

Mt. Lebanon Church.

Gods Grace

What is God's Grace – Part 1

8.26.2020

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you have run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the bible study.

John 1: 1 – 18.

What is God's grace. Simply put, it is Gods favor and kindness toward mankind. Grace, is a loving God, giving nothing less than himself, it is Jesus Christ and his redeeming action of bringing salvation to all people. As Christians, we live everyday by the grace of God. Gods great grace purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son, on the cross, for the forgiveness of sin. Grace is a gift that is unmeasurable, we did not work for it, we did not deserve it. God's grace not only provided us with salvation, but continues on in our Christian life to provide kindness, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of that salvation. God's grace is for everyone, it has no boundaries. The word of God, or the gospel of Jesus Christ is all about Gods saving grace. It is the message that everyone needs to hear. The word of God proclaims the grace of God, but there are still many who struggle everyday in their lives to believe in it. This is due to the fact that Gods grace must be accepted by faith, it, in itself has no visual image, so it must be proclaimed by those who have already accepted It to be the greatest part of their lives. God's grace is available to all and requires nothing in return. God, through his grace desires to have a close personal relationship with each one of us. He makes us the promise that his will for us will never take us anywhere in our lives, that his grace will not protect us.

Our scripture starting point for this bible study will be:

John 1: 1 – 18,....In the beginning was the word....all things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made....as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God....and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth....and of his fullness we have all received, and grace for grace....grace and truth that came through Jesus Christ.

Grace has been from the beginning, because Christ has been from the beginning, God's greatest act of grace was Christ.

John 3: 16,....for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son....

From the beginning God knew his grace would be needed. Although man was put into perfection and was given every opportunity to live in that perfection, God knew that man's freedom to choose would require an alternate plan of action. So, from the beginning, God set in motion his eternal plan of salvation.

So, we are going to start off with looking at eight things God's grace offers to us through his eternal plan of salvation.

#1 God's grace offers us the definite possibility of salvation.

2 Corinthians 5: 21,....for he made him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him....

From the beginning, God's actions, were for the sake of mankind. In his love, brought about by his grace, and through our faith in Christ, God made it possible to remove the wall of separation of sin that was between him and ourselves, so that we might become his righteousness. To accomplish this, Christ, had to become our sin, through his death on the cross, to remove the obstacle, which was the sin that was between us and the Father. In doing so mankind has the definite possibility of salvation.

#2 God's grace offers us forgiveness.

Ephesians 1: 3 – 14,....he chose us in him before the foundation of the world....predestined us to adoption....according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace....having made known to us the mystery of his will....

Because of sin, Gods eternal purpose, now, and always has been, salvation. Set in motion before time as we know it, God chose, before creation, to offer man his saving grace. This salvation would come at a great cost. Gods purpose had nothing to do with human wisdom in which Eve was deceived into believing, but was designed for our salvation and Gods divine glory.

#3 Gods grace offers us reconciliation.

Colossians 1: 19 – 20,....it pleased the Father that in him all the fullness should dwell, and by him to reconcile all things to himself....

God, who came to us in human form, by Christ, remaining fully God, took on the same temporary, mortal body as we have, so as to identify with our weaknesses and limitations, he was in all ways like us, yet without sin. God, through Christ, offered a personal connection to man, so that the fullness of salvation and eternal life would be available to all that would believe.

#4 Gods grace offers to us extended grace.

Romans 5: 10 – 11,....much more....we shall be saved by his life, and not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ....

As Christians, we have received salvation, through Christ, who took our place on the cross, by our faith in him, so, as being justified in him, we are no longer separated by the dispute if sin, we are now and forever reconciled with God. Through this reconciliation we may now participate in the celebration of God himself, in our spiritual life now in the world, and in our eternal life to come.

#5 Gods grace offer us abundant life.

John 10: 7 – 10, 17 – 18,....I have come that they might have life, and that they may have it more abundantly....

Christ, not only seeks to preserve our life in him through salvation, but to continually provide us with a spiritually mature prosperous life as well. Not only does he wish to rescue us from the slavery of sin, but also to protect us, heal us both spiritually and physically, and provide for our needs to an outcome that is more meaningful than just material wealth and prosperity. Abundant life is first and foremost the security of our salvation and eternal life. A life that leads to a growing trust in the knowledge of God, maturing in the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and gaining a heavenly perspective of the truthfulness of an everlasting life through spiritual abundance.

#6 Gods grace offers eternal treasures.

Luke 12: 32 – 34,....it is your Fathers good pleasure to give you the kingdom....a treasure in heaven that does not fail....for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also....

Mans only concern is for his earthly possessions and temporary needs. Christ taught his disciples a deeper truth, one with heavenly perspectives and an eternal outlook. He taught the importance of trusting the Father, the need for a heavenly viewpoint, and the wisdom of the value of the eternal benefits of laying up for themselves treasure in heaven. By grace, we enjoy Gods guidance, his leadership and protection, which will lead us into the true benefit, of one day, residing in his heavenly kingdom, enjoying the fruits of the labor of our salvation.

#7 Gods grace offers the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11: 13,....how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him....

This is a promise made by God, to show his grace and willingness to hear and answer prayer. The promise made only to those who accept Gods grace by faith, for the Holy Spirit can only move into those who have accepted Christ through salvation. This promise insures us of Gods fullness, of his blessing of the Holy Spirit, to fill us and to empower us. One condition is made through this promise (that, those who ask him) and that is prayer. The word tells us we must pray without ceasing, to have the relationship with Christ that God has provided for us, we must be in constant communication with him, this comes through the Holy Spirit. Christ, who was anointed with the Holy Spirit at the beginning of his public ministry set the example for us, to show us the anointing of the indwelling Holy Spirit that takes place at the beginning of our public ministry, which starts at the time of our salvation.

#8 Gods grace offers us a place in heaven.

John 14: 1 – 3,....I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go....I will come again and receive you unto myself....

God promises that he is coming back for us, the church, the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, those who have accepted his grace, by faith, the free gift of salvation. He has made a place for them in his Father's house. Christ promise is that he will come back for us, himself. He will then transform us into our new spiritual bodies, and lead us to the Father's house, and it will be our eternal home. This will be the ultimate gift of God's grace, that will be to dwell in his house and live and reign with him eternally.

Gods grace is our life, the source of life, the fountain of life, the sustainer of life. This comes through his Son, Christ Jesus, who is the source of this life, our physical life, our moral life, our spiritual life, our eternal life, and our new life in him.

By grace we can come to a deeper understanding of our salvation. The life that Christ pours into the hearts of the redeemed by his shed blood, to give unto us the fullness of God's love and grace.

To be continued:

Part 2 – God's grace before salvation.

Let us pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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