

God's Grace: What, Why, How, Who

I. Introduction

- A. Writing to the saints at Ephesus, the Holy Spirit through Paul said “by grace you have been saved...” **Ephesians 2:8a**
- B. Consider some things Scripture teaches about *what* the grace referenced in this verse is, *why* it is needed and has been extended, *how* this grace has been extended, and *who* it is available to and accessed by.

II. What: Unmerited Favor

- A. The word for grace (*charis*) can have different meanings in Scripture. For instance, the word can refer to thanks on the part of one *receiving* a gift. **2 Corinthians 9:15**
- B. When speaking of the grace of God, the emphasis is on finding *favor* with God. A definition often used is “unmerited favor,” emphasizing God doing something for us that is *undeserved*. God's grace involves Him doing for us what we need, but cannot do for ourselves. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

III. Why: Salvation from Sin

- A. While God's grace makes all spiritual blessings possible, the foremost reason we need God's grace is because of sin and its consequences. *Sin* is what the righteous are saved *from* by God's grace. **Romans 3:23**
- B. Without God's grace, we would be hopelessly doomed for eternal torment in hell. **Romans 6:23a; John 8:34**
- C. Appreciating God's grace is helped when we consider the *lost*, *filthy*, and *perishing* condition that sin leaves us in. **John 3:16**

IV. Why: God's Love

- A. While salvation from sin is why we *need* God's grace, the *motive* for God allowing us to be saved by grace is the depth of the *love* He has for each of us. **John 3:16**

V. How: Jesus Christ

- A. The One God lovingly gave to offer us salvation from sin is His Son. **Matthew 1:21**
- B. While God *planned* the means by which we can be saved by grace and the Holy Spirit *revealed* this plan, Jesus is the *embodiment* of God's grace. **2 Timothy 1:9-10**
- C. By the grace of God, Jesus “taste[d] of death for everyone.” **Hebrews 2:9**

VI. Who: Available to All

- A. The fact that Jesus tasted of death for everyone shows that the salvation made possible by God's grace is available to *anyone* who is willing to receive this gift. **Titus 2:11**
- B. In spite of our choice to rebel against His will, God wants each of us to be saved. As He looks on one in sin, He sees one who needs cleansing, saving, and healing. **1 Timothy 2:4**

VII. Who: Accessed by Choice

- A. While God offers blessings by His grace to all, these blessings are accessed by *choice*. More specifically, salvation by grace is accessed by *faith*. **Romans 5:2**
- B. “Faith” in this context is a summary term that includes *obeying* the Gospel. **Romans 1:5; 16:26; 2 Thess. 1:8-9**
- C. Those who *have* obeyed can *fall* from grace if obedience is not continued in. **Galatians 5:4**

VIII. Conclusion

- A. Those who have done, and are continuing to do, what God requires to receive salvation have no reason to boast in self. Rather, the credit goes to *God*. His grace is cause for humility and gratitude. **Ephesians 2:8a**
- B. Though none of us deserve it, we can each be saved upon submitting to God, thanks to His wonderful grace.