

— χάριτί ἐστε σεσφσμένοι — καὶ συνήγειρεν καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλουσίως ὦν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεξωποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

σεσφσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ἑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδεξιῶν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

1 (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

Grace for Salvation - Ephesians 2:8-9 Study 1

The word's **grace** and **salvation** are popular words, but what do they mean? Are they important for us? Is it necessary for us to understand them? They are rich words that speak volumes to Christians, but are absolutely necessary for those who wish to be Christians.

The Gospel - At the heart of grace and salvation is the gospel. The word gospel simply means _____. Many things can be considered good news, it all depends upon where you are. There is a good news for those who are not Christians and it is found in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - “[1] Now, brothers, I make known to you the good news which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and by which you stand; [2] By which also you are saved, if you hold fast what I preached unto you, unless you believed it without a purpose. [3] For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; [4] And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” Let’s look at what Paul says about this good news.

Verse 1 - Paul had _____ this good news.

- They had _____ this good news.

-They _____ by means of this good news.

Verse 2 - They were _____ by this good news.

- They had hopefully _____ it with a purpose.

(that is, “not in vain”) CP ROMANS 1:16

Now what does Paul say that good news was?

Verse 3 - Christ _____ for our _____ according to the scriptures.

Verse 4 - Christ was _____.

- Christ _____ the third day according to the scriptures.

That good news confronts a person with his or her sins. But it also holds out a hope, Christ died for those sins. You and I are accountable to God for our sins. But Christ died for those sins. A person then has a choice, either he believes that Christ died for those sins, or he remains accountable to God for them himself. In Acts 10:43 we find, “all the ones believing in Him [Jesus Christ] receive forgiveness of sins”. The word forgive means “to send

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in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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away.” If a person believes in Jesus Christ, that He died for your own sins and was buried and rose again the third day, his sins are forgiven or _____. So you are no longer accountable for those sins, Christ dealt with them. But you must believe that He did everything necessary.

The Grace - In Ephesians 2:8-9 we find, “[8] *For by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* [9] *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*” So what is this grace? The apostle Paul helps us understand grace in Romans 11:6, “*But if by grace, it is no longer works, otherwise the grace no longer becomes grace. But if it is out of works, it is no longer grace, otherwise the work is no longer work*”. Do you see that, it is either grace or work. If you must do good works, even one good work, then it is not grace, but we saw in Ephesians 2:8&9, we are saved by _____ not _____.

Grace is an attitude which God has, by which He gives or provides something for those who don’t deserve it. Since we are all sinners, we don’t deserve anything but God’s judgment, but He has given us salvation.

The Faith - The next word related to salvation in Ephesians 2:8 is faith, “saved by grace through faith”. What is faith? “*Now faith gives substance to things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” (Hebrews 11:1). You can’t see the forgiveness of sins, but it is a hope held before a person, that if he will believe that Jesus Christ died for his sins, was buried and rose again, he too can have the forgiveness of sins. But he must believe that. There is no physical evidence or proof that this will happen, so faith makes that hope real, so the person can trust in what Christ has done for him.

CP 1 PETER 2:24 WHERE PETER INCLUDES HIMSELF

Salvation is related to faith so that it can be by God’s grace, “Wherefore, this *is* from faith in order that it *is* according to grace . . .” (Romans 4:16a). In fact we find in verse 5 of this same chapter, “*but to the one not working but believing upon the one declaring the ungodly person righteous, his faith is logically credited for righteousness*”. Do you see that? Salvation or righteousness is not by one _____ but by _____. Like 1 Corinthians 15:3, where Christ died for our _____, here we find God declares righteous the _____

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But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

person. This salvation is not for good and righteous people but for sinners and ungodly people, and whether we want to admit it or not, we are all sinners and ungodly people, every person born on this earth needs this salvation. Any person can have that salvation, if He will _____ in Jesus Christ, that He died for our sins, that He was buried, and that He rose again from the dead. What if a person doesn’t believe in Him? John wrote, “*The one believing in Him is not judged. The one not believing is already judged . . .*” (John 3:18). It is not enough to just believe in a person named Jesus. We must believe in the Person, Jesus Christ, God in flesh, Who died for our sins, was buried and rose again. If you have believed that you are _____ and are not _____.

