

## Foundations I – 10/27/24

### The Attributes of God

#### Character qualities that uniquely define God

- Each of God's attributes represent the entirety of the Godhead (Father, Son, and Spirit).
- The differences lay in their roles, functions, and actions (1 John 5:12; 1 Cor. 12:3; Gen. 1:2).
- What you know and believe about God inevitably becomes the lens through which you see everything else in life.

### The Grace of God

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.*

Ephesians 2:8

#### • What it Means

- Hebrew: *chen* – favor, gift (unmerited)
- Greek: *Charis* – winsomeness, care, favor (unmerited)
- Grace can neither be bought, earned, nor won by any creature. If it could be, it would cease to be grace (Rom. 11:6)

#### • The Character Grace

- Eternal
  - Grace was purposed before it was exercised (2 Tim. 1:9).
  - God loved His people before heaven and earth were called into existence, that He had set His heart upon them from all eternity (John 17:24).
- Free
  - Grace has no price which man can pay to receive it (Rom. 3:24)
  - “Because God is God, He does as He pleases; because God is love, He loves as He pleases; because God is graceful, He saves whom He pleases.” – A. W. Pink.
- Sovereign
  - Because God is Sovereign, He acts according to His own pleasure and will.
  - God extends grace upon whom He pleases (Exodus 33:19; Rom. 5:21).
  - Because God is under no obligation to any of His creatures, He does not consult anyone before granting them His gift of grace (Isaiah 40:13; 55:6-9).

### **Common Grace**

- Known as “the goodness of God” that restrains wrath, evil, and destruction by conferring nonredemptive blessings on all mankind (Ps. 145:9).
- Refers to the grace of God that is extended to all of mankind, whether believers or unbelievers (Matt. 5:45; Luke 6:35-36).
- Common grace is operative whenever God does not immediately destroy the wicked (Gen. 4:14-16).
- Common Grace does not regenerate man.

### **Saving Grace**

- Refers to the means by which God redeems, sanctifies, and glorifies those who come to faith in Christ.
- Regenerates sinful man (Eph. 2:5, 8).
- Sustains believers in times of need (Rom. 6:14; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; Heb. 4:15-16).

### **• Questions**

1. In what ways does God’s attribute of grace challenge us to live differently than the world around us?
2. What have you learned over the last eight weeks in our foundations course?

### **Recommended Books:**

1. D. A. Carson, *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2000.
2. David S. Dockery, Daniel Akin, and Nathan Finn, *A Handbook of Theology*. B&H Academic.
3. Gabriel N. E. Fluhner, *The Beauty of Divine Grace*. Sanford, FL: Ligonier, 2022.
4. John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*. Newberry, FL: Bridge Logos, 1999.
5. John Frame, *Concise Systematic Theology*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2006.
6. Jonathan Edwards, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 1741.
7. J. I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2008.
8. J. C. Ryle, *Holiness*. Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 1877.
9. R. C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Publishers, 1985.
10. Steve J. Lawson, *Show Me Your Glory*. Sanford: FL: Ligonier, 2020.
11. A. W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. 1975.
12. A. W. Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*. Blacksburg, VA: Wilder Publications. 2008.
13. A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*. New York, NY: Harper One. 1961.