

# **"GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN"**

**GRACE IS  
EVERYTHING FOR NOTHING  
TO THOSE WHO  
DON'T DESERVE ANYTHING**

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# "GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN"

- There is a word that conveys wonderful hope and comfort to the Christian...

"GRACE"

# "GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN"

- “Grace” is a word that Paul loved to use.
- Every epistle that he wrote (with the possible exception of Hebrews), begins and ends with mention of the word “Grace”.

# "GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN"

- Here is an example in Thessalonians

**Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the  
Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. (1 Thess.1:1)**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.**

**(1 Thess.5:28)**

**I. THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"**  
**A. THAT WHICH GIVES JOY, PLEASURE, DELIGHT...**

- **What does this word actually mean?**
- **How is it used in the N. T. scriptures?**
- **What important things should we keep in mind concerning "grace"?**

**I. THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"**  
**A. THAT WHICH GIVES JOY, PLEASURE, DELIGHT...**

- This is the original idea of the Greek word "charis"
- It is used in the N.T. in this way in reference to  
**SPEECH...**

**I. THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"**  
**A. THAT WHICH GIVES JOY, PLEASURE, DELIGHT...**

- **The words of Jesus were spoken with grace.**

**All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. (Luke 4:22)**

## **I. THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"**

### **A. THAT WHICH GIVES JOY, PLEASURE, DELIGHT...**

- **The words of the Christian are to impart grace to the hearers**

**Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29)**

**Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Col.4:6)**



## I. THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"

### B. ....GOOD-WILL, LOVINGKINDNESS, FAVOR...

- It is used ...Of the kindness of a master towards his inferiors or servants & especially of God towards men
- THAYER points out that:  
"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."

## I. THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"

### B. ....GOOD-WILL, LOVINGKINDNESS, FAVOR...

- An example is Ephesians 2:5

made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. (Eph 2:5)

- It is this particular definition of grace that prompts us to think of it most often as "unmerited favor"

## I. THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"

### B. ....GOOD-WILL, LOVINGKINDNESS, FAVOR...

- An atheist said, "If there is a God, may he prove himself by striking me dead right now." Nothing happened. "You see, there is not God," said the atheist.

The other responded, "You've only proved that He is a gracious God."

## I. THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"

C. .... A SPIRITUAL STATE OR CONDITION IN WHICH ONE ENJOYS GOD'S FAVOR...

- When one accepts God's grace, they are in a "state of grace".

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

## **I. THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"**

**C. .... A SPIRITUAL STATE OR CONDITION IN WHICH ONE ENJOYS  
GOD'S FAVOR...**

**With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful  
brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging  
you and testifying that this is the true grace of  
God. Stand fast in it. (1 Peter 5:12)**

**I. THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"**  
**D. AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE**  
**FOR FAVOR BESTOWED**

- An example of this is in 1 Timothy 1:12 where the English word is "thank".

**I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. (1 Tim.1:12)**

- This is what is meant when people ask someone to "say grace" before eating a meal.

**I. THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"**  
**D. AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE**  
**FOR FAVOR BESTOWED**

- **We can be so “thankful” for God’s graciousness to us by bowing our heads and giving thanks at meals (saying “grace”), by being thankful for all we have, and by repeatedly thanking Him for His grace in our lives.**

# "GRACE"

- Definition of Grace:
- THAT WHICH GIVES JOY, PLEASURE, DELIGHT, GOOD-WILL, LOVINGKINDNESS, FAVOR
- ..... A SPIRITUAL STATE OR CONDITION IN WHICH ONE ENJOYS GOD'S FAVOR
- ..... AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR FAVOR BESTOWED.



## **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE**

**Salvation is first, foremost, always a matter of grace!**

**made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.**

**And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— (Eph. 2:5-8)**

## **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE**

- **God doesn't owe us anything.**
- **He has graciously given us all things.**
- **What we deserve is eternal damnation, because all are sinners....we deserve nothing more than eternal damnation.**

**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
(Romans 3:23)**

**For the wages of sin is death, (Romans 6:23a)**

## **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE**

- **Salvation is a gift, which God in lovingkindness offers to man.**

**but the gift of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23b)**

## **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE**

- **And when we receive a gift from someone we “THANK THEM.”**
- **In Titus 3:3, we see,  
how we used to be:**