SEE ALSO ROMANS 3:10: 5:8

The Question of Repentance - Let’s answer one more question. Do we not find in the Bible that a person must “repent”? Indeed, we do find “repentance”, “*Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*” (Acts 20:21). What does repent or repentance mean? It simply means to change one’s mind. Some have taught that repentance is “sorrow over sin”. But that is not the meaning of this word. That is not to say that we should take sin lightly. But when people were told to repent, they were being told to change their minds about something. In the verse above, the apostle Paul was telling people to change their minds about God. For the Jews, they had to believe that Jesus is God. For the Greeks, they had to believe that there is but one God, absolutely no more. And then believe in Jesus Christ. If they didn’t change their minds about God, then they wouldn’t be believing in the Jesus Christ of the Bible but a different kind of Jesus, one who really can not save them from their sins.

Have you believed in Jesus Christ? Do you believe that He has done everything for your salvation and there is nothing more for you to do but believe? If not, believe in Him now! Are you still trusting in your works to save you? If so, why not stop your working and believe in Him?!

READ ABOUT PAUL AND THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER IN ACTS 16

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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Grace for Living part 1 - Romans 5 Study 2

Last time we looked at the Gospel. Let's see what you remember.

The word "gospel" means - _____.

The "gospel" for salvation is about _____.

What did He do? - _____

- _____

- _____

What is a person not supposed to do to be saved - _____.

What is a person supposed to do - _____.

We are saved by God's _____.

Now grace did not stop when you believed the good news. In fact for Christians, that's when we started to benefit from God's grace. God's grace is still a big part of our lives.

Graced in the Beloved - In Ephesians 1:6 we can read, "*To praise of glory, consisting of His grace, from which [grace], He graced us in the One having been loved.*" Many Bibles don't make clear that the word "grace" occurs in this verse twice. The first time it is a noun "grace" and the second a verb "graced". If you have believed in Jesus Christ, that He died for your _____, was _____ and _____, you too are graced.

Where are we graced? In the One having been _____. That's Jesus Christ. What does Paul mean by "in"? Simply, that at the same time you and I live down here on this earth, God the Father counts or credits you and I to already be in heaven. He does this by crediting us to be in Christ Jesus. Let's look at things right here in Ephesians 1 that are true of us in Christ Jesus. "[1] *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, even the faithful ones in Christ Jesus: [2] Grace is to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. [3] Blessed is the God even Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ: [4] According as he chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love: [5] Having set boundaries for us unto the graduation as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of his desirous will, [6] To the praise of the glory of his grace, from which He has graced us in the Beloved.*

[7] *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of his grace*"

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1. The Christians in Ephesus were _____
_____ in Christ Jesus. v. 1
2. He has _____ us with _____
_____ in the
heavenlies in Christ Jesus. v. 3
3. He _____ us in Christ, to be
_____ and _____. v. 4
4. In Christ Jesus, we have _____,
which is the _____ of our offenses. v. 7

Number 2 is very important. The word “bless” and “blessings” means “to say _____”. Because you and I are in Christ, God the Father says good words about us there. That’s because in Christ we are _____. We don’t deserve God to say those good things about us, but He does! What are those good things? There are two in verse 4, we are _____ and without _____ before God. That is certainly grace! In verse 7, He says we have _____, which means that He _____ [or _____] the _____ we owed, so now He can say we are _____.

Grace not Law - Probably the hardest idea for us to learn is that since we are under God’s grace, we aren’t under law anymore. We find in the Bible and our experience certainly backs this up, that one of our problems is that our human nature has been affected by sin and is corrupted. The Bible calls this the flesh or “the sin”. We sometimes call it the sin nature. Everyone has one. We were born into the world with one. Because of God’s grace, we don’t have to do everything our sin nature wants us to do. In Romans 6:2&3 we find out something else God says about us in Christ, “*We who died to the sin, how shall we yet live in it, or don’t you know that as many of us as were put into Christ Jesus, we were put into His death.*” In some of your Bibles you find the word “baptize” which simply means to “put into” and is not referring to any water here but rather, what we saw in Ephesians 1, that God put us in Christ when we believed. Remember the first part of the gospel, “Christ _____ for our sins”. He suffered and He died, but by God’s grace, He says we _____ with Christ. Now that is great grace! Later in verse 11, Paul tells us to “*Logically count yourselves to be dead to the sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus*”. God

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logically says it’s true and so we should think it! We should logically count it to be so! This is how God gives us victory over the flesh or sin nature. Then in verse 14, we find “*for sin shall not be a lord over you, for you are not under law but under grace*”.

