

THE TASTE OF GRACE
1 Pet. 2:2-3
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INTRODUCTION

- A. God is described in many ways:
 - 1. The God of glory, Acts 7:2.
 - 2. The God of endurance and encouragement, Romans 15:5.
 - 3. The God of hope, Rom. 15:33.
 - 4. The God of peace, Rom. 15:33.
 - 5. The God of comfort, 2 Cor. 1:3.
 - 6. The God of love, 2 Cor. 13:11.
 - 7. The God of all grace, 1 Pet. 5:10.
 - a. Not the God of some grace, but of ALL grace.
- B. What does grace taste like, 1 Pet. 2:2-3.
 - 1. Taken from Ps. 34:8, "*O, taste and see that the Lord is good.*"
- C. Inside a fancy restaurant.
 - 1. The appetizer.
 - 2. The main course.
 - 3. The delicious dessert.

I. THE APPETIZER – GOD’S “WORD OF LIFE.”

- A. The Bible is God’s “Word of Life,” Phil. 2:16.
 - 1. The appetizer grace has prepared:
 - a. The word of His grace, Acts 14:3; 20:32.
 - b. It came from the mind of God, 1 Cor. 2:10-13.
 - c. It was breathed from the heart of God, 2 Tim. 3:16.
 - 2. We have the Bible because of God’s mercy, love and kindness.
- B. The Appetizer We Enjoy at God’s Banquet of Blessings.
 - 1. The Old Testament gets us ready for the coming of our Savior, Lk. 24:44; Acts 10:43.
 - a. It prepares us for the salvation our Savior offers, 2 Pet. 1:10-11.
 - b. It alerts us to Jesus’ coming and importance of doing what He says, Acts 3:22-23 (cf. Deut. 18:15, 18-19).
 - 2. The New Testament introduces us to Jesus, the Savior God sent into the world, [Mt. 1:18-25]; Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 4:14.
 - a. It proves that He is the Son of God we should believe and obey, Jn. 20:30-31.
 - b. It teaches what we should do to be saved, Rom. 1:16.
 - i. Hear about Jesus, Rom. 10:13-15.
 - ii. Believe in Jesus, John 1:12.
 - iii. Repent and change the way we live for Jesus, 2 Cor. 6:17-18.
 - iv. Confess our faith in Jesus, Rom. 10:9-10.
 - v. Be baptized into Jesus, Gal. 3:26-27.

II. THE MAIN COURSE – JESUS’ “ABUNDANT LIFE.”

- A. The Featured Dish and Side Items.
 - 1. Together is what Jesus calls the abundant life, John 10:10.
 - 2. Peter describes the life made possible by grace, 1 Pet. 3:7.
- B. Jesus is the featured dish:
 - 1. Jesus came from grace, Heb. 2:9.

2. Jesus brought grace, John 1:17.
 3. Jesus offers grace, Rom. 3:24; Heb. 2:9.
 4. And when He comes again, He will bring grace, 1 Pet. 1:13.
 5. There has never been anyone like Him!
 - a. He is the primary dish on the banquet table of God's blessings.
- C. Side Items:
1. All the gifts that come from God – as one saved by Jesus.
 - a. Gift of the Holy Spirit, Acts 5:32.
 - b. Gift of righteousness, Rom. 5:17.
 - c. Gift of eternal life, Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8.
 - d. Every good gift..., Jas. 1:17.
 - e. Gift of peace, Rom. 5:1-2.
 - f. Gift of forgiveness, Eph. 1:7.
 - g. Gift of prayer, Heb. 4:15-16.

III. THE DESSERT – HOPE'S "ETERNAL LIFE."

- A. Can I interest you in dessert?
1. At the end of the main course.
 2. God's banquet – hope of eternal life.
 3. Two glorious answers:
 - a. Biblical hope, the desire or anticipation of something, Pr. 13:12.
 - b. Biblical hope, the expectation of something, Pr. 10:28.
 4. ***Wanting something and expecting to receive that something.***
 5. Paul writes of the hope of eternal life, Titus 1:2.
 - a. Something we should want and something we can expect as Christians.
 - b. But, why is that possible – Grace! 2 Thess. 2:16.
- B. The Hope only God can offer, Rev. 21.
1. Like nothing ever experienced before.
 2. Location of heaven – to be with God, vss. 1-3.
 3. Attention of heaven – the care of God, vss. 4-6.
 4. Population of heaven – all who overcame for God, vss. 7-8.
 5. Fascination of heaven – home regal glory that belongs to God, vss. 9-27.
 6. Duration of heaven – eternal life, Mt. 25:46 (Not mentioned in Rev. 21).
- C. As Christians – we want to get there!
1. We expect to go there because of God's grace.
 2. Titus 3:7

CLOSING

- A. One of two answers to the question, "What does that taste like?"
1. The classic answer, "It tastes like chicken."
 2. The colossal answer, "It tastes like nothing you've ever put in your mouth."
- B. Grace is the latter – exquisite delicacy with no comparison.
- C. It fills up and satisfies in ways we can't express.
1. Leaves us wanting more.
 2. We can't get enough, hear enough, or praise God enough!