

"GOD'S GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN"

I. There is a word that conveys wonderful hope and comfort to the Christian. The word is "**grace**"

II. What does this word actually mean?

III. In this study, we shall spend a few moments focusing our attention on this wonderful word, and its relationship to the Christian.

Trans: Let's begin by first defining grace

1. The Definition of "Grace"

A. That which gives joy, pleasure, delight...

1. This is the original idea of the Greek word "**charis**"

2. It is used in the N.T. in this way in reference to SPEECH...

a. The words of Jesus were spoken with grace - **Lk 4:22**

b. The words of the Christian are to impart grace to the hearers - **Eph 4:29**

B. Good-will, loving kindness, favor...

1. In this way, it is used ...

a. Of the kindness of a master towards his inferiors or servants

b. And especially of God towards men

2. THAYER points out that:

a. "CHARIS contains the idea of kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved."

b. "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 hem accept of eternal salvation through Christ." **Eph. 2:5**

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

C. A spiritual state or condition in which one enjoys God's favor...

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

2. **Rom 5:1-2**

3. **1 Pet 5:12**

D. An expression of gratitude for favor bestowed...

1. E.g., **1 Tim 1:12** where the English word is "thank" ("**I thank Jesus Christ...**")

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

Appl: Such are the main ways the word **GRACE** is used in the NT.

Trans: In connection with this word, there are some things that Christians should always keep in mind.

2. Grace and the Christian

A. We are saved by grace!

1. Salvation is first, foremost, and always a matter of grace! **Eph 2:5-8**
 - a. God doesn't owe us anything
 - b. What we deserve is eternal damnation, because all are sinners, **Rom 3:23; 6:23a**
 - c. Salvation is a gift, which God in loving kindness offers to man - **Rom 6:23b** (*Free Gift = chrisma*)
Ti 3:3-7

2. 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**"
Lk 17:10

3. We must forever remember that only by God's grace is salvation possible!

B. God's grace requires holy living!

1. Some people reason that since we are saved by grace, we are free to do whatever we wish
2. Paul explains this in, **Titus 2:11-13**
3. As he continues, Paul explain why Jesus in grace gave Himself for us, **Titus 2:14**
4. The unmerited favor of God is no excuse to go on sinning!

C. Holy living requires God's grace!

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

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 - cf. **2 Pe 3:18**
3. It is not enough just to experience God's grace in forgiving our sins

E. We can grow in grace in two ways:

- a. Heeding the Word of God - **Acts 20:32**
- b. Drawing near to God - **Heb 4:16**

F. There is also a warning that we can receive God's grace in vain!

1. Paul pleaded with the Corinthians that they might not receive God's grace in vain - **2 Cor 6:1**
2. Having received God's grace, it is possible for it to have been in vain!
 - a. By seeking justification for sin elsewhere - **Ga 5:4**
 - b. By using God's grace as an excuse for licentiousness - **Jude 4**
 - c. By willful and impenitent sinning, **Heb 10:26-31**

Con:

Without question, God's grace is a wonderful thing

1. Good-will, loving kindness, favor...
2. "unmerited favor"
3. A spiritual state or condition in which one enjoys God's favor...
4. An expression of gratitude for favor bestowed...

What a terrible thing it would be, 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)

But it is just as terrible...

- a. Not to receive it all!
- b. Or having received it, not to grow in it!

I encourage you all to receive and abound in God's grace.