The sin is not to be a _____ over you. That means it isn’t your boss anymore. It can’t tell you what to do. You are not under _____. You are under _____, because we are graced in Christ. And as we have seen right here in Romans 6, one of the ways God graced us was by saying that we _____ to sin in Christ and that we are _____ to God in Christ.

This gracious position in Christ is referred to in Hebrews 4:16. Can you find what Paul calls it? “*Therefore, let us come boldly to the throne of grace, in order that we might receive mercy and we might find well-timed grace for a cry for help.*” _____.

Read verses 9-10, “*Therefore, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one entering into His rest, he also ceases from his works, just as God from His own works.*” At that throne of grace, we can _____. To rest means we cease from our _____.

This is not a weekly sabbath, or a cessation of our physical labor. This is a spiritual rest. When we understand that we’ve been graced in Christ, we can stop trying to gain favor with God. We stop trying to earn a position with God. God has already said _____ good things about us in Christ in the heavenlies! What else could we get?! Maybe this week, if you’ve never done so before, you will start thinking these things that God says. Maybe you can start enjoying some of the benefits of knowing that we are “graced in Christ” - the One Who is Loved.

CAN ADD COLOSSIANS 2:11-14, 20 - WE DIED TO THE ELEMENTS OF THE WORLD SYSTEM.

ROMANS 8:1 - SINCE WE DIED TO THE SIN NATURE, AND SINCE THE SIN NATURE WAS THE REASON FOR OUR CONDEMNATION (ROMANS 5:15, 16, 18) WE ARE NOT CONDEMNED IN CHRIST.

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in that promise, that if I do “think” about what God says about me in Christ, I can do certain things. So, we find in Romans 5:2-4, “[2] *through Whom [Jesus Christ] we have the access by the faith because of (in view of) this grace, in which we stand and we boast upon hope consisting of the glory of God. [3] But not only, but we also boast in pressure, knowing that the pressure produces patience, [4] but the patience approval, but the approval hope, but the hope does not shame, because the love of God is gushed out in our hearts...*” Now there is a reason to enjoy access because of grace.

- We can boast in _____. v. 3 [Tribulation means severe pressure]
- Pressure produces _____. v. 3
- Patience produces _____. v. 4
- Approval produces _____. v. 4
- This refers to verse 2, we boast in the hope of God’s _____.

You see, anyone can boast about success in great things, but Christians can face real pressure. When we “think” about being in Christ, where we are “graced” God gives us the strength to keep on keeping on under that pressure. When we keep on keeping on by the power from God’s grace, that results in approved character. And approved character results in hope concerning God’s glory, that God can indeed do what He has promised me He will do. He will complete my salvation. He will do this for every believer, but the one who faces pressure by God’s power really has hope in what God, because he’s had a little taste of what is to come.

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Grace for Living part 2 - 2 Timothy 2:1 Study 3
Let’s review.

- Who is the gospel about? _____.
- What did He do for your salvation? _____.
- _____.
- _____.
- _____.
- How must an unsaved person respond to that gospel in order to be saved? _____.
- Anything else? _____.
- If you have believed the gospel, *where* does God count or credit us to be? _____.
- In *whom* does the Father count us to be? _____.
- The apostle Paul says that in Christ Jesus we have been _____ (Ephesians 1:6).
- Can you think of some things God has graced us with in Christ? _____, _____, _____.

Grace provides power - If you remember, God’s grace is an attitude by which He provides or does for us that which we do not deserve. Many of these things are tied to our being **in Christ**. Power is one of those things which God provides for us by His grace. Look at the following scriptures and note where this strength is.

