

The Grace of God

Lesson 1

The New Covenant of Grace

1. Definitions of GRACE

- The American Heritage Dictionary defines grace as:
 - *Divine love and protection bestowed freely on people*
 - *The state of being protected or sanctified by the favor of God*
 - *An excellence or power granted by God*
- The word “grace” comes from the Greek word “charis”. Simply stated, it means “undeserved acceptance and love received from another”.¹
- “Grace is the unmerited, abounding provision of the unrestrained operation of God’s infinite love, through Jesus Christ”²
 - *Unmerited, completely undeserved*
 - *Abounding, overflowing*
 - *Unrestrained, nothing held back*

2. Grace is given because of God’s kindness, love, and mercy and is based on Christ’s obedience NOT our works of righteousness.• **Titus 3:4-6**

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

• **Romans 5:19**

For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

3. The obedience expected of New Covenant saints is to believe (have faith) in the One God sent and to love one another.

- **Faith is our response to God’s love and grace. Loving one another is a fruit of knowing and believing that we are loved by God.**
 - **1 John 3:23**
And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
 - **1 John 4:19**
We love because He first loved us.

¹ In the Holman Bible dictionary, grace is defined as “undeserved acceptance and love received from another, especially the characteristic attitude of God in providing salvation for sinners. For Christians, the word ‘grace’ is virtually synonymous with the gospel of God’s gift of unmerited salvation in Jesus Christ. To express this, the New Testament writers used the Greek word *charis*, which had a long previous history in secular Greek. Related to the word for joy or pleasure, *charis* originally referred to something delightful or attractive in a person, something which brought pleasure to others. From this it came to have the idea of a favor or kindness done to another or of a gift which brought pleasure to another. Viewed from the standpoint of the recipient, it was used to refer to the thankfulness felt for a gift or favor. These meanings also appear in the biblical use of *charis*, but only in the New Testament does it come to have the familiar sense which ‘grace’ bears for Christians.”

² J.F. Strombeck, Disciplined by Grace
C.D and D.H. Hildebrand

4. Grace is God doing for you what you cannot do through keeping the law, fleshly efforts or works of righteousness.

Just to name a few. . .

- You cannot save yourself.

- Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- You cannot make yourself righteous.

- Romans 3:24

Being justified (made righteous) as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

- You cannot set yourself free from the power of sin.

- Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

- You cannot sanctify yourself (make yourself holy).

- 1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- You cannot perform godly miracles.

- Galatians 3:5

Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

5. The mercy and grace of God was evident before the New Covenant especially before the Law of Moses, but not the saving and transforming grace of the New Covenant.

☺ Mercy is not getting the judgment/punishment you clearly DO deserve.

☺ Grace is receiving God's love, favor, and blessings which you DO NOT deserve.

- God did not break off communication with Adam after he sinned (mercy). Adam went on to live hundreds of more years (grace).
- God did not kill Cain for killing his brother Abel (mercy), and even put a mark on him to protect him from those who might seek to kill him (grace).
- God did not punish or even rebuke Abraham when he sinned (mercy), but rather God blessed Abraham with great wealth (grace).
- Before the Law, the children of Israel complained after they fled from Egypt, but God did not punish them (mercy). Instead He opened the Red Sea and destroyed their enemies, provided them with manna and with water from a rock (grace).

6. When reading the Scriptures, it is important to keep in mind the covenant under which the account takes place. While every word of Scripture is inspired by God and profitable to us, not every Scripture *applies* to New Covenant believers.

► *Genesis to Malachi (what we “call” the Old Testament) is important to New Covenant believers in many ways.*

- The Scriptures written before Christ spoke of Him. Jesus and the early church used these writings to prove that He was the Messiah and to preach Christ.
 - **Luke 24:27**
And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.
 - **Acts 18:27b-28**
And when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; ²⁸ for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.
- There are some Scriptures which are yet to be fulfilled (i.e. about the Millennium)
- Many of the names and descriptions of God occur in Genesis-Malachi. These can help us better appreciate the beauty and character of our God.
- Negative Examples: We are able to see what types of behaviors do not please God (i.e. **1 Corinthians 10**), but even so, God deals with us according to the New Covenant of grace.
- Positive Examples: These writings can help us see what types of behavior to follow (**Hebrews 11**).

