

Studies in I Peter (9)

The Apostolic Prayer -- The Multiplication of Grace and Peace

Introduction

- A. We often ask the question -- What does God want me to have in my life? The answer is in our text: "Grace and peace be yours in abundance."
- B. Peter was writing to Christians undergoing serious trials. He reminded them that God had chosen them, would not forsaken them, that He would work with them so the trials would be for their good, and that He had made every provision for them. There was grace and peace.

I. The Meaning of the Grace of God.

And the Word was made 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.
John 1:14

Comment: In this verse the word grace is used, along with truth, to designate all the redemptive provision that is given to us through the work of the Lord Jesus. Whatever we need, to be saved and live for God, is found in the meaning of grace.

"Unmerited favor."

"The love of God in action toward sinful man." Griffith Thomas

"God's favor expressed in a gift of power."

II. The Explanatory Illustration of the Grace of God.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.
II Corinthians 8:9

Comment: The meaning of the birth of the Lord Jesus, His earthy ministry, His Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, and how He sent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost -- illustrates grace.

III. The Assurance Regarding Grace -- We Legally Possess all of Grace.

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue. II Peter 1:3

Comment: When Jesus Christ came into our life He brought every spiritual benefit with Him and made it ours. We may not know what we have -- but we have all the grace of God -- legally.

IV. The Multiplication of the Grace of God.

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.
II Corinthians 9:8

Comment: At least three great truths are taught in this verse.

1. We must learn what we have in the grace of God and how to utilize divine grace.
2. We must daily use the grace that God has given us.
3. The adequacy of the grace of God.

Saving Grace, Rom. 3:24	Suffering Grace, II Cor. 12:9
Sanctifying Grace, Rom. 6:14	Singing Grace, Col. 3:16
Serving Grace, I Cor. 15:10	Speaking Grace, Col. 4:6
Strengthening Grace, II Tim. 2:1	Satisfying Grace, Heb. 4:16

V. The Warning Regarding the Grace of God.

We then as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. II Corinthians 6:1

Comment: The warning Paul stated here has to do with knowing -- but not putting the grace of God into practice. There are not many things more serious for the believer.

1. We may be ignorant of our resources in the grace of God.
2. We may not know how to use our resources by faith and love.
3. We may not know the plan of God for our lives (He wants to make us spiritual people).
4. We may not want the plan of God -- we may be a fair-weather Christian (God must do what I want or I'll quit).
5. We may have an unresolved past.
6. We may be a disobedient Christian.
7. We may be a lazy, passive, lethargic kind of a person.

Conclusion: It is God's desire, as expressed in Peter's prayer -- that we live with His grace in our daily life. There is nothing more powerful, enjoyable, and fruitful -- than living in the practice of His grace.