- 2 Timothy 2:1 “*Therefore, my loved child, be empowered by the grace in Christ Jesus*” _____.
- Philippians 4:13 “*I am endued with strength for all things, in the One empowering me - Christ*” _____.
- Ephesians 6:10 “*For the rest, be empowered in the Lord and by the manifest might from His endued strength.*” _____.

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So in each case, the strength is in _____.
According to 2 Timothy 2:1 this strength is available to us because of God's _____ which is in _____.
Where do I receive this strength? In my arms, legs and neck? Read Ephesians 3:16, "In order that He might give to you, according to the riches consisting of His glory, by power, to be manifestly mighty [displayed strength] through His Spirit, in the inner man." I am empowered in my position in Christ, by God's grace, through the work of the Holy Spirit and I receive that strength in _____.
What is the inner man? It's your mind, your spirit. 2 Corinthians 4:16-17. "Our outer man is perishing [breaking down] but our inner man is renewed day by day. For our present lightness consisting of pressure is working for us an exceeding weight of glory." Our outer man is our _____. It is _____. Our inner man is _____. So God gives us mental strength to keep it together. Paul was able to call the pressure he experienced _____ but it is also producing an eternal _____ of glory. You and I, like Paul are able to keep on keeping on, not by our own grit and determination but by God's inner strength and it all goes back to our position in _____, where God had graced us. This is important because if you think about it, your spiritual life really takes place in the mind. You can be a powerful witness and spiritual person even when your physical body is very sick, maimed or injured. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 "And by the abundance of revelations, in order that I should not lift myself up, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger from Satan, in order that it might beat me up, in order that I should not lift myself up. Concerning this, three times I asked the Lord that it [the thorn] might leave me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will gladly boast in my weakness in order that the power of Christ might dwell upon me. Wherefore, I think it is good in my weaknesses, in arrogant insults, in necessities, in persecutions, in tight places on behalf of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then I am strong." God's grace is _____. When we are weak and must depend upon God's grace then we are really _____. We should always depend upon God, but sometimes, we rely upon our own efforts and strength. It is good for us to have times of weakness to remind us to always depend upon God for this strength. How do we get this strength? We are to think about being in _____. We are to remind ourselves that we have been _____ in _____.

ἵνα ἡμεῖς ἐνδεδειχθῶμεν ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῇ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

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In Colossians 1:9-11, Paul expressed his wish for the Colossians to know God's will in verse 9 made possible by an empowerment in verse 11. "being empowered by means of all power according to [measured by] the manifest might [show of strength] consisting of His glory unto all patience and longsuffering with joy." The goal of being empowered is a display or manifestation of strength. In verse 10 we find the activities of the believer that make this empowerment necessary. "that you walk worthy of the Lord in all things pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the full experiential knowledge of God."

- 1. We might _____.
- 2. We can bear _____.
- 3. We can increase _____.

None of this would be possible without this empowerment in your mind [inner man]. You and I just could not do it!

Then look at the end of verse 11. This empowerment makes it possible for us to have _____ along with longsuffering and joy. Patience is a mental quality. It is the maintaining of proper character or attitude while remaining under an adverse circumstance. To have patience, you need power. But you don't need power in your body but in your _____ which is your _____, because patience is mental.

Let's read again Philipians 4:13 but this time we'll include verses 11-12. "Not that I speak according to a lack, for I have learned in which I am, to be content. For I know how to be humble, and I know how to abound. In all things and in all ways I have been taught to be full and hunger, to abound and to lack. I am endued with strength for all things in the One strengthening me - Christ." In this context, what does the empowerment in Christ make possible for Paul? _____.

Grace accessed by Faith - In our New Testament, we find things God does by His grace to and for us in Christ over 100 times. That shows how important this truth is. How am I to relate to all this? Previously, we learned that **faith** makes things I hope for and for which I can find no concrete evidence, real! Not just anything I hope for, but those things God tells me in the Bible, things He has promised to you and I. Now, I can't see "grace." I can't even see myself "in Christ," But God tells me that I can enjoy certain benefits because He counts me to be in Christ Jesus. Since I have God's promise and I can't see it, I have to have faith

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of your faith the salvation of your souls.” The “revelation” refers to Christ being unveiled or revealed to us. Remember John’s words, “when we see Him as He is” that is about which Peter is writing. So when our faith is completed when Christ is revealed, our _____ will be saved.

