

Grace

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Titus 2:11-14

1. **Grace is a word that conveys wonderful hope and comfort to the Christian.**
 - A. **It is a word that the apostle Paul loved to use.**

What Is Grace?

1. **I believe that the best way that one can remember what Grace is this:**
 - A. **Grace = receiving unmerited favor (undeserved love).**
 - 1) **Grace leads to reconciliation.**
2. **Grace is a state or condition in which one enjoys God's favor, and for that we can be so thankful!**
 - A. **When one accepts God's grace, they are in a "state of grace."**

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

1 Peter 5:12 By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.

3. It is an expression of gratitude for favor bestowed...

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

Grace and the Christian

1. We are saved by grace.

A. Salvation is first, foremost, and always a matter of grace.

Ephesians 2:5-8

- 1) God doesn't owe us anything.
- 2) What we deserve is eternal damnation, because we are all sinners (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
- 3) Salvation is a gift, which God in loving kindness offers to man (Romans 6:23).

Titus 3:3-7

B. No matter what God may call upon us to do in order to receive His grace, when we do those things (believe, repent, confess Jesus, be baptized).

- 1) In no way can we ever say that we earn or merit salvation.
- 2) We are still "unworthy servants."

Luke 17:10 So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'

C. Always remember – that only by God's grace is salvation possible for us.

2. God's Grace requires Holy living.

- A. Some reason that since we are saved by grace, we are free to do whatever we wish.
- B. Paul wrote in Titus 2:11-13 that the “grace of God teaches us” to:
 - 1) Deny ungodliness and worldly lusts
 - 2) Live soberly, righteously and godly.
 - 3) Look for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of Jesus Christ.
- C. As he continues, Paul explains why Jesus in grace gave Himself for us...
 - 1) That He might redeem us from every lawless deed.
 - 2) That He might purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).
- D. The unmerited favor of God is no excuse to go on sinning!

3. Holy living requires God's Grace.

- A. To live “soberly, righteously and godly” requires the grace of God.
- B. We cannot do it on our own, but with God's help we can!
 - 1) He works in us to do His good will.
Philippians 2:12-13
 - 2) By His strength we can do all the things He desires of us.
Philippians 4:13

4. We must grow in Grace!

A. This is especially true if we are going to live holy lives.

B. Peter commands us to grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18).

1) We grow in grace by heeding the Word of God.

Acts 20:32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

2) We grow in grace by drawing near to God in prayer.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

a. MERCY: "withholding deserved punishment"

b. Mercy takes us to the path of forgiveness.

5. We can receive God's Grace in vain.

A. Paul pleaded with the Corinthians that they would not receive God's grace in vain

2 Corinthians 6:1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

B. Having received God's grace, it is possible for it to have been in vain!

1) By asking for justification for sin elsewhere.

Galatians 5:4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who **attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.**

- a. **In the immediate context, Paul has reference to the Law of Moses.**
- b. **But if we seek to be justified by any system of salvation by works alone, we will fall from grace.**

2) By willful and impenitent sinning, thereby despising the Spirit of grace.

Hebrews 10:26-31

- a. **For such a person there no longer remains a sacrifice for sin!**
- b. **Only a fearful expectation of judgment remains.**
- c. **Why? Because through such willful and impenitent sin one**
 - 1) Tramples the Son of God underfoot!**
 - 2) Counts the blood of the covenant a common thing!**
 - 3) Insults the Spirit of grace!**

Conclusion

1. **It would be a terrible thing to have received God's grace in vain.**
 - A. **To have received God's grace at one point.**
 - B. **But then to make it all vain (useless).**

2. **But — it is just as terrible...**
 - A. **Not to receive it at all.**
 - B. **Or having received it, not to grow in it.**

3. **Therefore, I encourage all of us, in the words of the Hebrew writer:**

Hebrews 12:15 **looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God;** lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

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.**

Hebrews 13:9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For **it is good that the heart be established by grace,** not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

Hebrews 13:25 **Grace be with you all.** Amen.

4. **Have you received the wonderful grace of God in your life — by being saved, living a holy life, growing in grace, and striving to never fall from it?**