**At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.**

## **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE**

- **In Titus 3:4-6, we see, what God did:**

**But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,**

## **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE**

- **In Titus 3:7, we see,  
what God has promised to give us:  
so that, having been justified by his grace, we  
might become heirs having the hope of eternal  
life.**

## **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE**

**Martin Luther writes: “Although out of pure grace God does not impute our sins to us, He nonetheless did not want to do this until complete and ample satisfaction of His law and His righteousness had been made. Since this was impossible for us, God ordained for us, in our place, One who took upon Himself all the punishment we deserve. He fulfilled the law for us.”**

## **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE**

**Martin Luther continues: “He averted the judgment of God from us and appeased God's wrath. Grace, therefore, costs us nothing, but is cost Another much to get it for us. Grace was purchased with an incalculable, infinite treasure, the Son of God Himself.”**



## **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE**

- **No matter what God may call upon us to do in order to receive His grace, when we do those things (cf. believe, repent, confess Jesus, be baptized).....in no way can we ever say that we earn or merit salvation.**
- **We are still "unworthy servants"**  
**So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.' " (Luke 17:10)**
- **We must forever remember that only by God's grace is salvation possible!**

## **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE**

- **We need to stay balanced in the message of salvation.**
- **Some go “too far” and claim if we “come to Christ” then we are “doing something” and therefore it is no longer grace.**
- **Others say “we have to do something”. It is “too easy” to just receive God’s forgiveness and grace.**
- **Oh, to stay balanced in accepting grace and acting on our faith!!**

## GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE

- Did Jesus not say, “It is finished.”
- It is the “FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST” that we put our faith in.
- Nothing can be added to the cross!!
- The “offence of the cross” is that God has removed by the cross any credit we can take for salvation!!

## **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE**

- **We confess ourselves as sinners agreeing with our need of the cross.**
- **We receive Christ into our hearts by faith in what Jesus did for us on the cross.**
- **We agree we are sinners, confess our sin, receive Christ, and thank God for saving us!!**
- **SALVATION was provided**

**AT THE CROSS**

## II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

### B. GOD'S GRACE REQUIRES HOLY LIVING!

- Some people reason that since we are saved by grace, we are free to do whatever we wish.
- Yet Paul wrote that the "grace of God...teaches us" to:
  - a. Deny ungodliness and worldly lusts
  - b. Live soberly, righteously and godly
  - c. Look for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of Jesus Christ

**For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, (Titus 2:11-13)**

## II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

### B. GOD'S GRACE REQUIRES HOLY LIVING!

- As he continues, Paul explains why Jesus in grace gave Himself for us...
  - a. That He might redeem us from every lawless deed
  - b. That He might purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works

who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:14)
- The unmerited favor of God is no excuse to go on sinning!

## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **B. GOD'S GRACE REQUIRES HOLY LIVING!**

Charles Spurgeon and Joseph Parker both had churches in London in the 19th century. On one occasion, Parker commented on the poor condition of children admitted to Spurgeon's orphanage. It was reported to Spurgeon however, that Parker had criticized the orphanage itself. Spurgeon blasted Parker the next week from the pulpit. The attack was printed in the newspapers and became the talk of the town. People flocked to Parker's church the next Sunday to hear his rebuttal.

## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **B. GOD'S GRACE REQUIRES HOLY LIVING!**

"I understand Dr. Spurgeon is not in his pulpit today, and this is the Sunday they use to take an offering for the orphanage. I suggest we take a love offering here instead." The crowd was delighted. The ushers had to empty the collection plates 3 times. Later that week there was a knock at Parker's study. It was Spurgeon. "You know Parker, you have practiced grace on me. You have not given me what I deserved, you have given me what I needed."



## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **C. HOLY LIVING REQUIRES GOD'S GRACE!**

- **To live "soberly, righteously and godly" requires the grace of God**
- **For we cannot do it on our own,  
but with God's help we can!**

## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **C. HOLY LIVING REQUIRES GOD'S GRACE!**

- **He works in us to do His good will**

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. (Philippians 2:12-13)

- **By His strength we can do all the things He desires of us**

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Phil.4:13)

## II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

### D. WE MUST GROW IN GRACE!

- 1. This is especially true if we are going to live holy lives
- 2. Peter commands us to grow in grace

**But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)**

## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **D. WE MUST GROW IN GRACE!**

- **Dear brother or sister, it is not enough just to experience God's grace in forgiving our sins**
  - **God has so much more to share with us, both in this life and the life to come**
- in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:7)**

## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **D. WE MUST GROW IN GRACE!**

- **This explains Paul's salutations and benedictions - Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. (1 Thess. 1:1)**  
**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.**  
**(1 Thess.5:28)**

## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **D. WE MUST GROW IN GRACE!**

- **We can grow in grace through:**

#### **a. Heeding the Word of God**

**"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.**

**(Acts 20:32)**

#### **b. Drawing near to God in prayer**

**Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Heb. 4:16)**

## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **D. WE MUST GROW IN GRACE!**

When Corrie Ten Boom of The Hiding Place fame was a little girl in Holland, her first realization of death came after a visit to the home of a neighbor who had died. It impressed her that some day her parents would also die. Corrie's father comforted her with words of wisdom. "Corrie, when you and I go to Amsterdam, when do I give you your ticket?" "Why, just before we get on the train," she replied. "Exactly," her father said, "and our wise Father in heaven knows when we're going to need things too. Don't run out ahead of Him, Corrie. When the time comes that some of us will have to die, you will look into your heart and find the strength you need--just in time."

## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **E. WE CAN RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE IN VAIN**

- Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves.
- Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession.
- Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.



## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **E. WE CAN RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE IN VAIN**

- **Costly grace...is the kingly rule of Christ in our lives.**
- **Costly grace.....is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.**
- **Paul pleaded with the Corinthians that they might not receive God's grace in vain**

**As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. (2 Cor.6:1)**

## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **E. WE CAN RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE IN VAIN**

- **Having received God's grace, it is possible for it to have been in vain!**
- **We must not seek justification for sin elsewhere**  
**You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. (Galatians 5:4)**
- **So if we seek to be justified by any system of salvation by works alone, we will fall from grace!**

## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **E. WE CAN RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE IN VAIN**

- **We can not use God's grace as an excuse for licentiousness – believing we can now do anything we want.**

**For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. (Jude 4)**

- **In this verse, some people were using grace to excuse shameless behavior.**

## II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

### E. WE CAN RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE IN VAIN

- **And yet we have seen that God's grace requires holy living**

**For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:11-14)**

## **II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**

### **E. WE CAN RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE IN VAIN**

- **By willful and impenitent sinning, thereby despising the Spirit of grace**

**If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. (Hebrews 10:26)**

## II. GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

### E. WE CAN RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE IN VAIN

- It is a wonderful thing to be **WARNED** by God.
- In the previous verse God is warning the non-believer who has heard of the Gospel.
- As Christians we need **NOT** worry about this verse because we should always seek to **LIVE HOLY LIVES**.
- Our goal as Christians is to lead a godly, holy life pleasing to Him.
- But to do that we need **GOD'S GRACE "MOMENT BY MOMENT"**.

# GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

- The radical gospel of grace found throughout Scripture, has always had its critics.
- Some believe by trusting in God's justifying and preserving grace, people would end up living a life of sin before long—and therefore, lose their salvation and end up in Hell.

# GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

- **Paul anticipated that reaction from the “religious community” of his own day after he said, “Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more”(Romans 5:20).**
- **So Paul asked the question he expected us to ask: “Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?” (Romans 6:1)**



# GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

- Should we sin so that we can receive more grace?
- In other words, “If people believed what you just said in Romans 5, Paul, wouldn’t they take advantage of the situation and live like they want knowing they were ‘safe and secure from all alarm’?”

# GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

- That's a fair question. But it reveals a basic misunderstanding of the nature of God's saving grace.
- Paul's response is unmistakable: "Certainly not? How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Romans 6:2, NKJV).

# GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

- Someone confronted Martin Luther, upon the Reformer's rediscovery of the biblical doctrine of justification, with the remark, "If this is true, a person could simply live as he pleased!" "Indeed!" answered Luther. "Now, what pleases you?"
- Have you received the wonderful grace of God in your life?
- Are you walking daily in the wonderful grace of God in your life?

# GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

- So I encourage you all, in the words of the writer of Hebrews:
  - "looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God." (Hebrews 12:15)
  - "let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." – (Hebrews 12:28)
  - "For it is good that the heart be established by grace..." (Heb.13:9)
  - "Grace be with you all. Amen" (Hebrews 13:25)

# GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

- **LET'S PRAY:**

- **MEMORY VERSE:**

**Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.  
(Hebrews 4:16)**

# GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN

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