There are many examples that inspire us in the Old Testament Scriptures especially considering that these saints were not born again and did not have God's presence dwelling in them. They believed in and were faithful to God and died without having seen the fulfillment of the promised Messiah.

► *Major Covenants of Scripture*

- **Adamic Covenant** (from Adam to the Flood)
- **Noahic Covenant** (from Noah to Abraham)

- **Abrahamic Covenant** (from Abraham until the Law)
 - Helps us understand righteousness by faith and the undeserved blessings of Abraham.
 - **Job** (*It is not recorded that Job had any covenant with God. It is believed that Job lived before the Law and perhaps four generations out from Abraham.*)
 - ◆ *Job shows us how God dealt with Job, not how He deals with New Covenant believers.*
- **The Law** (from the giving of the Law in Exodus until the cross)
 - **The Prophets** (written primarily to mourn over and rebuke Israel for their sins and to warn of impending judgment for their disobedience)
 - **The Psalms** (written by Old Covenant believers who did not have the indwelling presence of God and who were not born again)
 - **The Proverbs** (written mostly by Solomon while under the Law/Old Covenant)
 - **The Gospels** (took place while Israel was still under the Law)
 - ◆ Jesus was born under the Law.
 - **Galatians 4:4**
*But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, **born under the Law**, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*
 - ◆ It is important to discern to whom Jesus was speaking and if He was referring to the Law or to His new covenant.
 - *Jesus told a leper that He healed to fulfill the requirements of the law for those healed of leprosy. That is no longer necessary.*
 - *Jesus told the Jews they did well to tithe their spices because this was a requirement of the law. We are not required to tithe our spices under the New Covenant.*
 - *Many of the rebukes by Jesus in the gospels are directed toward the Scribes and Pharisees and not to New Covenant believers.*
- **The New Covenant** (from the cross until eternity)
 - **Hebrews 1:1-2**
God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
 - **Mark 9:7** (The Mount of Transfiguration)
And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

- **Hebrews 8:6**

*But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a **better** covenant, which was established on **better** promises.*

**For a side-by-side comparison of the Old and New Covenant,
see the chart at the end of this lesson entitled
“Contrast between the Old and the New Covenant”**

7. Grace Foretold: Saints prior to the New Covenant looked for the Grace that we live in right now.

1 Peter 1:10-12

As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace³ that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look.

Matthew 13:17

“For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

Hebrews 11:39-40

*And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ because God had provided **something better for us**, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.*

8. The grace of God came (into being) by Jesus Christ.

Galatians 4:4

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

John 1:14, 16-17

*And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth**. ¹⁶ For of His fullness we have all received, and **grace upon grace**. ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; **grace and truth** were realized through Jesus Christ.*

9. Why is God gracious to man?

***In the world’s system grace is scarce. Generally speaking you get what you deserve if you break a law, and you receive what you earn.** In our thinking God’s mercy and grace are contrary to what “makes sense”. Sometimes we have a hard time accepting that God is not holding our sins against us and that He is “freely” giving us ALL things. Yet this is the covenant He has chosen to bring about through His Son. But, why?*

³ Jesus, Gospel of Grace, New Covenant
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☞ He IS faithful to His promises. ☞

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

³³"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴"They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

☞ He IS the God of all grace. ☞

1 Peter 5:10

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

☞ God IS love and He loves us. ☞

John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

1John 4:8-10

The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 1:2-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,

that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

Titus 3:4-6

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give (graciously grace) us all things?