Now, we’ve implied that this it is grace that God finishes this salvation. But the Bible does specifically state this! We find in 1 Peter 1:13, “Wherefore, binding up the loins consisting of our thoughts, being clear headed, hope completely on the grace being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” Peter draws a word picture for us with “binding up the loins...” This is a picture of putting on a leather girdle. This girdle was not put on for vanity, that is, to look nice. Romans soldiers wore these girdles to maintain strength when they were under pressure. These christians were under pressure and they needed a girdle but not a physical girdle but one for their thoughts. This girdle involved hoping upon the _____ that was being brought to them. These believers needed to remember that when our Savior comes, He will bring grace with Him. I don’t deserve for Him to change by humble body like to His _____ body. I don’t deserve to always be with _____. I don’t deserve that God should _____ me for my works and choices. I don’t deserve that my Savior should present me as part of the glorious church _____ and without _____. I don’t deserve that He should _____ the work which He began in me. I didn’t deserve the work He began. I don’t deserve the work He is doing. I won’t deserve the work He will complete. That’s why Peter can write to these christians to _____ upon the _____ which is being brought to them.

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Grace for Finishing - 1 Peter 1:11 Study 4

We have seen that we were saved by grace at the moment we believed in Jesus Christ through the gospel. We have also seen that our present way of life is by the grace from God. Now we will see that our salvation will be finished by grace.

Review -

“Gospel” means - _____

Who is the gospel about? _____

What does the gospel tell us that He did?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What must a person do to be saved? _____

What must a person not do to be saved? _____

So, we are saved by _____

When a person believes the gospel, he is put into _____ . God the Father _____

him in Christ “the One Who is loved.” The believer can access this grace by _____ . He receives

_____ by this grace which is in Christ. He receives this strength in the _____ which is his _____ .

Our salvation is not yet finished. We all suffer aches and pains. There are things we simply can not do because we do not yet have all of our salvation which God has promised for us. We do have all spiritual _____ in the heavenlies. But we are waiting for the time that those good words which God says about us become absolutely true. We are waiting for the day that God not only logically counts us to be in heaven but we truly are in heaven. Paul wrote in Philippians 3:20-21, “For our citizenship exists in heavens out of which we are eagerly awaiting the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our humble body, that it will be conformed to His glorious body...” Paul calls our present body _____

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἡν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεξοποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

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which means “low.” Our present bodies are limited. We are _____ the Savior who will change the body to be like _____ body. Note, that Paul does not say that some of us will be changed. All who have believed in Jesus Christ as their Savior will be changed. John wrote about 30 years later, “Loved ones, now we are God’s children and it is not yet plainly visible what we will be. We know that whenever He is plainly visible, we will be like Him, because we will see Him for ourselves, even as He is.” (1 John 3:2). We don’t see Jesus Christ right now. Peter wrote, “Whom, having not seen, you love...” (1 Peter 1:8). But John wrote that we will see Him someday. There is a day coming when He will be plainly visible to all of us. We will see Him as he truly is. What happens to us then? _____ . He’s writing about seeing “Jesus” which is the title of His human nature. Therefore, John is not saying that we will become God or even little gods. We become like Jesus’ human nature. He is God, but it will be His “glorious body” that we will see and our _____ bodies will be changed like His _____ body. His body belongs to His human nature not His “God” nature. “Because the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of an archangel and with a trumpet of God, and the dead ones in Christ will rise first, then we the living ones, the ones remaining here on earth will be snatched together with them in clouds to a meeting with the Lord in the air, and in this way, we will always be with the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). We won’t be changed and stay here. We will be _____ to be with the _____. In fact from that time on, we will _____ be with the Lord. On our way to heaven, Jesus will judge all our works. These “works” can not be our sins or bad things, because we saw in our second study that our sins were forgiven which means “sent away”. These works are the things we do for God. They are our “good works”. Jesus will judge the nature of those works. “So that, you do not judge anything before that time, until whenever the Lord comes, who will both shed light on the hidden things of darkness and will make plainly visible the choices of the hearts. And then, there will be praise from God for each one.” (1 Corinthians 4:5). “Good works” which no one here ever saw, will be seen. Then _____ one will receive _____

