

## THE TRUTH ABOUT GRACE

20/9/09

*One of the great errors of the modern day church is its inability to determine what the grace of God is and furthermore, how it applies to effective, New Testament teaching. Grace is the word used which best describes God's attitude towards the current New Testament period, which began through Christ's sacrifice. In simple terms, grace is merciful kindness, or favour. Grace is not salvation, but best describes God's attitude towards us... a desire that we might obey the gospel and enjoy a complete and rewarding life. God's grace remains ineffective unless we obey the terms of the gospel. Many try to redefine grace as a major gift or power of the Holy Spirit, but this is wrong. Grace is not listed as a gift nor a fruit of the Holy Spirit in the detailed lists of 1Cor 12 and Gal 5. God's favor or grace may be a gift from God in the same sense that Jesus Christ was a gift to the human race, but neither grace nor the good wishes of Christ replace the need to obey the gospel.*

**Grace (unmerited favour), is the reason salvation is possible, but it is not the method.**

**EPH 2:8** For by **grace** (unmerited favour) are ye saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God: Salvation is not earned as it was under the law, rather it is a free gift.*

**JOH 1:17** For the law (the summary of the old covenant) was given by Moses, **but grace and truth** (the summary of the new covenant) came by Jesus Christ.

**God's favourable attitude or grace was made possible through Christ's obedience and sacrifice.**

**ROM 3:24** Being justified **freely** by his **grace** (unearned favour) through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus: *Jesus made the anointing of the Holy Spirit possible through giving his life as a free payment for all those who obey his gospel. Salvation is a free gift and is a true act of God's grace, which is revealed in detail through the New Testament books. God's grace (good attitude), doesn't save us... obeying the gospel does!*

**Paul outlines the covenant requirements that allow God grace and the blood of Christ to become effective.**

**ACT 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**39** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. *Both grace and Christ blood are ineffective if we reject the spiritual formula of salvation.*

**Paul further qualifies the same scriptural formula to his letter to the Romans.**

**ROM 8:2** For the law of the **Spirit** of life in **Christ** Jesus hath made me free from the **law of sin and death**.

*The spirit is bound by a set of conditions in exactly the same manner that the law of Moses was bound by its own requirements.*

**&9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the **Spirit**, if so be that the **Spirit** of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the **Spirit** of **Christ**, he is none of his. *Without the anointing of the Holy Spirit, all the attributes of God's grace are meaningless.*

**Many claim to use God's grace as an excuse to avoid personal disciplines and to justify sinful behaviour.**

**ROM 6:1** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

**2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

**ROM 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under **grace**.

**15** What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under **grace**? God forbid.

**God warns the church about those who will abuse the correct understanding of his Grace.**

**JUDE 3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the **common salvation** (described above in Acts), it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. *Maintaining truth is an eternal battle.*

**4** For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness (*who justify sin*), and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. *Jude goes on to reveal how some people in other ages who have been saved by God, shortly afterwards turn against him... this age is no different. The New Testament church is riddled with numerous people who refuse to obey Christ's gospel.*

**It is very interesting to note, that Jesus Christ never once used the word 'grace' in any of his gospel books.**

**What does God want for us?**

**2PET 1:2** **Grace** and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

*God wants us to grow in the knowledge of all his favour and the wonderful mercy that is ever present. He wants to heal us, bless us, prosper us, protect us and give us the best of everything he has. He wants you to truthfully share that knowledge with each other and particularly to the unsaved.*