

04 12 22

Grace Pt 1 the grace of God is by Christ

This is the beginning of new study on the topic of grace. Specifically God's grace. First we will look at the meaning of the word grace in the scriptures. Then we will cover three points– (i) we are justified freely by His grace, (ii) we are saved by grace, and (iii) the grace of God, and gift of grace is by one man Jesus Christ,

Meaning from the Greek

Two Greek words are translated grace, which are also translated– acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, gracious, joy, liberality, pleasure, thank, thanks, and thankworthy.

Meaning from scripture

In grace there is magnified mercy

“Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die” (Gen.19: 19).

In grace there is kindness

“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Eph.2: 7)

To show kindness to another is also to extend them grace in our eyes

“Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens. [9] Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn. [10] Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I [am] a stranger?” (Ruth 2:8–10).

To find grace in the eyes of another person is to find favour

“And Shechem said unto her father and unto her brethren, Let me find grace in your eyes, and what ye shall say unto me I will give” (Gen.34: 11).

Example– Joseph was made overseer

“And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all [that] he had he put into his hand” (Gen.39: 4).

Grace is favour which can stem from love–

“And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins” (Esth.2: 17).

Grace can refer to a physical gift–

“Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the **grace of God bestowed on the churches** of Macedonia” (2 Cor.8: 1). And verse 4

The grace of God is a gift given by God

“Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given...” (Eph.3: 7, 8). See also– Eph.4: 7.

Grace is the opposite of works (where you earn by doing)

“And if by grace, then is it no more of works...But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work” (Rom.11:6)..

1. We are justified freely by His grace, by faith, without works

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom.3: 24)– cf.– Rom.3: 28– “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law”.

2. We are saved by grace, through faith, without works

“Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) [7] That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph 2:5, 7–9).

3. The grace of God, and gift of grace is by one man Jesus Christ

“But not as the offence, so also [is] the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many” (Rom 5:15).

Illustration

Muslims do not experience the grace of God when they become a Muslim. Because the grace of God and the gift by grace is by one man Jesus Christ – God’s only begotten Son. And they work for their salvation.

Any worldly religion works for their salvation. Whereas, salvation that is truth is not attained by anything we do, not of works, lest any man should boast. It is by grace, by faith in Christ Jesus.

Question of the scriptures

How did grace come by Jesus Christ?

Answers from the scripture

Jesus was full of grace

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn 1: 14).

Jesus was made sin for us who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor.5: 21).

And we who believe are imputed with His righteousness

“And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. [23] Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; [24] But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead” (Rom 4:22–24).

Grace came by Jesus Christ. Grace is a gift of God, like no other! Christ, came down to this earth, took on human form, lived a perfect sinless life, and then bore our sin on Himself, that we would be made the righteousness of God. Therefore, to believe that, water, wafers, wine or works can help our salvation is to prove beyond doubt that we do understand the grace of God, that is received by faith!

My plea– “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil.2: 5) and share the grace of Christ with your brethren and with those that do not of God’s “magnified mercy”, His kindness and favour given to us in His Son. Let us be full of God’s grace! Amen!