

Extra: **John Wesley**, an English Minister and theologian, is known as the Father of the Methodist Church. Others who lived during his lifetime include Benjamin Franklin, Voltaire, the French philosopher who made quite a stir through his writings, Johann Sebastian Bach and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, great musicians of their era.

1. Prevenient Grace – prevenient means “coming before” or “preceding in time.”

Prevenient Grace Defined: Prevenient Grace is the influence of God over your life before
Scripture Notes ...

1. The Bible tells us that we were disobedient to God from the beginning because of the putrid sin in our life. Unknowingly, we were obedient to the devil *who had his way with us*.

2. Vs. 1-3 describes the terrible condition in which you lived before the Holy Spirit came to reside in you! Then at vs. 4, the narrative changes directions with the word, “But...”

3. This is the way you were! — “**But God...!**” (vs. 4) So rich in mercy! Loves you so much!

4. We were described as Sinners. Separated from God. Unlovable!

5. And yet ...taking into account everything there was to know about you and me, our Father in Heaven did for you what you could never do for yourselves! He sent a lifeline. He took the punishment you and I deserve for our sins!

6. Sin is no minor thing. Sin demands a life! Not one of us could survive the punishment we deserve! But God chose to lay down *His* life on your behalf!

you ever turn your life over to Him! It’s the influence of God’s kindness in your life before you ever start to *believe* in Him.

Know the story of your journey, because you have a story to share that will influence others, too!

Grace is God’s kindness. His mercy. His undeserved love and forgiveness. *Grace* tells you that the God who created you loves you and is always with you!

There comes a time when you are aroused or awakened by His grace — and you choose to turn your life around and follow Him!

²³ **Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.** ²⁴ **Yet God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins.**

²⁵ **For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood.** — Romans 3:23–25

1) God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for your sins! Because the cosmic law demanded that sin, or the sinner, be punished, Jesus – the Perfect, Sinless One – stepped into your place, taking the punishment demanded by Holiness.

2) It is FATIH, believing this is the Eternal God’s plan to reconcile the fractured

relationship, that grants us a new life, a new birth!

2. Justifying Grace: that moment in time when you say “Yes!” to God.

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. — 1 John 4:10

You can't tip the scales on your side with enough good deeds and great efforts to prove to God you deserve His grace.

“What am I doing to myself?”

Many of us turn toward God because the way we are currently living isn't working!

3. Sanctifying Grace: God loves you right where you are, but He's not content leaving where you are!

His sanctifying grace shapes your mind, heart, and spirit so that you find yourself in love with the things He loves and the people He loves! You know now what God has saved you *from*; now, don't lose sight of what He has saved you *for*!

Why is it that we think, “God got me this far; He brought me inside the Kingdom of God! Now it's up to me to do it my way!”

1) There's too much of the old nature, too many appetites of the flesh, still lingering inside you, 2) and too much temptation and deceit from satan, that makes it impossible to live on your own without soiling that which the Father is purifying.

God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.

— Philippians 2:13

The APPLICATION:

1. What does all this mean to you in the quiet time you spend with the Father in your secret place? You are Choosing Christ 1) to save you from condemnation and the punishment of hell, and 2) to convert your life into something so beautiful — You are choosing Christ — a choice that must be carefully guarded so that it remains not *a* priority each day, but *the* priority *every* day.

2. As a Church, we obey God to serve as guardians and guides throughout the new life together, sharing prayer support, exploring opportunities to grow into the Christian life while living in a world with so much deceit and pain.

3. We want to know and understand our own stories that led us to faith, and trust God that He's working in the lives of others to create faith in those who are not yet united with Him. Let's believe that others are experiencing His prevenient grace, and we can help them interpret their own experiences coming from a God who loves them!

Know, too, regardless of what happens to you — despite separation, divorce, disease, death, poverty or pain, God loves you! And you are not defined by your past as one who is a “broken loser.” You are a Child of God! That is who you are! You are so much more than the sum of your parts! You have an eternal destination in the Kingdom of God!

