

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of June 2015

What The Bible Says About Grace

Ephesians 2:8-9

Sundays, June 7, 14, 2015

Charis, the Greek word translated “grace,” appears in the New Testament 155 times. Grace is one of the greatest words in the Christian vocabulary. It holds in its content as much as or more than any other word. This word is so woven through the New Testament that any effort to remove it from its context would cause the whole fabric to fall to pieces. Grace pervades the New Testament as the salt permeates the sea, and yet it is one of the least understood of all the wonderful words recorded in it.

I. What This Grace Is:

What a far-reaching ministry this word grace has exercised through the centuries. Who can tell all that is wrapped up in the Word? We talk and sing about grace, but what does it mean?

The grace of God is the most profound subject of divine revelation. The wealth of the entire revelation of God in Jesus Christ is enshrined in the word grace. That is why Webster’s Dictionary cannot adequately define grace. Grace is as gentle as the morning breeze and as mighty as the ocean’s tide. It is the basis of the Christian experience. People of learning have made numerous attempts to define grace. Some of their attempts have been helpful. Grace has been defined as the unmerited favor of God toward sinners, but it is much more than that. Another has defined grace as the favor of God toward the undeserving. This definition is better, but it is not strong enough.

Grace is the spontaneous love and boundless mercy of God freely expressed toward those who are entirely undeserving. In grace all of the qualities of deity are combined and all of the resources of deity are exerted in our behalf. Standing for all that God is, grace represents his abiding and overflowing love and abounding and out flowing power in Christ meeting the needs of lost sinners. One writer said, “That Grace is the energy of the divine affection rolling in plenteousness toward the shores of human need.”

The principle of grace distinguishes Christianity from all other religious groups.

- Other religions make demands but Christianity offers a gift.
- Other religions insist on doing, but Christianity speaks of receiving.

- Other religions outline the works that people say one must do to be saved, but Christianity reveal a work that God has already done to make salvation available to all.

Sundays, June 21, 28, 2015

II. Where This Grace Comes From:

Grace, which dwelt in the heart of God from the beginning, was hidden from the world until it appeared in the incarnation of Christ [**John 1:14; Gal. 4:4-5**]. God's grace devised the astounding plan of salvation, provided salvation for sinners, and made it available to all classes in every generation – rich and poor – educated and uneducated – moral and immoral. His grace was manifested most effectively in Christ's coming into this world to seek and to save the lost.

All people are sinners by nature, choice, and practice, and therefore they need salvation [**Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:23**]. By salvation is meant deliverance from slavery to sin.

Salvation is neither merited nor solicited by humans. The scriptural teaching of salvation by grace glorifies God, and that is one reason proud and egotistical people do not like to hear it.

Many attempt to achieve salvation through personal efforts and works in spite of the fact that God's word repeatedly states that it is an utter impossibility. Salvation cannot be purchased by acts of obedience or service because it is "not of yourselves." What could be plainer than this statement about salvation? - "not of works, lest any man should boast." According to the scriptures, man's only hope of salvation is in the grace of God [**Gal. 2:16; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 2:11, 3:5**]. No one will ever be able to present the record of his efforts and works to God and receive eternal life in exchange, because salvation is entirely God's gift [**Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9**].

Any person who would like to be saved must be willing to allow the grace of God in Christ to lift him out of his sinfulness and self into the glorious liberty that belongs to the children of God. If anyone who hears the gospel of Christ and is not saved, it is because he refuses to receive the gift that grace offers [**John 3:36; 1 John 5:1-12**]. One receives salvation upon repentance toward God and exercising faith in Christ. The grace of God that brings salvation is effectual in the sense that it gets the job done.