

## WHAT IS GRACE? -- WHY DO I NEED IT?

Text: Titus 2:11-13

- I. GRACE: WHAT IS IT? As it is most commonly used in the N.T., grace may be defined as “a friendly disposition from which a kindly act proceeds; graciousness, loving kindness; goodwill, esp. with reference to Divine grace or favor.” In connection with this use, we sometimes refer to a “state of grace,” that is, a condition in which we benefit spiritually from the favor of grace of God.

Because of God’s great love for us, He has manifested His grace or goodwill toward us. Because of His grace we find mercy in the forgiveness of our sins.

### II. GRACE: WHY DO I NEED IT?

- A. Because I have sinned. Rom. 3:10, 23
- B. Because the “wages of sin is death.” Rom. 6:23  
Gen. 2:17; Ezek. 18:20; James 1:15

### III. GRACE MANIFESTED. It has appeared to all men.

- A. God’s grace toward mankind is made evident by the sending of His Son to live among men & finally to die as a sacrifice for human sins.

READ JOHN 1:1-3, 14-17, 29

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that tho He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you thru His poverty might become rich.  
(2 Cor. 8:9).

- B. It is God’s desire to be able to continue to bless us eternally, but we must cooperate.

[God brot us back from being dead in sin] that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us thru Christ Jesus.  
(Eph. 2:7).

### IV. GRACE DISTRIBUTED to all... teaching us...

- A. One of the clearest manifestations of God's grace is the gospel by which we are saved, if we obey it.

[Paul & Barnabas stayed in Iconium] a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs & wonders to be done by their hands. (Acts 14:3).

But none of these [threats] move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, & the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. (Acts 20:24)

And now brethren, I commend you to God & to the word of His grace... (Acts 20:32).

- B. It doesn't take a genius to see that when a person rejects the gospel, he has rejected the grace of God, 2 Thess. 1:7-9. Grace does not negate the conditions of our salvation. It is only by God's grace that such conditions make salvation possible.

- C. By God's grace He sent His Son to pour out His blood in death to atone for our sins. He has told us in His word how to apply His blood so that it is effectual in cleansing us.

1. The person who is not a Christian needs to believe in Jesus, repent of his sins, & make contact with the blood of Christ by being baptized into His death, Acts 2:36-41; MT 26:28; Rom. 6:3

2. The erring Christian, 1 John 1:6-10; Acts 8:22

#### V. GRACE APPROPRIATED. live soberly, righteously, godly...

- A. To a large degree the earth life is a proving round in which Christians must learn to love what God loves, hate what God hates, think like God thinks... that when the earth life is over, he will have prepared himself for eternity with God.

- B. These characteristics are not automatic when one becomes a Christian, nor do they develop overnight. They require constant, continual, purposeful spiritual growth, which can come only by feeding on & exercising one's self in the practice of the teachings of God's word.

READ 2 PETER 3:17-18.

La Porte, TX, February 7, 1982

Seguin, TX, March 2, 1982 (lectureship)

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, April 25, 1982

Weatherford, TX, September 2, 1982 (meeting)

Exton, PA, December 3, 1983

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, February 13, 2000