

The Grace of God

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There is a lot of confusion and misunderstanding about the grace of God. This is wholly unnecessary as the Scriptures are clear in their teaching on the subject. God’s grace is simply His unmerited favor which has been extended to man. Here are some things the Bible teaches about the grace of God:

Can Be Known. The Colossians “...knew the grace of God in truth” (Colossians 1:6). How did these folks come to know the grace of God? “...in the word of the truth of the gospel” (Colossians 1:5); that’s how! No need to read the writings of men, just read the book of God and you’ll know the grace of God!

Was Seen. The eleventh chapter of Acts finds Barnabas being sent to Antioch. Verse 23 records, “Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.” What did Barnabas see, when he saw the grace of God? He saw folks who “believed, and turned unto the Lord” (Acts 11:21), which was made possible by God’s grace.

Must Be Continued In. Paul and Barnabas spoke to many of the Jews and religious proselytes who followed them and “persuaded them to continue in the grace of God” (Acts 13:43). To continue in the grace of God, one must “...continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gos-

pel...” (Colossians 1:23).

Saves. Without the grace of God, it would be impossible for anyone to be saved. Peter, at the Jerusalem discussion, stated, “But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they” (Acts 15:11). To the Ephesians, Paul said, “...by grace ye are saved” (Ephesians 2:5) and “For by grace are ye saved...” (Ephesians 2:8). Is there any doubt that God’s grace saves?

Justifies. To be justified is to be accounted just or right. Paul wrote the Romans, “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:24). Titus was informed, “That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:7). No grace or favor of God, no justification!

Has Appeared to All. Listen to these words: “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” (Titus 2:11). Included in this is the fact “that he [Christ] by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9). Now, this does not mean every person will be saved, for Christ is “the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Hebrews 5:9).

Is Accessed by Faith. God’s grace saves and justifies, but it must be accessed. This is

accomplished through faith as Paul penned, “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace...” (Romans 5:2). The Ephesians, for example, accessed God’s grace through faith when “they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:5). Have you accessed the grace of God? If not, why not?

Does Not Repeal Law. Some are misusing passages in the books of Romans and Galatians to suggest that since we are under grace we are not under law, and therefore we can be saved without keeping any law. Paul, who was saved by God’s grace (1 Timothy 1:12-16), was “under the law to Christ” (1 Corinthians 9:21) and appealed to the Galatians to “...fulfil the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). James jotted down in his epistle, “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” (James 1:25).

Makes Us What We Are. Paul affirmed, “But by the grace of God I am what I am...” (1 Corinthians 15:10). Read Ephesians 2 and take note of what the grace of God made the Ephesians: “quickened” (v. 1), “saved” (v. 5), “raised up” (v. 6), “nigh” (v. 13), “fellowcitizens” (v. 19). John wrote, “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father...” (Revelation 1:5-6). Isn’t God’s grace truly amazing?

May Be Received in Vain. 2 Corinthians 6:1 states, “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.” To receive God’s grace in vain is to receive it without effect or avail; to no purpose. Those who think we are saved by the grace of God alone, without any conditions on man’s part, need to explain what it means to receive the grace of God in vain!

Can Be Fallen From. Many have been taught that it’s impossible to fall from God’s grace. Have you read Galatians 5:4? “...whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”

Can Fail Of. Hebrews 12:15 admonishes us, “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.” Don’t allow yourself to fall short of God’s grace. Diligence is needed!

Can Stand In It. Peter talked about “...the true grace of God wherein ye stand” (1 Peter 5:12). Paul wrote the Romans, “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Romans 5:12).

Access God’s grace by faith, and, once in the grace of God, stand in it to the end!

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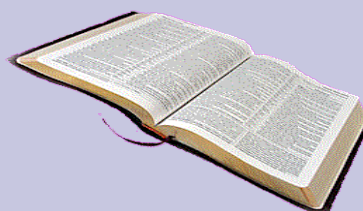
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Is Our
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