

Introductions – Welcome to New People and Thanks to All Who Have Attended

We have been laying a “Foundation for Grace” the last 2 weeks. We have covered a lot of ground!! In week 1 we talked about “Man’s Desperate Unsaved Condition.” We found from Scripture that unsaved people are spiritually dead and unable to choose God or please Him in any way. We also discussed “The Law.” No one has ever been saved by obeying the Law and the Law was never given to Gentiles. The Law’s purpose was/is to lead people to Jesus. The Holy Spirit and a good foundation in the Scriptures are what should guide us as Christians, not the LAW.

Last week we discussed “Salvation” and what some churches are substituting for The Gospel Message. Salvation is the work of God accomplished through Jesus’ Death & Resurrection. It is an “Exchanged Life.” Jesus took our punishment, sin and the curse. We get His Life in us, His Righteousness, Forgiveness of ALL our Sins, A Brand New Nature and so much more. Jesus also keeps giving us Transforming Power to become more Christ-like.

Our 2nd part last week was “Blessings of the New Covenant” and “Contrasts Between The Law and The Covenant Of Grace.” The New Covenant started after Jesus’ Death & Resurrection. Under the Old, sacrifices were made daily but Jesus Gave Himself once, for all sin - for all time!

1. How were people saved in the Old Testament before the cross?

The Gospel in the Old Testament (Galatians 3:8)

Abraham saw at least part of the New Covenant (John 8:56)

The Blood of Jesus flows back in history to cleanse those who lived before the Cross in

Faith!! (Hebrews 9:15)

2. It has been said that the person who understands the distinction between the covenant of works and the covenant of grace is a master of divinity

3. Contrasts:

Who were Priests under the Old – Priest(s) under the New

Presence of God in the Old – Presence of God in the New

Are sins truly forgiven under the Old

Holy Spirit in Old – Holy Spirit in New

Note: Old Covenant Priests Stood - New Covenant Jesus Sits!!!! Why? (Hebrews 10:11-12)

4. I Will Be Their God and They Will Be My People (Hebrews 8:10)
5. Much of the Church World Today Lives in a Mixture between Old & New Covenants
6. Must have New Wineskins for New Wine (Luke 5:37-39)

THE OLD MAN DIED – CHRIST HAS REMOVED OUR OLD SINFUL NATURE

Christ Circumcised You by Removing The Sinful Nature (Colossians 2:11)

Old Man/Old Self was Crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6)

7. GRACE

1. What is Justice? (Romans 6:23)

Getting what you deserve according to God's LAW!

2. What is Mercy?

Not getting what you do deserve! In ourselves what do we deserve?

If We Only Know Forgiveness (Pardon) That Is Mercy and We Still Need To Come To Fully Understand and Receive All That Has Been Purchased (Grace) For Us In The Cross & Resurrection!!!

3. What is Grace? (Romans 6:23)

We get an abundance of wonderful things we are not worthy of!!!

God's Riches at Christ's Expense

Favor/Kindness/Goodwill/Loving kindness

Undeserved/Unmerited Pardon (Forgiveness)

The Free and Unmerited Favor of God Shown to Man

Divine Assistance and Power given to man in Spiritual Rebirth & Sanctification

Divine Love and Protection bestowed freely on man

God's Grace = The Power Of God To Do For Us What We Can't Do For Ourselves

Old Testament (Chen) Stooping in kindness to an inferior

Favorable attitude shown by a superior to an inferior

4. Is the Law based on Justice, Mercy or Grace?

5. Picture #2: Salvation is the Door to a Glorious Place – Grace Causes us to enjoy it all!!!

6. Picture # 3: Grace as a Faucet – Let's let it Flow turned fully on!!!

7. This Truth Is Being Revived In the Lord's Church Over The Past Years

Joseph Prince – Andrew Womack – Creflo Dollar – Chuck Smith

Andy Stanley – Chuck Swindoll – Steve's Dream/Vision (Romans 5-8)

8. Much of The Lord's Body Does Not Understand Grace

Those Who Do Have a Fairly Good Revelation Need Reminding

Some have it in Their Theology but not a Life Changing Revelation

Some Live Partly or Mostly Under Law

WHY IS GRACE SO RADICALLY IMPORTANT?!?!?