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδεδειχῆται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπιερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τοῦ χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ’ ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῇ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

8 (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

from God. That’s pretty amazing. That’s grace that God would give praise to any of us! Then the Bible states that Jesus Christ is the One who is responsible for the Church being perfect. “That He might present it [the church] to Himself a glorious church, not having a spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:27). Because of Christ, not because of you and I, the church will be _____ and _____. That again is grace! Let’s read Philippians 1:6, “being confident of this same thing, that the One having begun in you a good work, will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Who will complete our salvation? _____. Do you see again how God works by grace? Salvation is God’s work. God started it by sending His Son. God provided it freely by grace through faith. God is giving us a place in Christ by grace. God will finish our salvation. You and I are more than a body. We read in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, “Now, may the God of peace Himself sanctify [set apart] you completely and may you whole spirit, soul and body be guarded blamelessly in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” You and I have three key parts which make us a human being. We have a _____, a _____, and a _____. The spirit is that part with which you think. The soul is that part with which you “feel”, it is the center of your senses and emotions. You know what your body is. When you were saved by _____ in Jesus Christ as He is described in the _____, one part of those three was saved. We already know that your body is waiting the finishing of your salvation. Read the following passages then determine what part was saved? John 3:6 “... that being born from the Spirit is spirit.”; Ephesians 4:23 “to be renewed by the spirit of your mind”; 1 Corinthians 6:17 “But the one being joined to the Lord is one spirit.” So what part is saved? _____. That means that our souls are not yet saved. Our emotions are not dependable. Our senses can be deceived. 1 Peter 1:7, 9 “In order that the approval of your faith, much more precious than gold which is perishing, though it is proved through fire, it might be found to the praise and honor and glory in the revelation of Jesus Christ. [v. 9] obtaining for yourselves the completion

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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us to a life which is consistent with that gracious position we have in Christ. What is consistent? Let's look back in Titus 2 and see that grace also trains us to live -

2:12 - _____ - This Greek word does not mean "not drunk." It means "to think about salvation" or to be sensible. Grace teaches us to live thinking about our salvation.

2:12 - _____ - This means to do what is right.

2:12 - _____ - This is a life which shows God's life and therefore honors God.

2:13 - _____ the appearing of our Savior. This is His coming to take His Church home to heaven. This agrees with 1 Peter 1:13, we look for His coming, we want to see Him. When He comes, He will come bring more grace.

This is how grace trains us. It points us to God's work for us so that it positively encourages a way of life which is consistent with all God has already given us. That's _____.

Do you see how God works in our lives by grace? He motivates us to consider what He has already done for us, especially what He has graced us with in Christ. God does not usually threaten us, or motivate us by holding out additional blessings. God points us to what He has already done. In this way, God's grace teaches us.

ἵνα ἐνδείξηται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

9

(by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

More Grace for living - Growing by Grace Study 5

Now there is one last area that is closely related to this empowerment and that is growth. God wants us to grow spiritually. Spiritual growth involves discernment, being capable of facing greater challenges or adversity and ultimately of knowing how to depend upon God more consistently or regularly. In 2 Peter 3:18 we find "Grow by the grace and experiential knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." How does a believer grow? _____ and _____

Peter wrote much about grace but much of it is hidden because of the way in which our English Bibles are translated. Let's look at 1 Peter and see what he has to say about grace. You will need a Bible

1:2 - Grace is _____.

1:10 - The _____ wrote about the grace for our future.

1:13 - Christ will bring grace to us at His _____ [the Rapture]. (We saw this last time).

2:19 - It is grace [thanks] when we wrongly endure _____ because of our _____.

2:20 - If you are suffering for _____ this is grace with God. Note that these last two are related to grace that empowers doing good and having patience.

