

LESSON 13

THE GRACE OF GOD

Memorize:

*“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:
it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson we will see that God’s grace is truly amazing for by His grace, we are saved from the penalty of past sins and overcome the power of present sin. You will learn that the word **grace** means much more than a short prayer spoken before a meal.

Do you remember what your life was like before you surrendered it to Jesus Christ? You were an enemy of God living in spiritual blindness. You were ungodly and guilty. How did you find acceptance before God? Was it because God saw something good in you? Did you possess some inherent righteousness that attracted Him to you? Did you earn His favor with obedience and kindness? No – absolutely not!

GRACE DEFINED

Grace, by definition is the “*unearned, unmerited love, mercy, pardon, and favor of God.*” Jesus affirms the necessity of His grace in **John 15:5** when He states that without Him, we can do NOTHING.

1. Our privilege to become the sons of God has nothing to do with our own strengths and abilities but rather as indicated in **Romans 9:16**, “*So then it is not of him that _____ nor of him that runneth, but of _____, that showeth _____.*”

Justice is getting what we do deserve.
Grace is getting what we do not deserve.
Mercy is not getting what we do deserve.

HOW SALVATION COMES BY GRACE

1. GRACE DRAWS US TO HIM

What was it that caused you to come to know the Lord?
(John 6:44, 65) _____

2. GRACE GRANTS US REPENTANCE

Not only is it the power of God that draws us to Him, but it is the mercy of God that grants us repentance.

What other attribute of God leads us to repentance? **(Romans 2:4)** _____

3. GRACE GRANTS US MERCY AND HELP

“Let us come boldly unto the _____ that we may obtain _____, and find grace _____ in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

4. GRACE JUSTIFIES US

What allows us to be justified, *(just as if we never did it)*, from our sins?
(Romans 3:23-24) _____

HOW GRACE CAN KEEP US SAVED BY GIVING US...

1. KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO LIVE GODLY

The **grace** of God teaches us that we can live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world if we deny two things. List them: _____ and _____ **(Titus 2:12)**

2. POWER AND DESIRE TO DO HIS WILL

What motivated Paul to labor as diligently as he did for the Kingdom of God?
(1 Corinthians 15:10) _____

Philippians 2:13 says that it is God that works in us both to _____ and _____ His good pleasure.

The Amplified Version translates it like this: *“Not in your own strength for it is God who is all the while effectually at work in you, energizing and creating in you the power and desire both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”*

Hebrews 13:20-21 tells us “God will make you _____ in every good work _____, working in you that what is well-pleasing in His sight...”

2 Corinthians 9:8 tells us that God is able to make grace abound to you so that in ALL things, at ALL times, having ALL that you NEED, you will abound in _____.

In **Romans 1:5**, we receive grace “...for _____ to the _____ among all nations, for His name.”

In **Hebrews 12:28** we receive grace so we can serve God _____ with reverence and godly fear.

3. **GIVING US STRENGTH**

“...My _____ is sufficient for thee: for my _____ is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the _____ of Christ may rest upon me.” (**2 Corinthians 12:9**)

“...where _____ abounded, _____ did much more abound.” (**Romans 5:20**)

Corrie Ten Boom, a well-known Christian author, experienced the horror of the German concentration camps along with her father and her sister, Beth, who both died there. Corrie Ten Boom quotes her sister, Beth, with these words of comfort. “There is no pit so deep that His love (grace) is not deeper still.”

WHAT GRACE IS NOT

Unfortunately, there is often a misunderstanding of God’s grace. We read in **Ephesians 2:8-9** that our salvation is not merited by our works but rather by the **grace** of God. Some would try to persuade you that works are not necessary and that you can continue to sin and not lose your salvation.

1. Does Paul teach that we can still continue in sin because we are under the grace of God? (**Romans 6:1-2, 15**) _____
2. Can you have faith without any works? (**James 2:17**) _____
3. Can a man be justified by his works? (**James 2:21-26**) _____

Give examples: _____

4. We are Christ's workmanship created for _____ .
(*Ephesians 2:10*)

Works of righteousness is evidence of your faith as demonstrated by your obedience to the Lord. One's lack of obedience shows one's lack of faith. So we see that grace is God's part, but faith evidenced by works, is our part.

SUMMARY

It is the **grace** of God that enables you to enter this race and it will be the **grace** of God that will cause you to finish it. However, we need to be careful not to resist God's grace. "*Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.*" (**Hebrews 12:15**) It is the grace of God that influences your heart to do what is right. When you begin to resist the grace of God, you will begin to harden your heart. That is dangerous. However, if we keep a humble spirit we will abound in God's favor, for "...*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*" (**James 4:6**)

NOTES: QUESTIONS/COMMENTS