Contrast between the Old and New Covenant⁴

Old Covenant	New Covenant
Preliminary, preparatory, precursor	Final, "once and for all" (Heb. 7:27; 9:12,26; 10:10,12,14), ultimate
Promise of fulfillment Prophecy of new covenant	Fulfillment of promise and prophecy (Jere. 31:31-34; Ezek. 37:26; Lk 1:72; Acts 3:25; 7:8; Rom 11:27; Gal 3:17,29)
Temporary, transitory, fading (II Cor. 3:11)	Permanent, remains (II Cor. 3:11; Heb 7:24) Eternality of Christ's life (Jn 3:16)
Pre-figuring, pictorial, preview Symbol/parable (Heb. 9:9) Pattern (Heb. 8:5), blueprint	Reality (Jn. 14:6)
Shadow (Heb. 8:5; 10:1)	Substance (Col. 2:17; Heb. 10:1)
Physical, racial, national	Spiritual, re-birth, new heart and spirit (Jere. 32:39; Ezek. 37:14)
Exclusivistic, elitist (Eph. 2:12)	Universal, non-discriminatory (Gal. 3:28)
Concealed, veiled God's intent (II Cor. 3:12-18)	Reveals God's intent in Christ (Col. 1:27; 2:2)
Pointed to Messiah Gen. 3:15 II Sam. 7:12-16 Isa. 9:6,7; 53:1-12	Enacted in Jesus Christ (Lk. 22:20; I Cor. 11:25; II Cor. 3:6; Heb. 8:8-13 Mediator (Heb. 9:15; 12:24; I Tim 2:5) Surety, Guarantee (Heb. 7:22)
Means to an end; not end in itself	End intent of God (Rom. 10:4; Eph. 1:3,10) Finished work - (Jn. 19:30)
Limited hope	Better hope - (Heb. 7:19; 10:23; I Tim. 1:1)
Animal sacrifices (Ex. 24:5,8; Heb 9:12,20) shedding of blood (Heb. 9:18,22)	Sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:12; 13:20) Ratified by His blood (Heb. 9:12-24) Lamb of God
Commemorated Exodus (Exod. 12:14-28) "bread of affliction" (Deut 16:3)	Commemorated in Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:28; Mk 14:24; Lk 22:20; I Cor. 11:25)
Inferior	Superior, better, more excellent (Heb. 8:6,7)
Inadequate, insufficient (Heb. 9:1-10) (quite adequate to reveal man's inadequacy,	Adequate, sufficient, competency in Christ (Christian finds His adequacy in Christ -

