

The Manifold Grace of God

Introduction

- A. In studying this great theme of the grace of God we come to the conclusion that grace is the product of the love of God. His love is an action which resulted in Jesus Christ coming into the world and giving His life as a ransom. The benefits of His death and Resurrection are the product. When we believe upon Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior all these benefits flow into our lives. Griffith Thomas said, "Grace is the love of God in action toward sinful men".
- B. John described the Lord Jesus Christ as ". . . full of grace and truth". John 1:16.
- C. In I Peter 4:10 the term ". . . manifold grace of God" is used. This reminds us that God's grace is designed to meet the believer's every need. The verse also reminds us that the Christian is a "steward" of the grace of God. We can bring the message of God's loving provision to people by our example and words and even more by prayer.

I. Through Jesus Christ there is Saving Grace, Romans 3:24.

Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Observation: The term "justified" means to be "declared righteous - absolved". Because of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, all who believe are thereby set free from the demands of the law of God. It is God's grace that provides this freedom - not our good works.

II. Through Jesus Christ there is Serving Grace, I Cor. 15:10.

But by the grace of God I am what I am and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Observation: The Apostle Paul is here contrasting his life as a believer with how he had formerly lived. Once he had persecuted the Christians but now He lived for and preached the message which he once despised. The difference was caused by the grace of God and it was that grace which enabled him to serve so fully.

III. Through Jesus Christ there is Sacrificing Grace, II Cor. 8:1,4.

Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia . . . praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

Observation: The churches of Macedonia had taken up a collection for the Christians in Palestine who were suffering due to crop failure. In this chapter Paul stated they gave out of their poverty. It was the grace of God which enabled them to sacrifice. He is encouraging the church at Corinth to join these believers in giving.

IV. Through Jesus Christ there is Sustaining Grace, II Cor. 9:8.

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

Observation: Paul is still talking about the gift of money in this passage. Under inspiration of the Holy Spirit he summarizes the material into a spiritual principle. Simply stated it means that God always enables a person to do His will. Once a believer learns this truth and implements it in daily life a new dimension is added to his spiritual outlook on life and his actions. He finds that he can cooperate with God and be assured of God's blessing.

V. Through Jesus Christ there is Suffering Grace, II Cor. 12:9.

And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee, for strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Observation: A "thorn in the flesh" was given to Paul to curb his pride and enable him to trust God more fully. When the Apostle prayed that God would remove the thorn He was assured that there would be grace to endure. In His wise mercy God has made it possible for every believer to successfully endure the trials that come to us in the will of God.

VI. Through Jesus Christ there is Singing Grace, Colossians 3:16.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Observation: According to Eph. 5:19 this matter of singing in the heart to God is an evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit. This is the will of God for all believers. He has made the provision for us so we can fellowship with God like this through His grace.

VII. Through Jesus Christ there is Speaking Grace, Colossians 4:6.

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Observation: Here we are reminded to speak with the enablement of the grace of God which will make our speaking gracious and fitting to the occasion. It is important for the Christian to be able to reach others with the message of grace. We are His stewards.

VIII. Through Jesus Christ there is Strengthening Grace, II Timothy 2:1.

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Observation: Timothy was a young pastor that needed to learn how to be a good soldier (v3). The grace of God is the enablement for every believer for whatever strength we may need.

Conclusions: In Hebrews 4:16 we are encouraged to ". . . come boldly to the throne of grace. that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. We must isolate our need, receive the grace of God, **and** then carefully practice the truth with thanksgiving.