

We Are Saved By Grace

John 1:17 - "...Grace and truth
came through Jesus Christ"

We Must Come To Know Grace

- Every epistle Paul wrote (with the possible exception of Hebrews) begins and ends with mention of this word.
 - 1Thes. 1:1 - “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - 1Thes. 5:28 - “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”

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- “That which gives joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, and charm” is the original connotation of the Greek word charis (Strong's).
- It is used in the New Testament in this way in reference to speech. The words of Jesus were spoken with grace.
 - Luke 4:22 - “So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, ‘Is this not Joseph’s son?’”

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- The words of Christians are to impart grace to the hearers.
 - Eph. 4:29 - “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”
 - Col. 4:6 - “Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”

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- “Good-will, loving-kindness, favor” (Strong’s)
- It is used of the kindness of masters toward servants, and brethren toward one another.
 - 2Cor. 8:4 - “Imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.”
 - 1Peter 4:10 - “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

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- Especially of God toward humankind.
 - “Charis contains the idea of kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved. The NT writers use CHARIS preeminently of that kindness by which God bestows favors even upon the ill-deserving, and grants to sinners the pardon of their offenses, and bids them accept of eternal salvation through Christ” (Thayer).
 - Eph. 2:5 - “Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)”

We Must Come To Know Grace

- It is this particular definition of grace that prompts us to think of it most often as “unmerited favor.”
- If you want to be clear when you speak of grace as unmerited favor, you must specify that in scripture, it is in salvation.
- Grace operates in many other parts of our spiritual lives.

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- When one receives God's grace, he is in a “state or condition of grace.”
 - Rom. 5:1-2 - “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
 - 1Peter 5:12 - “...I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand.”

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- An expression of gratitude for favor bestowed.
 - 1Tim. 1:12 - “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.”
 - The English word is “thank.”
 - This is the origin of the old figure of speech to “say grace” before eating.

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- In the beginning, God created humankind to be His children. He loves His children, and wants them to come to His home to live after life in this world.
- Humans sinned, creating a terrible dilemma for God.
- Sin is expensive; the only way to pay for sin is with innocent life; sin must be paid for before God can have fellowship with us. If God ignores sin in order to have fellowship with us, He ceases to be God.

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- If God abandons us in our sins, He no longer loves us, and again ceases to be God.
- We cannot afford to pay for our sins; we no longer have an innocent life.
- So what can be done?
- God says, “I will pay for your sins so that you will be free from them and can return to fellowship with Me. I will pay for your sins with the life of my only begotten Son.

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- God created us to be with Him, and we chose sin instead. But God loves us so much that He will withhold nothing in order to be with us.
- What do we have to offer to Him for God to love us in that manner? Nothing; not an innocent life, not a perfect love; He loves us when we have nothing to offer to win, earn, or deserve that love.

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- John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
- 1John 4:9-10 - “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

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- We are saved by grace. Salvation is first, foremost, and always by grace.
 - Eph. 2:5-8 - “Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”
 - Acts 20:24 - “But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

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- God doesn't owe us anything; what we've earned is eternal damnation for our sins.
 - Rom. 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
 - Rom. 6:23 - “For the wages of sin is death...”

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- Salvation is a gift, which God in loving-kindness offers to humankind.
 - Rom. 6:23 - “...But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - Note that damnation is earned; salvation is a gift.

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- Titus 3:3-7 - “For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

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- No matter what God may call on us to do in order to receive His grace, when we do those things (believe, repent, confess, be baptized), we do not earn or merit salvation.
 - Luke 17:10 - “So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'”
 - Isa. 64:6 - “But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.”

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- It is essential to live godly to remain in God's grace.
 - Titus 2:11-14 - “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

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- But godly living requires God's grace, too. We must depend on God's help.
 - Phil. 2:12-13 - "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."
 - Phil. 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

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- It is possible to increase in the state of grace.
 - 2Peter 3:18 - “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
- We can grow in grace through:
 - Heeding the Word of God - Acts 20:32
 - Drawing near to God in prayer - Heb. 4:16

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- Heb. 12:28 - “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”
- Heb. 13:9 - “Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.”

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- Grace is essential to doing your work for Christ. Or, did you think that what you do for the Lord is all you?
 - Acts 14:26 - “From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed.”
 - Acts 15:40 - “But Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.”

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- 1Cor. 3:10 - “According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it.”
- 1Cor. 15:10 - “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

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- 2Cor. 1:12 - “For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.”
- 2Cor. 8:1 - “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia.”
- 2Cor. 9:14 - “And by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.”

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- Grace is necessary to remaining saved. Or do you really believe that you can keep the entire law of Christ omnisciently aware of all of your own deeds good and bad?
 - Ecc. 7:20 - “For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.”
 - Prov. 20:9 - “Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?”

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- James 3:2 - “For we all stumble in many things.”
- 1John 1:6-10 - “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

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- Do you as a Christian, live completely without sin?
- When you confess your sins, do you do so perfectly listing all of them without an oversight?
- Remembering every sin and the full scope of its influence?
- No? What are you going to do about the sins you committed in ignorance, or inadvertently, or without thought and failed to list when you asked for forgiveness?
- So upon what must you trust and depend? The grace of God

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- Gen. 6:5-8 - “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”

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- John 1:12-17 - “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”