

**FAIRVIEW MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**WINTER BIBLE STUDY**

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**BY**

**ELDER NEAL FORSHEE**

**THE GRACE OF GOD**

Lesson - *John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.(2) The same was in the beginning with God.*

*John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among s (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (15) John bare witness of him and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me; for he was before me. (16) And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. (17) For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

Definition of grace: The unmerited favor of God. Grace is not deserved and cannot be earned by any action or works of man.

Observations Concerning grace

1. Grace is an intrinsic part of the nature of God.
2. Grace cannot be understood by mere definition. Grace must be personally experienced to even begin to comprehend its magnitude.
3. Scripture makes no attempt to define grace. It simply reveals grace being extended. In the scripture we don't look for grace only where we find the word grace (170 times), but where grace was freely given) From Genesis to Revelations God's grace is clearly revealed.

The administrator of grace

Our scripture from John 1 identifies Jesus Christ as the administrator of God's grace. He was in the beginning, he was with God, and was God. John declared he was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. John said, we behold his glory. God's glory is his holiness and goodness. [grace] Although John was on the mount of transfiguration and saw Jesus in his glorified state, I believe his statement here refers to much more than that one event. John and the other disciples beheld the grace of God in the person of Jesus Christ. The law and grace are contrasted. The law that could not take away sin was given by the man Moses. The grace of God that bringeth salvation was given by the God-Man Jesus Christ. Thus grace is far superior to the law.

*Titus 2:1 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.*

*I Peter 4:10 speaks of the manifold grace of God. [having many different parts]*

We will confine our lesson to three dimensions of God's grace.

1. Common grace - The sovereign grace [unmerited favor] bestowed upon all of mankind regardless of their spiritual standing before God.

*Matt 5:45 for he [the Father] maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

2. Saving Grace - A special dispensation of grace whereby God provided a saviour in the person of Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, and the unmerited divine assistance for our regeneration and sanctification.

*Jonah 2:9 Salvation is of the Lord. With these five words Jonah summed up the whole of the matter of the salvation of man.*

*1 Timothy 1:9 Who [God] hath saved us, and called us with a Holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.*

Grace first appeared to man in the Garden of Eden in a type. When Adam and Eve sinned and fell from their created state of holiness they made themselves a covering of fig leaves.

*Gen 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

This was a type of the covering the grace of God would provide through Christ for the sin of man. Man was incapable of providing a sufficient covering for his sin.

The word grace first appears in scripture in *Gen. 6:8* when God had seen the wickedness of man and declared he would destroy man from the earth.

*Gen. 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.* What did he find? Specifically, a way to escape the wrath of God against sin when the flood of destruction came. Noah received precise instruction for building an ark to save himself and all his house. The way of salvation was revealed in types and shadows. We see the ark as a type of Christ.

*Gen. 6:22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.*

*Ezekiel 47* Ezekiel describes a vision he received from the Lord. He saw waters issue forth from under the threshold of the door of the temple. A man with a line went forth to measure. He measured a thousand cubits [1500 ft.] He brought Ezekiel through the waters that were ankle deep. He measured a thousand more cubits and the water was to the loins. He measured again a thousand cubits and it was a river, waters to swim in. *Ezek. 47:9 And everything shall live whether the river cometh.* These waters gave life. Some view these waters as representing the gospel that would flow out from the house of God, and others as God's grace. Perhaps they represented both.

*Acts 20:24* Paul referred to the gospel he preached as, "the gospel of the grace of God."

In Romans Chapter 5 the scripture draws a line that stretches from the first man Adam to the second Adam, Jesus Christ.

*Romans 5:12* *Wherefore as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*

5:15 For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

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

5:21 That as sin hath reigned [ruled] unto death, even so might grace reign [rule] through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us.

As Paul returned from his third missionary journey he stopped at Miletus and sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church to come down and meet him. Paul had previously spent considerable time at Ephesus and he spoke thus:

Acts 20:20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you and have taught you publicly, and from house to house. (2) Testify both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

These are the two scriptural requirements upon man for salvation. Repentance and Faith are both graces

Romans 2:4 the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.

When Peter went to Caesarea to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile, he preached a crucified and risen Jesus. They believed and received the witness of the Holy Ghost. Peter baptized them in the name of the Lord. When Peter returned to Jerusalem and rehearsed all that had occurred the Jews replied:

Acts 11:18 Then hath God also, to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (6) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (7) That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The song, At Calvary

Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan: Oh the grace that brought it down to man!

Oh the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary.

chorus

Mercy there was great and grace was free, pardon there was multiplied to me,

There my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary.

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. (7) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

Because the great majority of the Jews had rejected Jesus, Paul himself a Jew asked a rhetorical question, Romans 11:1 Hath God cast away his people? His answer, God forbid.

*Romans 11:5 Even so at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. (6) And if by grace, then it is no more of works; otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be works, then it is no more grace; otherwise work is no more work.*

*Gal. 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace. [or fallen short of grace]*

We are saved by grace, sanctified by grace, kept by grace, and will be glorified by grace.

### 3. Enabling Grace

Enable - empower, to make possible

God's enabling Grace is the sustaining influence by which believers persevere in carrying out God's will in their lives.

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

Jesus sits upon his throne of grace, ready to dispense his enabling grace to those who need and ask.

*II Corin. 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.*

*Matt. 15:5 I am the vine ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.*

*I Corin15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, and am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. (10) But by the grace of God I am what I am; and his grace which was bestowed upon 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.*

*Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

*Heb.13:9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace.*

*II Tim. 2:1 Thou therefore my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

*Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*

*II Corin. 12:9 My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*

The last verse of scripture written.

*Rev. 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*