

<p><b>What is Grace?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The word “grace” is from the Greek <i>charis</i> which is defined as, “<b>favor</b>, goodwill for or toward another... to confer a favor on one” (LS 882). Moulton defines grace as “a beneficial opportunity, <b>generous gift</b>, an act of favor, a gracious <b>provision</b>” (433).</li> <li>• The Bible defines “grace” as God’s <b>mercy</b> (Eph. 2:4-5), the <b>forgiveness</b> of sins (Eph. 1:7), <b>redemption</b> (cf. Col. 1:13-14), <b>justification</b> (cf. Rom. 3:24; 5:1-2), <b>promise</b> (Acts 13:23, 38; I Jn. 2:25), gracious <b>gift</b> to mankind (Eph. 2:8), <b>revelation</b> (Eph. 3:2-6), <b>sanctification</b>, and <b>obedience</b> (Romans 6:16-23).</li> </ul>	<h1>The Grace of God</h1> <p><i>“But thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth”</i>  <b>Psalms 86:15</b></p>	<p><b>To properly understand God’s grace we must understand the nature of God:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God is holy and perfect (Lev. 18:4, 30; 20:7-8, 22; 22:31; Matt. 5:48; I Jn. 1:5-7).</li> <li>• Note the association between God’s holiness and man’s sanctification (comp. Lev. 11:44-45 and Lev. 10:3).</li> <li>• Those who are to be associated with God must thereby be holy, sanctified, clean, and perfect (free from sin). The Lord has not left man without the provisions to achieve fellowship with Him: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sanctification (Ex. 19:7-25; Lev. 8:1-4; 9:6-7, 22-10:3).</li> <li>○ Forgiveness through the blood of Christ and our continued obedience (Jn. 3:16; 15:5-10; Col. 1:20-22; Heb. 9:14).</li> <li>○ Heaven shall be no different (Rev. 21:27).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Tracing God’s Grace throughout the Scriptures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God’s gracious <b>provisions</b> to save man from the eternal consequences of sin have always been freely offered.</li> <li>• Adam and Eve failed God yet were promised redemption (Gen. 3:15).</li> <li>• God promised Abraham that all nations would have the opportunity to receive the gracious offer of being forgiven of sins through his seed (cf. Gen. 22:18; Acts 2:38-39; 3:22-26; 13:32ff; Gal. 3:8, 13).</li> <li>• God’s <b>promise</b> came through David and eventually Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:21; Acts 13:22-23; Gal. 3:16).</li> <li>• God’s grace through history reveals His tender compassion and love toward His created beings. God’s gracious provisions are freely given to man (Rom. 5:15-18; 6:23; Eph. 2:8).</li> </ul>		
<p><b>The Bible clearly reveals that God’s Grace is Conditioned upon man’s Obedience:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adam’s condition for living in paradise was obedience (Gen. 2:15-17).</li> <li>• Abraham was commanded to meet God’s prescribed conditions before he could receive the seed, land, and great nation promise. Abraham was instructed to obey God’s commands (Gen. 18:19; 22:18; 15:7; 15:5) and maintain a state of perfection (Gen. 17:1-2). Abraham did this and thereby received the promises of God (Gen. 15:6; 22:18).</li> <li>• God gave Jericho to Joshua; however, this promise was conditioned upon the people’s obedience to God’s instructions (cf. Josh. 6:1ff).</li> <li>• A History of God’s gracious offer to forgive man of their sin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ God desires man’s obedience (I Sam. 15:22; Rom. 6:16).</li> <li>○ God delivered a system of sacrifice that man may be atoned (Lev. 1:4).</li> <li>○ God wants man to acknowledge (Jer. 3:13) and confess one’s error (Lev. 5:5; Numb. 5:7; Psal. 32:5; I Jn. 1:9).</li> <li>○ God wants man to repent of sins committed (Jer. 18:8; 25:5; Acts 17:30) and “amend their ways” (Jer. 18:11).</li> <li>○ God provided His own Son, Jesus, that man may be forgiven of sins (Jn. 3:16).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• God’s “grace” instructs man to be forgiven of sins (Acts 13:32; Rom. 5:21; Eph. 1:13-14; Titus 2:11-12; Heb. 13:9). Grace cannot thereby be separated from preaching of the gospel (Eph. 3:7-8). The purpose of preaching this grace is to produce obedience (Rom. 1:5). Let us therefore hear (Eph. 3:2-6).</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Grace and Common Sense:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note that if God’s grace is equivalent to the <b>forgiveness</b> of sins (Eph. 1:7), <b>redemption</b> (cf. Col. 1:13-14), <b>justification</b> (cf. Rom. 3:24; 5:1-2), and <b>sanctification</b> surely all will asks, “How do I obtain these free gifts?”</li> <li>• No one would know these associations if it were not for divine revelation (I Cor. 12:3). Revelation is thereby directly associated with God’s gracious provisions (Eph. 3:1ff). God’s divine revelation demands our <b>obedience</b> (Romans 6:16-23) that we may be recipients of His gracious offer to forgive us of our sins (cf. Acts 2:38).</li> <li>• The Lord freely gives and we must do our part to freely receive.</li> </ul>		