1. Grace is the greatest gift God has given to man.**
 - A. It saves, transforms, and empowers us.**
- 2. Let us all live as people shaped by grace:**
 - A. Grateful, humble, and devoted servants to the Lord.**
- 3. Are you living under grace today? Have you received God's grace through obedient faith in Jesus Christ?**

Place

Date

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