

Understanding Grace Session 1 – Introducing Grace

I. Series Introduction

Titus 2:11-12 (NKJV) – ¹¹*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age*

Titus 2:11 (NLT) – *The Grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.*

A. The New Season of Grace

1. The fact that the grace of God has now been revealed, denotes that grace was not revealed in the prior season. The season has changed.
2. Old Covenant vs New Covenant

B. Grace offers many gifts to the believer

1. Grace brings salvation
 - a. **Salvation Definition** = save, keep secure, soundness, preserve from danger and destruction, deliver, heal, make whole.
Salvation includes much more than just saved from hell.
 - b. Jesus is an accurate portrayal of salvation.
*He not only forgave sin, but he restored health, peace, joy, etc.
He made everything whole!*
 - c. **Psalm 103:1-5 (NKJV)** – ¹*Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. ²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: ³Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; ⁴Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; ⁵Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's*
 - d. Every benefit of the new covenant comes through grace.

C. What is Grace?

1. The free and unmerited favor of God.
2. God's goodwill toward men which includes everything good that he provides for us.
3. Grace is God giving us what we do not deserve and what we cannot earn.
The Law gave us what we deserved.
4. Everything that we receive from the Lord MUST come through grace.
5. Grace is the only covenant available to us.

Hebrews 8:13 (NKJV) – ¹³*In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.*

D. Two Major Works of Grace

1. Forgiveness of Sin

The first act of grace in the life of a believer is to deal with the sin issue.

a. Every human being is born into sin through Adam.

*I am not a sinner because I sin, I am a sinner because of Adam's sin.
(Romans 5:17)*

b. God can only deal with mankind once the sin issue is out of the way.

c. The Old covenant offered a temporary fix.

d. New covenant grace offers a permanent fix for sin.

Hebrews 10:4 (KJV) – *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*

Hebrews 10:11-19 (NKJV) – ¹¹*And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³from that time waiting till His*

*enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴For by **one offering** He has perfected **forever** those who are being ^[a]sanctified. ¹⁵But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, ¹⁶**“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days,** says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” ¹⁷then He adds, **“Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”** ¹⁸Now where there is ^[b]remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin*

- e. Jesus dealt with the sin issue once and for all.
As far as God is concerned, He forgave all sin through the cross. However, not all have received his forgiveness!
Contrast asking for forgiveness and receiving forgiveness.
- f. Grace has already forgiven all sin; however, we must choose to appropriate it to ourselves by faith.
God already chose to forgive. He does not have to think it over.
 - i. He made his decision to forgive
 - ii. We must make our decision to receive

2. To Empower us for the Righteous Life

Grace not only gives us forgiveness but also delivers us from the control of sin.

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- a. Grace not only forgives our sin, but teaches us and empowers us to deny ungodliness and live righteously and godly in this present age.
- b. Teaches = training, instruction – Grace shows us the way to be free from sin and live a life filled with righteous fruit.
- c. Godly/Godliness definition = Christian character and lifestyle that is God-like/ Christ-like.
Grace teaches/empowers me to become Christ-like
Grace enables me to conduct my life like Christ.
- d. Grace is so good that in error it becomes possible to justify sin beneath the covering of grace.

The gospel of grace is the nearly too good to be true news. When presented with this news that is nearly too good to be true about grace, some people consider it a license to sin. It is not!

- e. **Romans 6:1-2 NKJV** – ¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?
- f. **Romans 6:6 (NKJV)** – knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be ^[a]done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin
- g. **Accurate Interpretation of Bible Grace** = Grace not only forgives me from all sin, but empowers me to be free from sin's dominion.
- h. How do I put this to work in my life?

Isaiah 5:13 NKJV – *Therefore, my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; Their honorable men are famished, And their multitude dried up with thirst.*

- We must have a knowledge of grace and how it works.
- We must begin to appropriate grace in our life by faith.
- **To enjoy the deliverance from sin that grace brings, I must first be able to receive the forgiveness of sin that grace brings.**