

LESSON 1

THE GRACE OF GOD
IN ITS
BIBLICAL DESCRIPTION

by

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GRACE

IS A

PROVISION

OF A

PERSON

FOR

PERSONS

OF

PRACTICAL

POWER

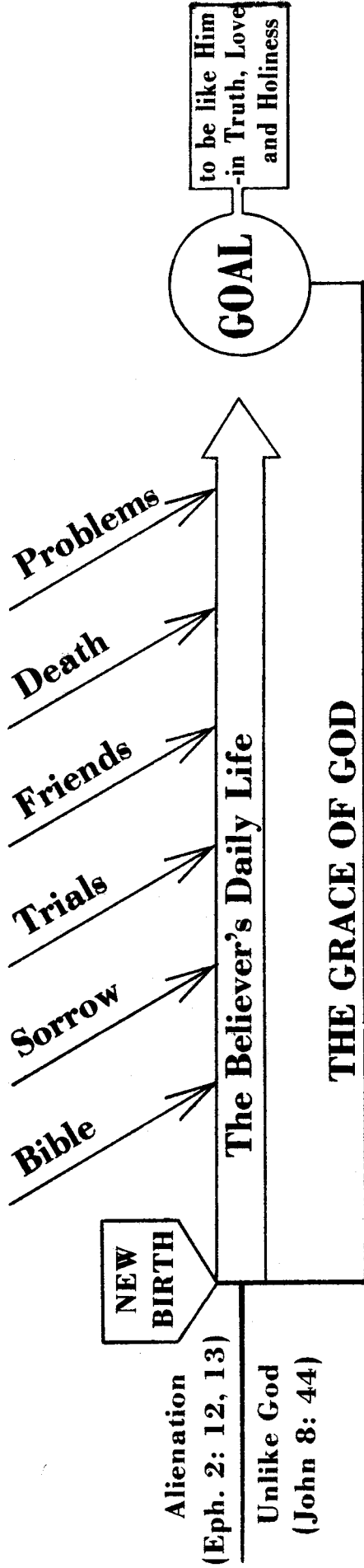
FOR

PERSONAL

PROGRESS

IN GOD'S

PLAN



Alienation
(Eph. 2: 12, 13)
Unlike God
(John 8: 44)

**NEW
BIRTH**

Bible

Sorrow

Trials

Friends

Death

Problems

The Believer's Daily Life

THE GRACE OF GOD

GOAL

**to be like Him
-in Truth, Love
and Holiness**

INTRODUCTION

- A. The message related to the grace of God is one of the most important and encouraging found in the Bible.
- B. The most common definition of grace is "unmerited favor." This is a Biblical description of God's grace in that it points out that all of the favor and blessing of God is given to those who do not and can never merit His favor and, furthermore, all of this is given to us simply because God chooses to do so.
- C. It was Griffith Thomas who said grace was, "The love of God in action toward sinful men." This is an excellent statement. God's love is not LOVE written on the page -- but an activity -- and the result of that activity is the grace of God in unending waves of divine favor.
- D. Dr. H.C.G. Moule said,

Grace, in its highest sense, is nothing less that "God working in us, to will and to do, for His good pleasure's sake" (Phil. 2:13). It is not a separate or separable entity, projected, as it were, from God into man. It is God Himself, "in-working" in special ways for special ends, above all, for His glory in the salvation of His Church from condemnation and from sin, and in its conformation of the likeness of His Son. In the light of our view of the Spirit's work, grace may thus be described as the freely given presence of the Holy Spirit in the man, applying Christ to him, and manifesting Christ in and through him. (Outlines of Christian Doctrine, p. 144).

- E. "The essence of the doctrine of grace is that God is for us. What is more, He is for us who in ourselves are against Him. More still, He is not for us merely in a general attitude, but has effectively acted towards us. Grace is summed up in the Name Jesus Christ." (Baker's Dictionary of Theology, p. 257.)
- F. Fundamentally grace is the gift of the all-sufficient provision of God so that the believer may accomplish the will of God in life and service.

