

The Biblical Concept Of The Grace of God

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." It was Griffith Thomas who said grace was, "The love of God in action toward sinful men."
- C. 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.
- D. "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)

I. The Source 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

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

But the God of all grace, Who hath called us unto His eternal glory
I Peter 5:10

Observation: Grace is included in the description of God and His throne. It finds its source in Him and His loving kindness. The Lord Jesus Christ came as an expression of the grace of God and manifested the grace and truth of God in all areas of His life and ministry.

II. The Meaning of the Grace of God, II Cor. 9:8.

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.

Observation: Here we are shown that grace indicates God's provision for our every need. This includes wisdom, patience, money, strength, ability, etc.

III. The Explanatory Illustrations 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 Cor. 8:9

But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Hebrews 2:9

Observation: God's grace is clearly seen in that He sent Jesus Christ to be born into our human race and to die as our substitute on the Cross. The birth and death of Jesus Christ is not only an illustration of grace but these explain to us how grace was made available to us.

IV. The Benefits of the Grace of God.

- A. Salvation is the provision of God in grace, Ephesians 2:8,9.

For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.

- B. Freedom from sin is the provision of God in grace, Romans 6:14.

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for ye are not under law, but under grace.

- C. Enablement in trials is the provision of God in grace, II Cor. 12:9.

And He said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness"

- D. Consolation and hope is the provision of God in grace, II Thess. 2:16,17.

Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

- E. Teaching is the provision of God in grace, Titus 2:11,12.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world.

Observation: No amount of money or sacrifice can obtain these benefits. They are among the most important possessions that anyone could hope to have.

V. The Characteristics of the Grace of God.

Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:24

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Ephesians 4:7

Observation: The grace of God is free and offered as a gift. Is this one of the reasons why it is not valued and sought after?

VI. The Purpose in The Grace of God, Ephesians 1:6.

To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.

Observation: One of the reasons for our salvation is that we would live for the glory of God. God's grace is displayed in our transformation.

VIII. The Warning Related to **the** Grace of God, II Cor. 6:1.

We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

Observation: It is very possible to hear about the grace of God and to learn of its benefits – and then not to personally accept and appropriate this provision in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: Let's receive, utilize and thank God for His grace! Victor M. Matthews