

WINDOW ON THE WORD

TAPES AND LITERATURE BY WORD OF TRUTH

November 2023

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16 (NASB95)

Sound Doctrine

God's Unfathomable Grace

It would be impossible to find a doctrine more germane to the word of God than grace. Man's eternal destiny depends on his understanding of God's gracious provision of salvation in Christ. Moreover, one's development in the Christian life is based on the imperative "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18)."

The Positive Aspects of Grace

Grace is God's Operating Principle

Ephesians 2:4-5 speaks of "God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us." To an infinite degree, God is both merciful and loving. Turning to the manward side of things, we are told we were "dead in our transgression." God responded to this condition by making us "alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)." God saves man on the grace principle. Grace is unmerited favor extended to the sinner on the basis of the cross work of Christ.

Grace is the Opposite of the Merit Principle

It is helpful to think in terms of the "debt principle" and the "grace principle." In the former, favor is given in return for one's own efforts. In the latter, favor is given on the basis of the merits of Christ.

Romans 4:4 says, "Now to the one works (the merit principle), his wage is not reckoned as a favor (the grace principle) but as what is due."

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Suggested Studies

The Doctrine of Grace

Many years ago, Chester presented lessons on grace to a class in Lincoln, Nebraska, and they are as excellent today as they were then. This series consists of four classes; they are coded GR 1-4. In addition to this excellent audio series on grace, we have a small booklet he wrote called *The Grace of God*.

The following excerpts are from this booklet, stressing the importance of this doctrine.

"There is no truth more essential to true Christianity than the concept of the grace of God.

Grace stands in complete contrast to the conclusions of human reason. Grace distinguishes Christianity from religion. Grace forms the basis, the only basis, for a relationship with God. Grace begets thankfulness as a motive for all living. Grace alone can cure the disease of pride and direct all glory to God...."

"This link of grace to salvation applies to all phases of salvation. It is the basis of our initial birth into God's family; it continues to be the basis for living the Christian life; it will be the basis of our glorification when, at His appearing, we will be made 'like Him' (I John 3:1-2)."

To receive your copy of the booklet and audio study, email us at wtruth@kc.rr.com, call and leave a message at 1-800-326-4414, or use the enclosed order form. The classes are also available for downloading or streaming from our website, www.WordofTruthKC.org. □

Christmas Cards

There is still time to get your order in for Christmas cards. The highlighted card this year emphasizes that our Creator loved us so much He became man without diminishing His deity to redeem us as His eternal possession.

We also have a few cards from previous years that are available. To view the cards in full color and see their inside messages, visit our website, www.WordofTruthKC.org. Quantities are limited and the cards will be shipped on a "first come-first served" basis. Place your order preferably by email, or by phone or mail. □

"Grace" continued from page 1

Grace is the Condition Under Which Believers Live

Romans 6:14 says we are "not under law, but under grace." Notice that not being under the law does not mean we are under nothing. Life under grace is not a "do as you please" matter. Grace disciplines and guides and motivates a believer into conduct pleasing to God.

Titus 1:11-12 speaks of the motivating aspect of grace in "instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age."

Grace is Manifested in the Cross of Christ

The same passage speaks of "the grace of God (that) has appeared, bringing salvation to all men." Christ bore the guilt and penalty of our sin satisfying the demands of God's righteousness and creating a grace basis on which man could be saved.

Grace is Appropriated by Faith Alone

Romans 4:16 says, "For this reason it (salvation) is by faith, that it might be in accordance with grace" Faith is an act that is not regarded to be in the works category. Romans 5:4 says it is "to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness." Believing is treated as something other than a work; it stands as opposite of works. Faith is the only valid means of appropriating grace without spoiling it.

Grace is Inexhaustible

Here is a truth unique to grace: The more grace is used, the more it increases. Appropriating God's grace is like having one's bank account increase every time one withdraws money! John 1:16 says, "For of His (Christ's) fullness we have all received, and grace upon (lit. in exchange for) grace."

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To provide sound doctrinal Bible study materials in the form of audio lessons and publications to help believers learn and understand God's word.

OUR FINANCIAL POLICY:

Word of Truth does not charge for its materials but does encourage contributions on the basis of your appreciation of the materials and your ability to give.

Grace is Never Fully Understood

II Peter 3:18 commands us to grow in grace. The word *grow* is a continuous action tense. We are to keep on continuously growing in grace. We never learn it all, there is always more. We can never fully appreciate God's grace because it is inexhaustible.

The Negative Aspects of Grace

Grace is Not Leniency

Romans 3:24-25 makes clear that the extension of grace is based on the cross work of Christ saying, we are "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith . . ."

Grace could not be extended without redemption and propitiation. Both of these entailed the enormous suffering of Christ in His death as the sinner's substitute. The grace that is absolutely free to us was enormously costly to Christ.

Grace is Not to be Compromised

Romans 11:6 says, "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace."

Any intrusion of human works as a means of obtaining divine blessing destroys grace immediately. If it is by works, it is by works; if it is by grace it is by grace; there is no mixture. □

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