- Exodus 33:16-19 Grace is a right relationship with God. It is to live in His presence. It is to receive the favor He freely chooses to give.
- Exodus 34:6 This is one of the most important passages in the Bible. It is the Old Testament "Sermon On the Mount." God here describes Himself for our benefit. He explains what it means for Him to be God -- to be Holy-Love-- and what this should and does mean in the lives of His children and the government of the world.
- Ezra 9:8 Grace is the favor of God is deliverance, reviving, and mercy (v.9).
- Nehemiah 9:17,31 The Grace of God was the basis of Nehemiah's hope, faith and work.
- Psalm 45:2 The Grace of God flows from the words of the Messiah (Luke 4:22).
- Psalm 84:11 Grace is the promise and experience of all who live for God.
- Joel 2:13 The Grace of God is the basis and hope of repentance and restoration.
- Jonah 4:2 The Grace of God is reflected in His forgiveness and mercy.
- Zechariah 4:6,7 The angel (v.1) explains that the faith and work of Zerubbabel whereby obstacles were overcome and the temple built is all possible because of God's grace (Matthew 21:21; I Corinthians 13:2).
- Zechariah 12:10 In a time yet future God promises to pour out of His grace upon the Jewish people. They will be brought to personal repentance.
- Luke 2:40 Jesus Christ, the sinless God-Man, lived in total dependence on His Father. God's gracious favor was constantly upon Him.
- John 1:14 The Grace of God finds its source in the Person and work of Jesus Christ. Grace is illustrated in His life. Grace and Truth are inseparably related.
- John 1:16 The abundance of ever new experiences of the Grace of God flow out of the fullness in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- John 1:17 All of the provisions of grace in every age have found their source in Jesus Christ. Truth is how we receive divine grace.
- Acts 4:33 The experience of grace among these early believers enabled them to share their possessions and to proclaim the truth in power.
- Acts 11:23 The Grace of God was displayed in the salvation of the Gentiles. Grace can be "seen" in its transforming effects.
- Acts 13:43 The Apostolic exhortation is that the believers should aggressively continue in that which brought the Grace of God, with its power, into their lives. This is what Paul and Barnabas would say to us!

- Acts 14:3 -The Scripture is a channel of grace to those who believe.
- Acts 14:26 -These missionaries were used by God to be the instruments through which His grace would be manifested. (Acts 15:40)
- Acts 15:11 -All facets of salvation find their source in the Grace of God all of which is related to the Person of Jesus Christ.
- Acts 18:27 -It is the Grace of God which enables a person to repent and believe. This is accomplished through the proclamation of the Scriptures. (Romans 10:17)
- Acts 20:24,32 -The gospel is here defined by Paul as "The Grace of God." He means that the gospel is the result of God's gracious activity of love toward sinful man and produces the benefits of grace among those who receive it.
- Romans 1:5 -The Apostle testifies that his conversion, daily life and office all find their origin and strength in the Grace of God.
- Romans 1:7 -The Apostolic Benediction, found often in Scripture, is the expression of God's will and provision for believers.
- Romans 3:24 -Justification, God's declaration of a sinner that he is righteous, is the free gift of God's grace. It is all possible through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.
- Romans 4:16 -Justification is received through faith so the Grace of God would be magnified. Only in this way is the promise "sure", i.e., dependent only on God.
- Romans 5:2 -This is the "standing" of grace. The believer, through acceptance of Jesus Christ by faith, is brought into a "state of grace" which produces the joy of hope.
- Romans 5:15,20 -The Grace of God provides salvation and all things as a gift. Grace has more than matched the effects of sin.
- Romans 5:17,21 -Sin reigns (reveals its power) through death. But, the Grace of God proves its power through causing every believer to reign in life through righteousness and the assurance of eternal life.
- Romans 6:14,15 -The Grace of God has broken the power of sin. Grace transforms the inner man.

- Romans 11:5,6 -The Grace of God is the basis of divine election. This illustrates the important truth that man cannot work to save himself. Salvation is the gift of God's grace.
- Romans 12:3 -Paul attributes his apostleship and the instructions he had received from God as finding their origin in the Grace of God. The call he had received and the ability to fulfill that call all was due to the Grace of God. (Gal. 2:9) (Rom. 15:15)
- Romans 12:6 -All of the gifts received by believers for the fulfilling of the plan of God -- find their source in God's grace. (I Cor. 1:4-7)
- I Cor. 3:10 -The Apostle Paul attributes the starting of the church at Corinth to the Grace of God. God uses people in His work.
- I Cor. 15:10 -It was the Grace of God that gave Paul his acceptance with God, his office, wisdom, strength and the results of his labours.
- II Cor. 1:12 -Paul's ministry and manner of life grew out of the Grace of God -- not human wisdom.
- II Cor. 4:15 -God is glorified as His saints lay hold of the abundance of the Grace of God and are thankful.
- II Cor. 6:1 -The provision of God's grace (5:17-21) is not only to be admired and discussed -- but received and practiced.
- II Cor. 8:1-19 -The concern of the Macedonian churches in raising money for believers in need not only reflected the Grace of God in them but brought the Grace of God to them.
- II Cor. 8:9 -The Incarnation is a sample of how the grace of God was manifested. This reveals the action of divine love.
- II Cor. 9:8 -The Grace of God brings the unlimited power of God into the believer's life. The result is a more than adequate provision.
- II Cor. 9:14 -Those who received the gift of money from the Corinthian churches prayed and sought fellowship with those who gave due to the manifestation of God's grace in their liberality.
- II Cor. 12:9 -The Grace of God is adequate for every trial. It brings the transforming power of God into every difficult situation.

