

The Grace of God

Lesson Three

Complete and Perfected by Grace

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and

you are complete in Him,

who is the head of all principality and power.

Colossians 2:9-10



For by one offering He has perfected forever

those who are being sanctified.

Hebrews 10:14

A. The Salvation Package (cont. from Lesson 2)

1. We have a RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

a. We are at peace with God (reconciled).

◆ **Romans 5:1**

*Therefore, having been justified (made righteous) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by **faith** into this **grace** in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

◆ **2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

*Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not counting their trespasses against them**, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

b. We are loved by God.

◆ **1 John 4:9-10**

*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.*

◆ **1 John 4:16-17**

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

♦ **Romans 8:38 -39**

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, **nor any other created thing**, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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c. **We are adopted and accepted (highly favored) sons/heirs of God.**♦ **Romans 8:15**

For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of **adoption** as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that **we are children of God**, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, **heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

♦ **Galatians 4:4-6**

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**. ⁶ Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

♦ **Ephesians 1:3-6**

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 ⁵He **predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us **in the Beloved**.

- Charitoo khar-ee-to'-o
From(CHARIS-GRACE); to grace, that is, indue with special honor: - make accepted, be highly favoured.
- Only used one other time in Scripture in referring to Mary being "highly favored".
- **NKJV says "to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.**

2. **We have a close relationship with God which cannot be improved.**

A common teaching among Christians is that after we get saved we need to work to get closer to God through a variety of "spiritual disciplines". This is false and leads either to pride or to frustration and the constant sense that we are never as close to God as we could be.

The goal to be close to God is reached at salvation through the blood of Jesus. We cannot improve our closeness to God by our own fleshly attempts.

We can improve our knowledge about and appreciation for God through study of the Word, but this does not bring us closer.

- a. We are close to God. WE CANNOT GET CLOSER THAN WE ARE. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit abide in us continually.
- ◆ ***Christ is in you and you are in Christ.***
 - ***Colossians 1:27***
*To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.***
 - ◆ ***The Father is in you and you are in the Father.***
 - ***1 John 4:13-15***
*By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.
¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **God abides in him, and he in God.***
 - ◆ ***The Spirit in you and you are in the Spirit.***
 - ***John 14:16-17***
*"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be **in you.***
 - ***Romans 8:9***
*However, you are not in the flesh but **in the Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*
 - ◆ ***You are seated with Christ.***
 - ***Ephesians 2:4-7***
*But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by **grace** you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and **seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His **grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.***
 - ◆ ***You are brought near through the blood of Jesus, not your own religious exercises.***
 - ***Ephesians 2:12-13***
*That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near by the blood of Christ.***

- **Hebrews 10:91-22**

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

◆ **Not by the law, but by a better hope (grace) you are brought near.**

- **Hebrews 7:19**

For the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

**The words “closer” and “nearer”
DO NOT APPEAR IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
in regards to our relationship with God.**

We are told to come boldly and “draw near” not nearER.

*Telling a new believer that he/she needs to get closer to God
is preaching “another gospel”.*

THE CROSS OF JESUS + SOMETHING MORE = NOTHING

3. He will NEVER leave us or forsake us. No, not ever!

◆ **Hebrews 13:5 AMPLIFIED**

Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]

4. WE ALREADY KNOW GOD

While we can learn more *about* God, we do not need to seek to know Him *more*. This is another religious tradition which seeks to improve upon what God accomplished in Jesus. The New Covenant clearly states that we know God because we are forgiven and He remembers our sins NO MORE.

♦ **John 1:10**

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know¹ Him.

♦ **Jeremiah 31:34**

*"They will not teach **again**² 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."*

♦ **1John 2:12-13**

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father.

♦ **John 17:3**

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Notice the parallel: In both verses above, it speaks of sin being forgiven and of knowing God from the children to the fathers (the least to the greatest). It is not qualified how much or how long someone knows God, only that they DO know Him.

♦ **Philippians 3:10**

That I (Paul) may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead³.

The first time I noticed that knowing God was part of the New Covenant, I went straight to this verse which has been used "forever" to show that we need to make it one of our spiritual goals to "know God". As I read it for what seemed the first time, I realized some very stunning facts by looking at it in context.

1. Paul was NOT saying that He was *seeking* to know God. Rather, he was declaring that He DID know God.
2. He is not saying that he needed to attain to the resurrection from the dead (as if to earn it), but that he ALREADY had attained it.

¹ "Know" in all of these verses is: *ghin-ocē'-ko*: a prolonged form of a primary verb; to "know" (absolutely), ... be aware (of), feel, (have) known (-ledge), perceive, be resolved, can speak, be sure, understand.

² "Again" means: (*ode, ode*: again, repeatedly, still, more, all life long)

³ The following verse seems to say that he had not obtained the resurrection from the dead yet, but actually, he is speaking about not yet having obtained (laid hold) that for which Christ had laid hold (same word) of him. This is in reference to his ministry, not the resurrection from the dead. The resurrection from the dead is obtained by grace through faith.

The key to understanding these amazing facts is by reading the verses previous to verses 10-11 in which he explains how this transformation took place.

1. In verses 4-6 Paul shows that he was an exemplary Jew from birth, found blameless as to the righteous requirements of the Law.
2. In verses 7-8 Paul says that he counts all of his religious qualification and pedigree as rubbish, so that He may gain Christ. In other words, our own works of righteousness do not help us gain Christ. In order to gain Him, we have to come to God empty-handed.
3. In verses 9 Paul says, “and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,
4. Paul is acknowledging that he was made righteous by faith alone.
5. Now, we are positioned to understand verses 10-11. “That”, or “in order that” I may know Him. Paul gave up his self righteousness and received God’s righteousness by grace through faith SO THAT HE WOULD KNOW HIM. The only way to know God is through receiving Him by grace through faith, not by works, so that no one can boast. So, simply by receiving Christ we are:
 - a. *Found in Him*
 - b. *Righteous by faith*
 - c. *Know Him*
 - d. *Know the power of His resurrection*
 - e. *Know the fellowship of His sufferings*
 - f. *Conformed to His death*
 - g. *Attain the resurrection from the dead*

“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.”

Jeremiah 31:34

**KNOWING HIM is a product of our salvation by
grace through faith in Jesus Christ.**

Who Sanctifies?

Hebrews 10:14

For by one offering He has **perfected forever** those who are **being sanctified**.

Email from: Jonathan Zachariou, Native Greek speaker, Instructor in Greek at Captiol Bible College. His uncle is also a native Greek speaker.

Cathy,

It is definitely those who are being sanctified and, in context, by Christ, and not by doing it themselves. The word used for sanctified is structured as those who are in the process of receiving it, not those who are performing it. It is a passive participle so it also suggests consent by the recipient but not self performance because of the context, "**He has perfected**" makes the sanctified something that is done to them, an offer they receive. I am not sanctifying myself but the action done upon me suggests consent not imposition because the word "**offering**" which in the Greek is the word "toward you I bring". I do not have to take something which is offered. Those who are being sanctified are the same who receive the singular, complete and eternal offering of Jesus. The verse can also be translated, "**For (meaning because) His singular offer makes complete forever those who are being sanctified**". His sanctification upon us is continuous after we receive the free, singular gift of His sacrifice for our sins (see v.12).

I called my uncle Phil and conferred about this and we were blessed discussing it. I am sending him a copy of my reply to you.

I hope this helps,
Jonathan Zachariou