3:7 - Believing spouses are _____ of grace consisting of _____. (This is spiritual life. All believers receive the same)

4:10 - We are to be good _____ of God's multi-faceted grace by using our gift for others. (A manager)

5:5 - God gives grace to the _____. The humble knows he needs God, always!

5:10 - God is the God of _____ grace! Why does he say all? Because it provides power for hardship as in 2:19, 20, a spiritual gift in 4:10, and will come at the Rapture in 1:13. It is not for just "good" things!

5:12 - This kind of grace is the _____ grace of God. We _____ in it! (Remember Romans 5:1-5)

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

Grace not law

When parents think about growth we often think about our children. Well, you and I are God’s children. We read in 1 John 3:1, “Behold, what unique sort of love the Father has given to us, in order that we should be called the children of God, and we are.” We are not only called God’s children, we _____ God’s children. Since we are God’s children, God will raise us as His children. Grace is an important part of how God raises. Titus 2:11-13 “[11] For the grace from God has appeared, saving to all men, [12] child training us [or raising us as children], in order that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we might live soberly, righteously and godly in this present age, [13] while eagerly expecting the happy hope even appearing of the glory of the great God even our Savior Jesus Christ”

Let’s look at this verse carefully.

2:11 - The grace has _____. What does Paul mean, “has appeared”? Only since the day of Pentecost, has God used His grace to govern the lives of His people. From the time Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the Law, God governed His people Israel, by the Law. Read John 1:17 “Because the law was given through Moses, the grace and the truth came to be through Jesus Christ.”

God _____ the Law through _____. The grace _____ through Jesus Christ. Note the difference. Moses didn’t give the Law, it was given through him. But the grace, as we know it now, came into existence through Jesus Christ.

God didn’t give the law through Moses until Moses was about 80 years old. It didn’t come at his birth. Likewise, the grace didn’t come into being when Christ was born, but after He had died on the cross, arose, and returned to heaven.

Everyone who has been saved in the history of the world, was saved by grace. Both John and Paul are writing about the grace by which we live our daily lives. This grace is in contrast to the law that was given through Moses.

2:11 - The grace is _____ to all men. God has extended His grace toward all men. Though all men may not believe the gospel, and therefore remain unsaved, God has provided for their salvation. If they remain judged, it’s their fault, not God’s. Grace has always been the basis of salvation. But Paul will now explain how

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But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

that grace for salvation is also extended for our daily lives. This is the aspect of grace that has appeared.

2:12 - This grace is now _____

_____ us. It is raising us as _____. The remainder of this passage will explain what the grace is teaching us.

2:12 - To deny [_____] ungodliness and worldly lusts. Ungodliness is the kind of life that does not reflect God’s kind of life and therefore does not honor Him. Worldly lusts describe the misuse of what God has provided for us. God has given us many things in salvation, but He has also explained that there is a certain way to use the benefits. When we misuse them, such as loving the world instead of loving God and His family, we are _____ that love.

How does grace train us as children to say, “No” to these things? Grace points us to benefits which God has already given. Contrast this to law for just a moment. Read Deuteronomy 4:1 & 8:1 - If you would _____ you could _____. Deuteronomy 28:1-2 - If you wanted the blessings, you had to _____ the law. Deuteronomy 28:15ff - If you didn’t _____ then the _____ would come upon you. That’s the way law works. As a result, we find in Hebrews 7:19 that “the law made nothing _____ [that is _____]”

Let’s contrast this to how grace trains us. According to Ephesians 1:3, we already have _____ spiritual blessings [_____] in the heavenlies. I don’t have to _____ to get them. But what grace then points me to is Ephesians 4:1 “Walk _____ of the calling with which you have been called.” Ephesians 4:32 “be kind to _____ ... as God in _____ has been gracious with you.” Ephesians 5:1-2 “Therefore, be _____ of God as loved children; walk in _____ as Christ has _____ you,” Ephesians 5:7-8 “Therefore, do not be partakers with them; for you _____ darkness but _____ you are light in the Lord. _____ as children of light.” Do you see the difference. We aren’t earning blessings or fearing curses. Rather, God has already given us all blessings in Christ. Now, God is calling

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in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλοῦσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἣν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεξωποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