- II Cor. 13:14 -This experience of grace, love and fellowship is the express desire and will of God for all of His people.
- Gal. 1:6,15 -The call of God which has come to every believer finds its origin in the Grace of God but it is also a call into the experience and fullness of grace.
- Gal. 2:21 -The Grace of God can do what the law could never do -- bring righteousness to a believer (Rom. 8:1-4). To work for one's salvation is to distort and nullify the meaning of God's grace.
- Gal. 5:4 -To believe that salvation may be gained by human merit is to assume a spiritual position that destroys the real meaning of grace.
- Eph. 1:6,7 -The predestination of the believer with its acceptance, redemption and forgiveness all finds its source and praise in the in the Grace of God.
- Eph. 2:5,8 -The glorious representative work of Jesus Christ and all of its benefits in the believer's salvation is due to the Grace of God.
- Eph. 2:7 -Throughout eternity the Grace of God will be displayed and by this God will be glorified. You will be an exhibit of His grace.
- Eph. 3:2,7,8 -It was God's grace which gave Paul his calling and ability which in turn resulted in an outpouring of grace among the gentiles. God's power flows through His grace.
- Eph. 4:7 -All believers have a gift or enablement that is due to the Grace of God and which is the channel whereby God desires to bring grace into the lives of others and glorify Himself.
- Eph. 4:29 -Due to the grace of God in believers even our daily speech can and should be a source of grace to others. Compare James 3:6.
- Phil. 1:7 -All believers are united in the fellowship of the Grace of God.
- Col. 1:6 -The benefits of the Gospel began when these folk believed and acted on the truth.

- Col. 3:16 -The song of the believer is due to the truth that he has been made a recipient of the Grace of God. It is important that we use that grace to sing our praise and thanksgiving to God.
- Col. 4:6 -All that the believer has from God is due to His grace. This will affect his speech. The graciousness of God should be reflected in our daily conversation. If this is so then God will use us to reach others.
- Col. 4:18 -Paul's desire and prayer for the believer's best was all comprehended in the knowledge and experience of God's grace.
- II Thess. 1:12 -The Grace of God has made it possible for God to be glorified in believers and they in Him.
- II Thess. 2:16 -The love that gives consolation, hope, comfort and stability is found in the unmerited favor of God's grace.
- I Tim. 1:2 -Grace and its bountiful gifts are all inseparably related not only to one another but primarily to God.
- I Tim. 1:14 -God's grace was abundantly sufficient to win Saul the blasphemer and persecutor. Its adequacy and practicality are reflected in its gifts of faith and love.
- II Tim. 1:9 -The holy and eternal calling of God and its resultant salvation is due only to God's purpose in grace.
- II Tim. 2:1 -God's grace is always the open channel of daily and practical power.
- Titus 2:11 -The Incarnation of Jesus Christ is a manifestation of God's grace. Jesus Christ is the incomparable gift of God.
- Titus 3:7 -It is the Grace of God that has brought the believer to the position of justification with all of the rights and privileges of an heir of God.
- Hebrews 2:9 -The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ was a manifestation and illustration of God's grace. That He should die as our Substitute is a plan of love that could only be conceived by infinite grace.
- Hebrews 4:16 -Grace is the description of God's throne and the benefits of grace may be freely received through prayer.
- Hebrews 10:29 -The Holy Spirit applies the Grace of God and is insulted when people turn away from the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Hebrews 12:15 -The Grace of God is a reality only among those who repent and believe. Any other response to God invalidates the relationship of grace.
- Hebrews 13:9 -The heart (person) is only established through the Grace of God which comes by knowing and practicing the truth.
- James 4:6 -God is prepared to give more and more grace to those who are humble enough to receive it. (I Peter 5:5)
- I Peter 1:10 -Grace is a summary description of all God has promised and provided for His people.
- I Peter 1:13 -The believer's decisions are to be based on the ever present Grace of God which will be climaxed in the coming of Jesus Christ.
- I Peter 3:7 -Husbands and wives are to realize that their marriage involves the grace of God which has brought eternal life to them.
- I Peter 4:10 -God's grace is dispensed through believers in the exercise of God-given gifts. God wants you to be a channel of His grace.
- I Peter 5:10 -This descriptive title of God characterizes Him as the source of all grace. Out of this unmerited favor flows His calling, purpose, providence and glory.
- I Peter 5:12 -The Grace of God is a "standing" before God. The Apostle comforts the believers in reminding them that their relationship to God is based on truth.
- II Peter 3:18 -The grace and knowledge of God are inseparable. To know and practice the truth (knowledge) will bring the Grace of God into one's experience and life. This in turn will cause one to seek God and His Word.
- Jude 4 -The Grace of God does not permit activity contrary to God and His Word. False teaching concerning grace is revealed in its fruit.
- Rev. 1:4 -The Grace of God is His provision and benediction to all His churches. To live receiving God's grace and experiencing His peace is an unbeatable combination.
- Rev. 22:21 -It is significant and indicative of the importance of the Grace of God that the Bible should close with this benediction and reminder. The understanding and experience of the Grace of God should be high on the list of priorities for the believer.