1. Grace Is Unique To Christianity – All Other Faiths Attempt To Please Their Higher Power With Human Effort

2. The 1st And Foremost Purpose Of Grace Is To Bring Individuals Back To Fellowship With God!!!

3. We Need Grace Desperately!! It's The Only Way We Have Access To God - We Can't Approach Him Any Other Way - We must live before God in Grace (Hebrews 4:16)

4. Grace Has Everything To Do With What Jesus Has Done On Our Behalf And For Us!!!!

5. Grace Has Nothing To Do With Anything We Have Done Or Any Merit In Us!!!

6. Understanding Grace Is Critical In Understanding The Gospel

We Are Saved Most Accurately Saved "By Jesus Alone" Rather Than By "Faith Alone" Or "By Grace Alone"

7. We are Justified By Grace (Titus 3:7)

8. We must see our Salvation as a Gift of God's Grace – His Grace brings Salvation (Titus 2:11) - Saved By Grace (Ephesians 2:5) 3
9. Grace Given To Us In Christ Before Time Began (2 Timothy 1:9)
10. Grace is not a Doctrine but the person JESUS – it's what He Gives and WHO HE IS
11. Grace is not just one of God's Blessings but all of them wrapped up in Jesus
12. God's Salvation Plan Has Always Been Grace!!! (Hebrews 11) - Salvation Has Always Been By Grace Through Faith
13. Grace Came Through Jesus (John 1:17) - Jesus Came by Grace (2 Corinthians 8:9)
14. The Words Jesus And Grace Could Be Interchanged In The Scriptures (Jesus Embodies Grace)
15. Under Grace Jesus Gives Us His Righteousness (Romans 4:11)
16. It's An Exchanged Life (2 Corinthians 5:21)
17. God's Grace was demonstrated when Jesus died for sinners (Romans 5:8)
18. Living Under Grace Is A Change Inside Flowing Out In Changed (New) Behavior
19. Grace Means Jesus "Aced" The Test For Salvation & Righteousness (A+) For Us And We Never Have To Take It Again!!!
20. God Lavished His Grace On Us (Ephesians 1:7-8)
21. A Fresh Revelation Of Grace Always Lead To A Spiritual Revival
22. We Are Not Holding Onto God He Is Holding Onto Us
23. Jesus Keeps us From falling and presents us Faultless before the Father (Jude 1:24)
24. It's God's Unconditional Love And Acceptance Of Us
25. Just as Sin and Man's Lost Condition Put Us All on the Same Level before Salvation So Grace Puts Us All on the Same Level after Salvation!!! Vineyard Workers (Matthew 20:12-15)
26. Our sins are forgiven Past, Present & Future
27. Our sins are no longer imputed/counted against us!!! (Romans 4:8) (2 Corinthians 5:19)
28. For From Jesus' Fullness We Have All Received - Grace Upon Grace (John 1:16)
29. The "How Much Mo'ers" of Grace –Grace Abounded to many –Gift Of Righteousness – Reign In Life (Romans 5:15,17)

TESTIMONY!!!

GRACE CAUSES A TOTAL CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE:

1. We are accepted and approved by God from the start (Salvation) rather than after we have done many good works (Mark 1:11)
2. Grace Changes Our Focus From Ourselves To Jesus (Hebrews 12:2)
3. Our Natural Inclination Is Toward Law & Performance. Grace Frees People From Legalism, Performance Based Faith, & Condemnation
4. A Correct Understanding of Grace Changes Our Approach To Every Aspect Of Our Lives
There are many things we must unlearn!!!
5. Grace Completely Eliminates Any Boasting or Credit On Man's Part!!!! (Romans 3:27)
6. We Want To Live Under "The Righteousness of God" and Not Our Own Merits or "Moral Behavior" (Self-Righteousness) (Romans 5:17)

