

August 22 and 23, 2023: Introduction and 2.25-3.22

I. Definitions of Grace:

A. Traditional definition of Grace-unmerited favor or favor for the unworthy.

Romans 3.24:

And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 11.6:

But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

Ephesians 2.8:

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2.8

2 Timothy 1.9:

Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

1 Corinthians 15.10:

But by the grace of God I am what I am...

B. Definition for Grace Bible Study: Grace can be seen as God's movement towards the sinner-saint; action that manifests as unmerited kindness* towards the sinner-saint (*kindness is specific to the individual and the specific season they're in).

II. The Present Age of Grace:

A. The Church is in the Age of Grace (vs. the Old Testament saints in the Age of the Law)

Hebrews 4.16:

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Colossians 3.3:

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Genesis 2.25-3.22:

2.25 *And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

3.1 *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.*

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" **2** *And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3** but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" **4** But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*

8 *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" **10** And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." **11** He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" **12** The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." **13** Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

14 *The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. **15** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

16 *To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."*

17 *And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; **18** thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. **19** By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

20 *The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. **21** And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.*

3.9 *But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"*

i. Adam and Eve have just sinned; they are wholly concerned with themselves, the shame they feel and the efforts they can put forth to make that shame go away...rather than seeking God out and asking for a pardon for their sin.

While Adam and Eve are busying themselves with the fig-leaf covering, God is seeking them out, calling out, "*Where are you?*"

Luke 15.4-7:

4 *"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? **5** And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. **6** And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' **7** Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*

3.14 *The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.*

i. Satan's judgment is immediate and without hope because he's already been found guilty of a rebellion.

Isaiah 14.12-14:

12 *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! **13** You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."*

ii. Grace is for the crown of God's Creation only; only humanity gets to experience and benefit from God's Grace.

1 Peter 1.12:

It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

3.15 *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*

i. *“This text embraces and comprehends within itself everything noble and glorious that is to be found anywhere in the Scriptures.”* Martin Luther

This verse is known as the *protoevangelium*-The first good news:
Evangelion-Greek, *good news*
Proto-Greek, *first*

ii. Adam and Eve’s disobedience brought forth sin and curse upon the entire world, but God will use them to bring about a Savior that saves from sin. That is Grace.

The intent was not for innocent man and woman to dwell in the Garden of Eden, the intent was for a redeemed man and woman; a redeemed man and woman who experience His abounding Grace.

Romans 9.21-24:

21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? **22** What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, **23** in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— **24** even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

iii. God is holy, holy, holy and can do nothing for sinful man until that sin has been dealt with, and it is His love that compels Him to save the sinner-saint through the finished work of Christ.

Ephesians 2.4-5:

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

3.16 *To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”*

17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; **18** thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. **19** By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

i. There is Grace and mercy mixed in God's righteousness and justice as He passes this sentence.

3.20 *The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*

i. Adam's response is to name his wife accordingly; Adam names her Eve which means *life-giver* because she would be "the mother of all living" through the offspring spoken of in Genesis 3.15: "...*her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*"

Eve is not pregnant at this point, but Adam has beheld the Graciousness of God and he is responding in Faith.

3.21 *And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.*

i. This is the first death and the first sacrifice. It demonstrates that sin always leads to death; that blood atones for sin; God provides the garment of righteousness we are to be clothed in.

Hebrews 9.22:

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

