

# The Attributes of God: **Gracious**

Pastor Darrell B. Harrison  
Redeemer Bible Church  
Bible Hour

Saturday, December 13, 2025  
4:00 p.m.

“Grace” defined:

The unmerited favor of God toward His creatures.

“unmerited” = unearned, undeserved

## Grace/Mercy:

**Grace** = receiving God's undeserved blessings.

**Mercy** = not receiving our deserved punishment.

# Grace Quotes: Richard C. Lenski

“The noun [mercy], and its derivatives, always deal with what we see of pain, misery, and distress which are the result of sin; and grace always [deals] with the sin and the guilt itself. The one extends relief, the other pardon; the one cures, heals, [and] helps; the other cleanses and reinstates. With God [grace] is always first and [mercy] is second.”\*

\**Interpretation of Saint Matthew's Gospel*. Augsburg Publishing House (1932), p. 743.

# Grace Quotes: A.W. Pink

“Divine grace is the sovereign and saving favor of God exercised in the bestowment of blessings upon those who have no merit in themselves and for which no compensation is demanded from them. Nay, more; it is the favor of God shown to those who not only have no positive desserts of their own, but who are thoroughly ill-deserving and hell-deserving. It is completely unmerited and unsought and is altogether unattracted by anything in or from or by the objects upon which it is bestowed. Grace can neither be bought, earned, nor won by the creature. If it could be, it would cease to be grace. When a thing is said to be of “grace,” we mean that the recipient has no claim upon it, that it was in nowise due him. It comes to him as pure charity, and, at first, unasked and undesired.”\*

\**The Attributes of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1975 (originally published 1930), pp.<sup>5</sup> 82–83.

# Grace Quotes: Herman Bavinck

Ascribed to God, **grace** is His voluntary, unrestrained, unmerited favor toward guilty sinners, granting them justification and life instead of the penalty of death, which they deserved.\*

\**Reformed Dogmatics: Volume 2, God and Creation*. Edited by John Bolt. Translated by John Vriend. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004, p. 122.

# Grace/Gracious in Scripture:

The first occurrence of the word “grace” in Scripture is in Ezra 9:8 (NASB):

But now, for a brief moment, grace [t<sup>ə</sup>ḥinnâ/תְּחִנָּה] has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us an escaped remnant and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our bondage.

## “Common Grace” defined:

- The sovereign grace [favor] of God bestowed upon **all mankind** regardless of their election.
- The volitional bestowing of God’s graciousness on **all people** in **all parts** of the earth and at **all times**.
- Includes every **undeserved** providential act of God’s restraint, goodness, and mercy toward the **sinful inhabitants** of this fallen world.

## “Common Grace” verses:

- Psalm 145:9: The Lord is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works.
- Psalm 145:15-16: The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- Luke 6:35: But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.
- Acts 17:24-25: The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things.

# Grace Quotes: Herman Bavinck

“The entirety of the rich life of nature and society exists thanks to God's common grace. But why should he continue to preserve such a sinful world by a special action of his grace? Does he squander his gifts? Is he acting purposelessly? Is it not because natural life, in all its forms, has value in his eyes **despite sin's corruption**? The love of family and kin, societal and political life, art and science are all in themselves objects of his divine good pleasure. He delights also in these works of his hands. They all together constitute, not in their mode of being but in their essence, the original order that God called into being at creation and that he still preserves and maintains, **sin notwithstanding.”\***

\**Common Grace*, Volume 1. Edited by R. C. Van Leeuwen. Translated by Raymond C. Van Leeuwen. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021, p. 58.

# Grace Quotes: Nicolas Clagett

“As a creditor gives his debtor [a] long time to [re]pay his debts, and yet forbearing kindness is abused by a profuse, lavishing, and intemperate life, and running more in debt; and as a gracious king acts of favor that gives a condemned traitor a long time to sue for a pardon is slighted and despised when he spends it in immorality, drinking, and gambling; so the merciful and liberal allowances of large seasons of grace the Lord grants out to **deeply indebted and treasonable sinners**, are signally wronged when the more mercy forbears, and God is slow to wrath, the more sin abounds [in us].”\*

\**The Abuse of God's Grace: Discovered in the Kinds, Causes, Punishments, Symptoms, Cures, Differences, Cautions, and other Practical Improvements thereof.* Oxford: Printed by A. Lichfield for Thomas Robinson and Samuel Pocock, 1659.

## Titus 3:3-7 (NASB):

3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hating one another. 4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

# Grace Quotes: D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“Grace is favor shown to people who do not deserve any favor at all. . . . We deserve nothing but hell. If you think you deserve heaven, take it from me, you are not a Christian.”\*

\**The Cross*, Crossway (1986), p. 75.

## Discussion Questions:

1. **How have you personally experienced God's grace in your life?**
2. **Can you recall a time when you struggled to accept God's grace? If so, what made it difficult for you?**
3. **In what way(s) does grace differ from mercy, and why does that distinction matter?**
4. **How does the doctrine of “common grace” expand your understanding of God’s work in the world?**

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