7. It's Supernatural – It's Extreme – It's Over The Top – It's Grace On Steroids
8. Grace Helps Us Understand The Nature and Heart of God (Matthew 7:11)
9. A Proper Understanding Of What God Has Done For Us Helps Us Have Grace And Forgiveness For Others
10. Understanding Grace Opens The Door To Freedom (John 8:32)
11. Understanding Grace Opens The Door To Rest (Matthew 11:28-30)
12. We must see ourselves through the eyes of Grace
13. We need to see ourselves the way God sees us
14. Grace gives Us Confidence And Boldness (Hebrews 4:16)
15. Grace means there is nothing I can do to make God Love me more and nothing I can do to make Him Love me less!!
16. Grace is the incredible news that God is not angry with you but is smiling at you with infinite delight!
17. We Reign In Life "By The Abundance Of Grace" (Romans 5:17)
18. Everything else you hear says you must do this and that, Jesus has done it all!!!
19. Knowing We Are Forgiven Helps Us Overcome Sin!!!
20. Law Says "Do" and Live - Grace Says "Live" Then Do
21. Jesus Did Not Use The Word "Grace" But Lived Grace when He was a man
 - He Loved Unconditionally
 - He Forgave Indiscriminately
 - He Hung Out With The Worst Sinners

TESTIMONY!!!

2 WONDERFUL ASPECTS OF GRACE:

1. Salvation - An Exchange of our sinfulness for Christ's sinless perfection (2 Corinthians 5:17 /Titus 3:7 /Romans 3:24)
 - Unmerited Favor – God's riches at Christ's expense
 - Grace is misunderstood – People say Grace is just a license to sin – Paul faced the same accusation – This is a misunderstanding of Grace and probably from someone who has never fully embraced Grace
2. The Power of God in us for power over temptation and sin (2 Peter 3:18 /James 4:6 / 1 Corinthians 15:10 / 2Corinthians 9:8, 12:9 / Titus 2:11-12)
 - a. My Grace (power) is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9) 2 Corinthians 9:8, 12:9 / Titus 2:11-12)
 - b. This is probably one reason why programs like Teen Challenge have such high success rates
 - c. Surrender your weakness to Jesus. Admit you cannot overcome it and He will give you Grace Power!!
 - d. David Wilkerson – All Our Sins Are Forgiven Past, Present And Future But More Important Is That God's Grace And The New Covenant Can Free You From Sin's Power And Give You Power To Overcome Sin!!!

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE IS GOOD NEWS FOR THE UNSAVED!!

1. Grace says Come To Jesus just as you are!
2. Grace says God still keeps calling us even when we run away!
3. Grace focuses on God's Love and forgiveness offered to the sinner!

4. No matter what you have done the Father longs to hug & kiss you and take care of you forever!
5. The Lost/Prodigal Son (Luke 15:20-24)

MORE FACTS ABOUT GRACE!!!

1. Israel Chosen By Grace (Romans 11:5-6)
2. Noah Found Grace In The Eyes Of The Lord (Genesis 6:8)
3. Grace Was Given To Paul – Exceeding Abundantly (Romans 12:3 /1 Timothy 1:14)
4. Paul Was Given Grace To Preach To The Gentiles (Ephesians 3:8)
5. We Stand In Grace (1 Peter 5:12)
6. Grace Makes Us Accepted In The Beloved (Ephesians 1:6)
7. We Are Given Gifting By God’s Grace (1 Peter 4:10)
8. God is able to make all Grace Abound To You (2 Corinthians 9:8)
9. God’s Grace is shown In His Kindness To Us (Ephesians 2:7)
10. Grace Is Given As A Gift From Christ (Ephesians 4:7)
11. We are Given Everlasting Consolation And Good Hope Through Grace (2 Thess. 2:16)
12. We Are Partakers Of Grace (Phil. 1:7)
13. Redemption & Forgiveness are Ours because of Grace (Ephesians 1:7)
14. God Gives More Grace (James 4:6)
15. Blessings And favor Of God Are Found In Him (Ephesians 1:3)
16. Prophets prophesied about His Grace (1Peter 1:10-11)
17. Angels longed to look at this (1 Peter 1:12)
18. Prophets Made careful search and inquiry (1 Peter 1:10)
19. Grace is able to build you up and give you and inheritance (Acts 20:32)

BEWARE OF MIXTURE – MIXING LAW & GRACE!

