

The Riches of God's Grace

March 21st & March 22nd, 2015

Ephesians 1:7-10

Through Jesus Christ we are blessed with every spiritual blessing:

- We are chosen and predestined
- We are accepted
- We are forgiven
- We are freed (redeemed)
- We are empowered by and filled with *His grace* to live according to His purpose!

Grace: "... is preeminently used of the Lord's favor – freely extended to give Himself away to people ..." ¹
f Grace is unmerited favor from God!

The Ability to Abound

"...The riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us,..."

- ❖ To be lavished upon with grace is to be filled with grace in an immeasurable way!
Ephesians 2:7 "so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."
- ❖ The grace of God has been known from the beginning of Scripture.
Exodus 34:6 "The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfastness love and faithfulness.'"
- ❖ In Jesus, the riches of His grace have been lavished upon us in such a way that with His grace we are complete.
- ❖ God's grace teaches us that we are accepted in Him and totally justified before we are qualified.
📖 John 1:12-17
2 Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich."
2 Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

The Ability to Know

"...in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, ..."

- ❖ Paul refers to grace as a gift of God which was given to him by the working of God's power ... to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.
Ephesians 3:7-8 "Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of His power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,"
- ❖ Grace is the ability given by God to receive what He provided for us in order to do what He called us to do.
How can we receive grace if we don't recognize grace?
 - f We need to rely on God's supernatural power to be able to grow in wisdom and insight so that we can comprehend "*the riches of His grace*" for us Christians.
 - f By nature, we are too weak to appreciate and appropriate the wealth that has been given to us. To use this wealth righteously, we need God's supernatural grace at all times.

“The mystery of His will”

f Paul is reinforcing that everything he stated in regard to God’s work of salvation and provision for us was a mystery that originated in His will.

📖 1 Peter 1:10-12

f The mystery that had been hidden for ages is the grace of God that has been revealed to us in an supernatural way.

“According to His purpose”

f In God’s grace, what is His purpose for my life?

*Titus 3:3-7 “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by **His grace** we **might become heirs** according to the hope of eternal life.”*

📖 Titus 2:11-12

The Ability to Express

How do we express the grace of God in our lives?

❖ To establish and model God’s kingdom through our lives.

Romans 5:2 “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.”

❖ The fact that we stand in grace through faith means that we are able to extend grace to others.

Matthew 10:8 “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.”

f Freely we have received His grace and mercy, freely we should extend grace and mercy to others.

❖ Freely we have received His forgiveness of our sins, freely we should forgive others.

Endnotes:

¹ "Strong's Greek: 5485 χάρις, ἰτος, ἦ (xáris)" *Bible Hub*. © 2004 - 2013 by Biblos.com. <<http://biblehub.com/greek/5485.htm>>.

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