

PRIVILEGED *“God’s Favor Is for Everyone”* October 14, 2018

Romans 5:1 Since we’ve been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith; Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, & we confidently & joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.

Definition: a special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group of people. Prerogative, benefit, entitlement, special rights, concession, freedom, liberty, to be exempt from a certain liability or obligation.

Are you cringing yet? It sounds so selfish & self-centered. In a social media, politically correct world, that’s pushing equality, fairness, & social justice - it just seems wrong.

Let’s see what God’s Word says about His favor for all people.

Romans 5:2 AMP Through Him also we have our access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace, state of God's favor, in which we firmly & safely stand. Let us rejoice & exult in our hope of experiencing & enjoying the glory of God.

Romans 1:5 Through Christ, God has given us the privilege & authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they’ll believe & obey Him, bringing glory to His name.

Romans 12:3 Because of the privilege & authority (*grace*) God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you’re better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

Acts 11:18 When the others heard this, they stopped objecting & began praising God. They said, “We can see that God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of repenting of their sins & receiving eternal life.”

1 Peter 4:16 But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege (*deemed worthy*) of being called by His name!

We are the privileged ones. We are privileged because of God’s grace. God’s grace is His favor & God’s favor is for everyone!

*God’s favor is His grace. *Grace – God’s undeserved, unmerited, unearned favor; His goodness toward us; His love, acceptance, kindness*

God’s grace is not something He has, it’s who He is. Grace flows out of the goodness of God. This is what God is like. Grace is His nature. Grace is His attribute. It’s a describable characteristic of who He is.

Grace is that part of God that brings us, who are out of favor with God, into His favor!!

Ephesians 3:7 By God’s grace (*undeserved favor*) & mighty power, I’ve been given the privilege of serving Him by spreading this Good News. 8 Though I’m the least deserving of all God’s people, He graciously gave me the privilege (*grace, favor*) of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. (*in Jesus*)

Jesus is the “channel” through which favor flows

John 1:17 AMP For while the Law was given through Moses, grace (unearned, undeserved favor, spiritual blessing) and truth came through Jesus Christ.

There’s always grace through Jesus; all the time, for all people; always!

2 Important Truths

1. *No one was ever saved, no one now is saved, no one will ever be saved except by **grace**.*
2. *Grace always comes by **Jesus**.*

Grace is God's goodness, the kindness of His heart, His graciousness toward all people, all the time, forever. It's who He is. It's what He's like.

God's favor is incomprehensible. It's so vast & so huge that no one can ever grasp it or understand it. (But we're trying!)

Romans 5:17b NLT Even greater is God's wonderful **grace** and His gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ

AMP much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [putting them into right standing with Himself] reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

MSG If death got the upper hand through one man's wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, sovereign life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides?

Luke 4:18 *The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, 19 and that **the time of the Lord's favor has come**. (**AMP** *the day when salvation & the free favors of God profusely abound*)*

Romans 5:20 God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more & more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. (NKJV where sin abounded, grace abounded much more) 21 So just as sin ruled over all people & brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God & resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ.

No matter how much sin you've done, how bad you are, God's overflow of grace/favor reaches to you.

***Grace/Favor** is getting what you do not deserve!

***Mercy** is not getting what you do deserve!

Romans 2:4 Don't you see how **wonderfully kind, tolerant & patient** God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that His kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?
(*the goodness of God will lead us to repentance*)

"But don't we have to be down or out or scared about hell to get saved? Nope, it's a free gift. His grace. His favor. His salvation.

- 1. Realize eternity with God is an option*
- 2. Know that salvation comes through Jesus only*
- 3. Repent of your sins*
- 4. Confess faith in Jesus as Savior & Lord*

Jesus, we pray for all of us, that You will sweep away our self-righteousness, any pride that puts us in charge. Save us from ourselves. Let grace abound from the cross of Jesus Christ. Teach us that it's not by grace & something else, but by grace alone. Your goodness, Your kindness in Jesus. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who loves us, amen.