1. 20 Differences between Grace Gospel and Mixed Law/Grace Gospel Page 7
2. Paul called it “A Different Gospel” (Galatians 1:6) What was it?
3. A Little Leaven leavens the whole loaf (Galatians 5:4,9)
4. It could cause you to “Fall From Grace” (Galatians 5:4)
5. Law is not of Faith (Galatians 3:12)
6. Fruit of doing this is Pride if we feel we are doing well or Condemnation if we feel we are falling short
7. Stand Fast in Your Freedom
8. Puts a person under a curse!!!
9. Be Careful What Man Calls Balance: God Calls Mixture “Another Gospel” – Cannot Mix Law & Grace

HOW DO I RECEIVE THIS GRACE?

1. Understand your powerlessness before God
2. Surrender/Submit to Jesus Power/Ask for His Power
3. Understand All that is available to you through Jesus Death & Resurrection
4. Faith

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE - BEING SAVED BY GRACE

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(1 CORINTHIANS 1:30-31 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15):

Unprofitable Servant (Luke 17:10) – No Boasting

Cast crowns at His feet (Revelation 4:10)

Grace to others

Forgiveness to others (Ephesians 4:32)

Rest

Believe

FREEDOM –WHAT ARE WE FREE FROM?

Sin (Romans 6:7)

Condemnation (Romans 8:1)

Understanding The Fullness Of Our Forgiveness Brings Freedom

Fear Of Death (Hebrews 2:15)

Sinful Old Nature

MAINTAINING GRACE IN MY LIFE:

1. Continue to Hear the Message of Grace – Study It – Read Grace Material
2. Believe God's Word – Be Fully Convinced Grace is Yours
3. Read it – Speak It – Confess It
4. Learn and Know Who You are in Christ!!
 - A. Know What Christ Has Done For You!!!
 - B. Salvation – Healing – Prosperity (Matthew 6:30)
5. Praise God for What He Has Done
 - A. Come Boldly to the Throne of Grace (Hebrews 4:16)
6. Rest in What Jesus Has Done (Matthew 11:28)
7. Learn to Recognize "Law" and a "Mixture of Law & Grace" from "True Grace"

GRACE - QUESTIONS

1. Why is Grace better than Justice or Mercy and why is it so important?
2. God is Just – We deserve Hell – How is God able to give us Grace
3. What may be blocking the Full Flow of Grace in your Life?
3. Why is Grace so hard for us to believe/receive/accept?
4. Why is it important to realize who we are in Christ rather than seeing ourselves as just a "filthy" sinner saved by Grace?
5. Are you Righteous? (Psalm 1:6)
6. Why do you think it may be true that we need to read the Old Testament with "new covenant" eyes?

BOOKS I WOULD RECOMMEND:

God's Grace To You – Charles Spurgeon
Grace: God's Unmerited Favor – Charles Spurgeon
The New Covenant Unveiled – David Wilkerson
Grace Walk – Steve McVey
Why Grace Changes Everything – Chuck Smith
The Gospel according to Grace – Chuck Smith
Shaped by Grace – Max Lucado
In the Grip of Grace – Max Lucado
The Grace of God – Andy Stanley
Enjoying God's Grace – Terry Virgo
The Naked Gospel – Andrew Farley
The Explicit Gospel – Matt Chandler
Grace the Power of the Gospel – Andrew Wommack
The Grace Awakening – Chuck Swindoll
The Transforming Power of the Gospel – Jerry Bridges
Transforming Grace – Jerry Bridges
Destined to Reign - Joseph Prince
The Power of Right Believing – Joseph Prince
The Grace of God – Tony Evans
The Ragamuffin Gospel – Brennan Manning
Hyper Grace – Paul Ellis
A Scandalous Freedom – Steve Brown