

FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS

Lesson Sixteen **GRACE**

The word **GRACE** is used in the writing of Paul no less than **89** times, **97** if you attribute the Book of Hebrews to Paul.

Counting the Book of Hebrews to have been written by someone other than Paul, the word **GRACE** is used **ONLY 78** times in the **ENTIRE** Bible, **OUTSIDE** of Paul's writings.

So here is **ANOTHER** subject the Apostle Paul appears to be eminently qualified to discuss.

What does the word **GRACE** **REALLY** mean, and **HOW FAR** do the repercussions of **GRACE** go?

The word in Hebrew used all but one time to refer to **GRACE** in the Old Testament is **chen**, pronounced khane, and means "favor, grace, pleasant, precious, (well) favored."

The only word in Greek that is translated to read **GRACE**, also all but one time, is **charis**, pronounced khar'eece, and means "acceptable, benefit, **FAVOR**, **GIFT**, grace (-ious), joy, liberality, pleasures, thank(-s, -worthy)."

It is important to note that there are **FALSE** theories of grace being taught. There is a school of interpreters who magnify the grace of God **ABOVE ALL ELSE** in the program of God. They ignore God's **JUSTICE**, **LAWS**, and all **CONDITIONS** regulating and governing the grace of God in the lives of mankind.

While grace is an **EXTREMELY** important aspect in the dealings of God with free moral agents, grace is not the sum total of **ALL THERE IS TO** know about God, His plan, and His dealings with man.

It seems that some are bent on the exalting of grace to the point of **EXCLUSION** of the responsibility of men.

And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

*But Noah **FOUND GRACE** in the eyes of the LORD.*

Genesis 6:7-8

It would be easy to lift that scripture out of its context and use the definition of grace that has become so popular in our time, namely, that grace is "**UNMERITED FAVOR**". However, let us look at the following verse.

*These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a **JUST** man and **PERFECT** in his generations, and Noah **WALKED** with God.*

Genesis 6:9

It soon becomes obvious why Noah **FOUND GRACE** in the eyes of the Lord. Noah **WALKED WITH** God.

Let's face it, **NONE** of us, in **OURSELVES**, **DESERVE** the grace of God. For even when we obey God, and walk as close to perfection as we possibly can, the truth is we are doing even that **BECAUSE** of the grace of God in our lives.

Have you ever wondered why you were born into a Christian home rather than in the home of some **DEVIL WORSHIPPER** somewhere?

Why is it that **YOU ARE** saved and know Christ in an intimate way when **MANY** of **YOUR** neighbors not only do not know Him, they **ARE NOT** even interested in knowing Him?

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The answer surely must be, grace. When we sing that lovely hymn “GRACE GREATER THAN ALL OUR SINS,” it must surely humble us to know that God saved us, **NOT BECAUSE** we were good, but because **HE** is good.

And yet, if everything depended **ONLY UPON** God to save every sinner, and they had **NOTHING TO DO** to get saved, then all would be saved by God. If everything were left up to God, then He would be under **MORAL OBLIGATION** to save everyone, regardless of **THEIR** consent, or He would be a **RESPECTER** of persons.

Let us realize that grace is favor, unmerited favor if you will, but grace has a **PRICE TAG** attached to it. Grace **LEAVES US** with obligations to fulfill.

For grace to be effective, the recipient **MUST RESPOND** and show his responsibility.

Let us look to the Apostle of Grace, Paul, for instruction.

*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 6:1, 2, 12, 14

Grace does not **IGNORE** man’s responsibility, it magnifies it.

The word **grace** is used repeatedly to refer to the manifestation of the favor of God to man, and this favor is **GOVERNED** by the disposition, life, service, faith, and **ATTITUDE** of the recipient of the favor.

*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to **ALL MEN**,
TEACHING us that, **DENYING** ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should **LIVE**
soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Titus 2:11-14

Many are **WILLING** to receive the grace that brings salvation, but they are **UNWILLING** to receive that grace that becomes the teacher.

When men in the early church found grace from God, it was because they **HUMBLED** themselves and by **THEIR OWN CHOICE** accepted God’s salvation.

On the other hand, when they failed God, they **FELL UNDER** the condemnation of God just as the Israelites and others.

Notice these examples:

That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

Acts 1:25

*Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some **HAVING PUT AWAY** concerning faith have made shipwreck:*

Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

I Timothy 1:19, 20

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For it is **IMPOSSIBLE** for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to **RENEW THEM** again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Hebrews 6:4-6

For if we **SIN WILLFULLY** after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth **NO MORE** sacrifice for sins,

Hebrews 10:26

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is **WORSE WITH THEM** than the beginning.

For it had been better for them **NOT TO** have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to **TURN FROM** the holy commandment delivered unto them.

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

2 Peter 2:20-22

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; **OR ELSE** I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:5

To keep God's grace in our lives, it must be received with **GLADNESS** and **ACTED** upon with responsibility.

There are things that grace **CANNOT** do.

Grace cannot excuse and ignore our failure to meet the condition of salvation.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not **AFTER** the flesh, but **AFTER** the Spirit.

Romans 8:1

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Romans 8:13

God's grace **DOES** not, and cannot, **KEEP MEN** saved when they **INSIST** on continuing on in their sins.

Paul, writing to the church at Corinth, gives us the following warning.

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Grace **CANNOT** permit God to forgive the unrepentant person, be they believer **OR** unbeliever.

Grace cannot be construed to imply that God is **SOFT ON SIN**.

Let us **REJOICE**, humbly, in that God has bestowed His grace upon us. Let us also recognize our responsibility to encourage grace to **CONTINUE** to work in our lives.

As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:9