

The Gift of Grace

November 21st & 22nd, 2015

Ephesians 4:7-10

Ephesians 4:1 “...walk in a manner worthy of the calling...”

- ❖ The church consists of God’s people whom He has called out from the world and summoned for a definite purpose in His Sovereign plan!

Ephesians 2:8-10 “For 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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

f Grace to be saved!

f Grace to be used!

Ephesians 4:7 “But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.”

Grace: (Hebrew – *hen*) “Denotes the stronger coming to the help of the weaker...”¹

2 Corinthians 12:9 “... ‘My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ ...”

1 Corinthians 12:4 “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;”

Gifts: (*charismaton*) Special operations of the Holy Spirit within men resulting from [*charis*] Grace.²

f The gift of God’s grace is primarily for the benefit of His church!

Ephesians 4:8 “Therefore it says, ‘When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.’”

📖 Psalm 68:18

f Jesus fulfilled the prophetic Word concerning His Resurrection and Ascension!

- ❖ When He ascended on high, He led a host of captives!

- ♦ Jesus was victorious!

2 Corinthians 2:14 “But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.”

Romans 8:37 “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

- ♦ The Messiah would proclaim liberty to the captives and opened the prison to those who were bound!

Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;”

- ♦ Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah! *Luke 4:18*

- ❖ When He ascended on high, He gave gifts to men!

“First, a spiritual gift is an ability to express, celebrate, display, and so communicate Christ in a way that builds up and strengthens the faith of other Christians and enlarges the church.”³

- ♦ Every Christian has gifts to serve others. “...*grace was given to each one of us...*” *Ephesians 4:7*

Ephesians 4:9-10 “(In saying, ‘He ascended,’ what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)”

❖ Jesus had to descend before He could ascend.

📖 Philippians 2:5-13

f Jesus humbled Himself and God exalted Him! (verse 8-9)

f Jesus will receive glory from all people everywhere – in heaven, on earth, and under the earth!
(verse 10)

f Jesus will work His good pleasure in our lives as we live for Him! (verses 12-13)

❖ Jesus fills all things

📖 Ephesians 1:20-23

“In Christ” ...

... We have every spiritual blessing. *Ephesians 1:3*

... We are chosen and belong to God. *Ephesians 1:4*

... We have redemption. *Ephesians 1:7*

... We have an inheritance in heaven. *Ephesians 1:11*

... We have the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness. *Ephesians 2:7*

... We have been brought near to God by His blood. *Ephesians 2:13*

... We have peace and unity. *Ephesians 2:14-16*

... We are heirs and members of His church. *Ephesians 3:6*

... We can now enjoy *“the fullness of Him who fills all in all!” Ephesians 1:23*

Praise God for His Gift of Grace that we have in Christ!

Endnotes:

¹ Brown, Colin (editor). *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1986.

² Morris, Leon. *The First epistle of Paul to the Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983. (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)

³ Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

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