⁴ <http://www.christinyou.net/pages/covenants.html>
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<p>but not to effect restoration with God and functional expression of divine character)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could not make righteous (Gal. 2:21) - Could not forgive sin (Heb. 10:4,11) "rolled-over, rolled-back," IOU, stop-gap, cover-up, temporary discharge, held at bay, piled deeper and deeper - Could not impart life (Gal. 3:21) - Could not cleanse conscience (Heb. 9:9) - Could not perfect proper function (Heb. 7:19; 9:9; 10:1) <p>Impotent, ineffectual (Heb. 7:18) Not profitable, beneficial, advantageous</p> <p>Law, legislated standards of behavior, rules and regulations, codes of conduct (II Cor. 3:6,8); ordinances (Eph. 2:15)</p> <p>Performance based obedience obligation, requirements, achievement</p> <p>Behavior modification, ethics, morality Christ</p> <p>Epistemology, belief-system</p> <p>Knowledge "about" God (Heb. 8:11) Cerebral, instructional</p> <p>Physical "people of God" (Exod. 6:7; 29:45; Deut. 27:9; II Sam. 7:23; Jere. 11:4)</p> <p>Physical Israel (Exod. 34:27; Josh. 7:8)</p> <p>External - "letter" (II Cor. 3:6; Rom. 2:29; 7:6) Written, codified Book-religion (Jn. 5:39)</p> <p>Ineffectual, external worship (Heb. 9:1-10; 10:1,2,11)</p>	<p>II Cor. 3:5) Functional expression of divine character Partake of divine nature (II Pet. 1:4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Made righteous in Christ - (Jer. 33:16) Rom. 5:19; II Cor. 3:9; 5:21 Holiness (Heb. 10:14) - Sins forgiven (Jere. 31:34; Ezek 16:63; Matt. 26:28; Rom. 11:27; Heb. 10:18) Saved forever - Heb. 7:25 Day of salvation (Isa 49:8; Jere 33:16) - Life of God in Christ (John 10:10) - Cleanses conscience (Heb. 9:14; 10:22) - Perfects proper function of mankind (Phil. 3:15; Heb. 7:28; 10:14; 12:23) <p>Empowering, enabling Provision in Christ (II Cor. 3:4-6) Holy Spirit advantage (Ezek. 36:27; Jn. 16:7; II Cor. 3:6,7; 17,18)</p> <p>Grace - the dynamic of God's activity to express His character "Law written in hearts" (Heb. 8:10;10:16)</p> <p>Relationally based obedience - "listen under" Obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5)</p> <p>Behavior manifestation of life of Jesus Christ (II Cor. 4:10,11)</p> <p>Ontological presence of God's Being (Ezek. 37:27; Eph. 2:22)</p> <p>Relational intimacy in "knowing" God in Christ (Jere. 31:34; Heb. 8:11)</p> <p>Spiritual "People of God" (Jere 31:33,34; 32:38; Ezek. 37:27; II Cor. 6:16; Heb. 8:10; I Pet. 2:9,10; Rev. 21:3)</p> <p>Spiritual Israel (Jere. 31:31,33; Ezek. 34:30; 37:28; Rom. 9:6; Gal. 6:16)</p> <p>Internal - Law written in hearts (Heb. 8:10; 10:16) Investiture with dynamic presence and character of God</p> <p>Effectual worship of God (Heb. 8:1-6; 9:1-14; 10:24,25; 13:15)</p>
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<p>Indirect access through priests, (Heb. 9:8) Day of Atonement "Hide & seek" - II Cor. 3:12-18</p> <p>Sin constantly remembered (Heb. 10:2,3) Day of Atonement Sin-conscious, sin-confessing, sin-suppressing, sin-recounting</p> <p>Threat of punishment</p> <p>Condemnation (II Cor. 3:9)</p> <p>Static</p> <p>Ends in death; die trying to perform and conform (II Cor. 3:6,7), kills</p> <p>Physical kingdom</p> <p>Reveals the need for the new (Heb. 8:7)</p> <p>Inferior glory (II Cor. 3)</p> <p>Planned obsolescence (Heb. 8:13), served its purpose, outdated, out-moded, antiquated, thing of the past, fazed out</p> <p>Taken away (Heb. 10:9), supplanted, superseded, done with</p> <p>Set aside (Heb. 7:18), displaced, replaced, faded away (II Cor. 3:11,13), terminated, canceled, invalidated, disavowed, put away, annulled, abrogated, abolished, null and void, ceased to exist</p>	<p>Direct access to God (II Cor. 3:12-18; Heb. 7:25; 10:19) Reconciled - Rom. 5:10,11; II Cor 5:18</p> <p>Sin remembered no more - Jere. 31:34; Heb. 8:12; 10:17 Christ-conscious Finished work of Christ (Jn. 19:30)</p> <p>Punishment taken in Jesus Christ He took death consequences</p> <p>No condemnation (Rom. 8:1) Liberating, freeing (II Cor. 3:17)</p> <p>Dynamic, vital, active, living</p> <p>Expresses life of God in Christ (II Cor. 3:6,7)</p> <p>Reign of Christ as Lord, Lordship of Christ Kingdom of God; Theocratic rule Spiritual fulfillment of Davidic kingdom (Jere. 33:17; Ezek. 37:24)</p> <p>Reveals "newness of life" in Christ (Rom. 6)</p> <p>Superior glory (II Cor. 3:7-11,18)</p> <p>Forever functionally new (Ezek. 37:28) abides forever - Heb. 7:24 faultless - Heb. 8:7 consummation of ages - Heb. 9:26</p> <p>Never broken, remains (II Cor. 3:11) Surpasses old (II Cor. 3:10)</p> <p>Eternality of Christ's operative life (Jere. 32:40; Heb. 13:20) Eternal inheritance (Heb. 9:15)</p>
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