

“First Steps: Grace that Abounds”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer
Calvary Baptist Church

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Scripture

2 Corinthians 9:8

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

Introduction

Three Types of Christianity - Academic, Dedicated, Devoted

Two Types of Faith - Living or Dead Faith

Faith: It is complete assurance in the promised, yet unseen.

One Hope

Hope:

“It is the confident affirmation that **God is faithful**, that He will complete what He has begun and confident expectation which waits patiently and ardently for God's purposes to be fulfilled.”

What is Grace?

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Many definitions of Grace

Grace, n. “courteous goodwill”

Grace, n. “The help given to one by God because God desires one to have it, not necessarily because of anything one has done to earn it.”

Gift of Candy Example

Grace, n. “the free and unmerited favor of God -> manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings”

Questions about Grace

Is Grace unlimited?

Can you abuse God's Grace?

God is a God of Grace

Psalm 103:8

“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.”

Isaiah 30:18

“Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore, He will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!”

Exodus 34:6-7 (while getting the 10 Commandments)

“Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, **compassionate and gracious**, slow to anger, and **abounding in lovingkindness** and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin;”

Nehemiah 9:31 (as Israel confesses their sin)

“But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.”

Joel 2:13

“Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for **He is gracious and compassionate**, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.”

We Have Access to Grace

Hebrews 4:16

“Let us then approach **God's throne of grace** with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Jesus Came to Deliver Grace

Romans 3:23-24

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are **justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**”

John 1:14-17

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.” **For of His fullness, we have all received, and grace upon grace.** For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.”

Saved By (or Through) Grace

Ephesians 1:5-7

“**He predestined us** to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, **according to the riches of His grace** which He lavished on us.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

“For it is **by grace you have been saved**, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Titus 3:5-7

“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that **being justified by His grace we would be made heirs** according to the hope of eternal life.”

Galatians 2:21

“I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

Romans 11:6

“And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, **grace would no longer be grace.**”

Acts 15:11

“We believe it is **through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved**, just as they [Gentiles] are.”

Romans 5:15

“But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, **how much more did God’s grace** and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!”

Additional Benefits of Grace

2 Timothy 1:9

“He has saved us and **called us to a holy life**—not because of anything we have done but because of **His own purpose and grace**. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.”

Ephesians 4:7

“But to **each one of us grace** has been given as Christ apportioned it.”

2 Corinthians 9:8 (giving to others)

“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed”

Some of us Grace in **having an abundance** to share with others – **Self-Sufficient via the Spirit**

Romans 5:21

“So that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness **to bring eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Hebrews 13:9

“Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. **It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace**, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so.”

2 Timothy 2:1

“You then, my son, **be strong in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus.”

2 Peter 1:2

“**Grace and peace be yours** in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:14

“**For sin shall no longer be your master**, because you are not under the law, but under grace.”

Ephesians 3:6-8

“The Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, of which **I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace** which was given to me according to the working of His power. To me, the very least of all saints, **this grace was given**, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ.”

1 Peter 1:13

“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, **set your hope on the grace** to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.”

Living Under Grace

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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.”

Romans 6:1-2

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? **May it never be!** How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”

Grace doesn't mean we willingly go on sinning

Matthew 18:21-22

“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, **how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister** who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

We need to be **freely giving** Grace to Others

Titus 2:11-12

“For **the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people**. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.”

James 4:1-6

“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so, you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so, you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”? But **He gives a greater grace. Therefore, He says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”**

1 Peter 5:5

“You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for **GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**”

Receiving Grace Should **Produce Humility**

A beggar showing another beggar where the bread is...

2 Peter 3:18

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”

Prayers for Grace

2 Corinthians 13:14

“**May the grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit **be with you all.**”

Revelation 22:21 – The Last Verse in the Bible

“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.”

Communion

We Remember God’s Grace Given to Us and His Sacrifice for Us

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and **be gracious to you**;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”