

The Riches of God's Grace

July 5th, 2015

Ephesians 2:5-9

Grace: (Greek – *Charis*) “...that which bestows ... pleasure, delight, or causes favorable regard; ...”¹

Grace: (Hebrew – *chen*) “Denotes the stronger coming to the help of the weaker who stands in need of help by reason of his circumstances or natural weakness... Often it can only be understood as the result of the special intervention of God ...”²

Grace came with Jesus Christ!

- ❖ Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ

John 1:17 “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

- ❖ **G**od’s **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist’s **E**xpense

God’s resources are continually available to us to meet our every need!

📖 Hebrews 4:11-16

Grace has to do with the power of God!

- ❖ Power in weakness

2 Corinthians 12:9 “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

- ❖ Strengthened by Grace

2 Timothy 2:1 “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,”

- ♦ We can fail to obtain God’s grace in any situation!

Hebrews 12:15 “See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;”

- ❖ Life transforming power of Grace

1 Corinthians 15:10 “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”

- ❖ Heirs with Christ by the riches of His immeasurable Grace

Ephesians 2:6 “and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”

Titus 3:7 “so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Galatians 4:7 “So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.”

Grace trains us in how God wants us to live.

📖 Titus 2:11-15

- ♦ The immeasurable riches of God’s grace motivates us to renounce the things that are displeasing to Him, and to embrace the things that God desires!
- ♦ Grace frees us from an attitude of lawlessness and carelessness to live our lives consecrated to God knowing that we now belong to Him!

2 Peter 3:18 “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

- ♦ Grace can increase in our lives along with a growing knowledge of God!

James 4:6 “But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’”

- ♦ We grow in the knowledge by the Word of His Grace

Acts 20:32 “And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

Grace provides us with spiritual power!

❖ The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

📖 1 Corinthians 12:4,9

Gifts: (Greek – *Charismaton*) “The usual word for one of the extraordinary endowments the Spirit confers on men. The word is from the same root as the great Christian word ‘grace’, *charis*.”³

❖ Spiritual gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.

Romans 12:6 “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...”

Grace saves us!

Ephesians 2:8-9 “or by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

❖ We are saved by Grace

Saved: (Greek – *Sozo*) Deliverance from the wrath of God; from the bondage of sin and Satan; from danger or suffering. (Excerpts from Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words)¹

♦ The Grace of God is evident throughout the Scriptures

Noah ⇒ *Genesis 6:8 “But Noah found favor [grace] in the eyes of the LORD.”*

Elijah ⇒ *1 Kings 19:18* God kept a remnant by His grace! *Romans 11:2-6*

The early church ⇒ *Acts 15:11* Jews and Gentiles were saved by grace!

❖ Our salvation is not of our own doing or works

“through faith”

- ♦ Faith is not the key word in this passage – Grace is. God gives us the faith to respond to His grace!
Romans 12:3 “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”

- ♦ Through faith we now have access into all of the riches of God’s immeasurable grace where we have power, strength, training, gifting, and freedom!

Romans 5:1-2 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.”

Endnotes

¹ Vine, W.E. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

² Brown, Colin (editor). *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1986.

³ Morris, Leon. *The First epistle of Paul to the Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983. (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)

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