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## **"GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN"**

**Purpose of the Sermon:** The sermon aims to remind each believer about the Grace God has given us.

##### **INTRODUCTION**

1. To Christians, there exists a word that gives great comfort and hope no matter the circumstance…
	1. The word is **"grace"**
	2. It is a word that Paul loved to use
		1. Every epistle that he wrote (with the possible exception of Hebrews), begins and ends with mention of this word
		2. E.g., [**1Th 1:1**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Thess%201.1)**;** [**5:28**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Th%205.28)
2. What does “grace” actually mean?
	1. How is it used in the N. T. scriptures?
	2. What important things should we keep in mind concerning **"grace"**?

*[We'll spend a few moments in this study concentrating on this great term and its link to every Christian. Let's start with a simple observation...]*

1. **THE DEFINITION OF "GRACE"**
	1. **THAT WHICH GIVES JOY, PLEASURE, DELIGHT...**
		1. This is the original idea of the Greek word **"Charis"**
		2. It is used in the N.T. in this way in reference to SPEECH...
			1. The words of Jesus were spoken with grace - [**Lk 4:22**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Luke%204.22)
			2. The words of the Christian are to impart grace to the hearers - **Ep 4::29;** [**Col 4:6**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Col%204.6)
	2. **GOODWILL, LOVINGKINDNESS, FAVOR...**
		1. In this way, it is used ...
			1. Of the kindness of a master towards his inferiors or servants
			2. And especially of God towards men
		2. THAYER points out that:
			1. **"CHARIS contains the idea of kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved."**
			2. **"The NT writers use CHARIS preeminently of that kindness by which God bestows favors even upon the ill-deserving, and grants to sinners the pardon of their offenses, and bids them accept of eternal salvation through Christ." - e.g.,** [**Ep 2:5**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Eph%202.5)
		3. It is this particular definition of grace that prompts us to think of it most often as **"unmerited favor"**
	3. **A SPIRITUAL STATE OR CONDITION IN WHICH A PERSON ENJOYS THE FAVOR OF GOD…**
		1. When one accepts God's grace, they are in a **"state of grace"**
		2. Cf. [**Ro 5:1-2**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Rom%205.1-2)**;** [**1Pe 5:12**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Pet%205.12)
	4. **AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR FAVOR BESTOWED...**
		1. E.g., [**1Ti 1:12**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Tim%201.12) where the English word is "thank" (**"I thank Jesus Christ..."**)
		2. This is what is meant when people ask someone to **"say grace"** before eating a meal

*[The word GRACE is used in the New Testament in a variety of ways. There are few things Christians should always remember in relation to this term...]*

1. **GRACE AND THE CHRISTIAN**
	1. **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE!**
		1. Salvation is first, foremost, and always a matter of grace! - [**Ep 2:5-8**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Eph%202.5-8)
			1. God doesn't owe us anything
			2. What we deserve is eternal damnation, because all are sinners - [**Ro 3:23**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Rom%203.23)**;** [**6:23a**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%206.23a)
			3. Salvation is a gift, which God in lovingkindness offers to man - [**Ro 6:23b**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Rom%206.23b)**;** [**Tit 3:3-7**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Titus%203.3-7)
		2. No matter what God may call upon us to do in order to receive His grace, when we do those things (cf. believe, repent, confess Jesus, be baptized)...
			1. In no way can we ever say that we earn or merit salvation
			2. We are still **"unworthy servants"** - cf. [**Lk 17:10**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Luke%2017.10)
		3. We must forever remember that only by God's grace is salvation possible!
	2. **GOD'S GRACE REQUIRES HOLY LIVING!**
		1. Some argue that because we are saved by grace, we are free to do as we like.
		2. Yet Paul wrote that the **"grace of God...teaches us"** to:
			1. Refrain from worldly lusts and ungodliness.
			2. Live a pious, sober, and righteous life.
			3. Keep an eye out for the great hope and magnificent return of Jesus Christ. - cf. [**Tit 2:11-13**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Titus%202.11-13)
		3. Furthermore, Paul explains why Jesus in grace gave Himself for us...
			1. That He might redeem us from every lawless deed
			2. That He would cleanse His own special people, passionate for good works, for Himself. - cf. [**Tit 2:14**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Titus%202.14)
		4. Thus, God's undeserved favor isn't a reason to keep sinning!
	3. **HOLY LIVING REQUIRES GOD'S GRACE!**
		1. To live **"soberly, righteously and godly"** requires the grace of God
		2. We cannot do it on our own, but with God's help we can!
			1. He works in us to do His good will - [**Php 2:12-13**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Phil%202.12-13)
			2. By His strength we can do all the things He desires of us - [**Php 4:13**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Phil%204.13)
	4. **WE MUST GROW IN GRACE!**
		1. This is particularly true if we want to lead holy lives.
		2. Peter commands us to grow in grace - cf. [**2Pe 3:18**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Pet%203.18)
		3. It is not enough to simply experience God's grace in forgiving our sins, dear brother or sister.
			1. God has so much more to share with us, both now and in the future. - [**Ep 2:7**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Eph%202.7)
			2. This explains Paul's salutations and benedictions - cf. [**1Th 1:1**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Thess%201.1)**;** [**5:28**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Th%205.28)
		4. We can grow in grace through:
			1. Heeding the Word of God - [**Ac 20:32**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Acts%2020.32)
			2. Drawing near to God in prayer - [**He 4:16**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Heb%204.16)
	5. **WE CAN RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE IN VAIN!**
		1. Paul implored with the Corinthians that God's grace must not be wasted on them. - [**2Co 6:1**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Cor%206.1)
		2. Thus, having received God's grace, it is still possible for it to have been in vain!
			1. By looking for another source of justification for sin - [**Ga 5:4**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Gal%205.4)
				1. Paul mentions the Law of Moses in the immediate context.
				2. But if we try to be justified by works alone in any system of salvation, we will fall out of grace!
			2. Using God's mercy as a justification for immoral behavior - [**Jude 4**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jude%204)
				1. Grace was being used as an excuse by some to engage in shameless behavior.
				2. And yet we have seen that God's grace requires holy living - [**2Ti 2:11-14**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Tim%202.11-14)
			3. By sinning willfully and impenitently and thereby despising the Spirit of grace- cf. [**He 10:26-31**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Heb%2010.26-31)
				1. There is no longer any need for a sin offering for such a person! Only a fearful expectation of judgment
				2. Why? Because through such willful and impenitent sin one...

Tramples the Son of God underfoot

Counts the blood of the covenant (i.e., Jesus' blood) by which he was sanctified (i.e., saved) a common thing

Insults the Spirit of grace

##### **CONCLUSION**

1. What a dreadful thing it would be if God's grace had been wasted!
	1. To have received God's grace at one point
	2. But then to make it all vain (useless)
2. But it is just as terrible...
	1. Not to receive it all!
	2. Or having received it, not to grow in it!
3. So I encourage you all, in the words of the writer of Hebrews:
**"look(ing) diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace of God." -** [**He 12:15**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Heb%2012.15)**"let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." -** [**He 12:28**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Heb%2012.28)**"For it is good that the heart be established by grace..." -** [**He 13:9**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Heb%2013.9)**"Grace be with you all. Amen" -** [**He 13:25**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Heb%2013.25)

*Have you received the wonderful grace of God in your life? If yes, treasure it by keeping it with utmost reverence and high regard. If not yet, allow God to enter your heart today. Decide now and make Him your personal Lord and Savior.*