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σεσφσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ἑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδεξιότητι ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερέκλειστον χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

11 (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

Hidden Grace Study 6

Our Bibles were not written in English but in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. We have English Bibles because people have translated copies of the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek into English. But whenever a person translates something from one language to another, he does so with his understanding of what he is translating. Sometimes a literal translation doesn't seem to make sense at first. **Grace** has been affected like this. Sometimes the simple translation "grace" is easy to understand. But at times the Greek word *charis* - grace, has been hidden from the English reader [probably not by intention] by an attempt to make sense of a passage with a word that seemed to the translator to be the intended meaning of the author.

Recall, **grace** is God's attitude by which He imparts to us that which we do not _____. In the following verses, the New Testament writers used the word *charis*, meaning grace as we have been studying it. This study will only consider "grace" as given from God to us. You will probably see that this word is commonly translated "thanks" or something similar. This is because the word "thanks" translates the Greek word *eucharistia* which is literally "good grace". When a person says, "thanks", he is expressing recognition of the good grace another has shown him. However, by translating *charis* thanks, it makes it more difficult to see the connection with God's grace intended by the writer.

In this study you will need a Bible. Following each Scripture reference is a literal rendering of the phrase with the word grace correctly translated. Find the phrase in your Bible. Then read the context of the phrase and in that context, identify the undeserved benefit of the grace.
Romans 6:17 "But grace is by God,"

Romans 7:25 "Grace is by God through our Lord Jesus Christ ..."

1 Corinthians 15:57 "But grace is by God..."

2 Corinthians 2:14 "But grace is by God..."

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεξωποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

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2 Corinthians 8:16 “But grace is by God...”

2 Corinthians 9:15 “Grace is by God...”

1 Timothy 1:12-14 “I have grace in the One empowering me Christ Jesus...”

2 Timothy 1:3-5 “I have grace by God...”

1 Peter 2:19 “For this is grace if on account of conscience...”

1 Peter 2:20 “...this is grace with God.”

Now we want to look at some verb forms of the word grace which are hidden. [A verb is an action word or state of being]. There are two Greek verbs from *charis*. The first is *charitao* and the second is *charizomai*. The first is translated highly graced in Luke 1:28. It also occurs in

Ephesians 1:6 “...from which He graced us in the Love One”

The second word is most commonly translated by a variation of “forgive” or a variation of “give”. This is part of the meaning but does not do justice to the depth of this word. It literally means to deal with graciously, and therefore forgiveness may comprise some of that gracious dealing.

Romans 8:32 “and with Him graciously *give* us all things.”

1 Corinthians 2:12 “the things graciously *given* to us

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ἑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδεδειγμένως τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χάριτι ἀγαπᾷ ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

12 (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*

Ephesians 4:32 [This is an important text] “being gracious with yourselves, even as God also dealt graciously with you in Christ”

Philippians 1:29 “For it has been graciously *given* to you...”

Philippians 2:9 “and graciously *gave* Him ...”

Colossians 2:13 “...dealt graciously with you, all your trespasses”

Colossians 3:13 “...dealing graciously with yourselves...”

Philemon 22 “that through your worship, I shall be dealt with graciously by you all”

Does understanding these passages as referring to grace open them up and expand their depth? Can you see the additional benefits of God’s grace for us? What a privilege to be the recipients of God’s grace.

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in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλουσίως ὦν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεξωποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

ἵνα ἐνδεξιῶν ἡμῶν ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερέκλειστον χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

Are You A Son? Study 7

You might think the answer to that question is based on your sex. However, the Bible has something different to say about being a son. 2,000 years separate us from the time the New Testament was written. The Jews graduated their male children to the status of sons, “Today, I am a man.” in the bar mitzvah [bar - son and mitzvah - commandment]. The Romans held a similar ceremony for their boys known as the toga ceremony in which the young removed their clothes of childhood and were given a toga, the clothing of sonship or adulthood. In both cultures this happened at about age 13, though the exact age was decided by the youth’s father.

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul used this familiar tradition to explain the believer’s present status and his relationship to the Mosaic Law. In Galatians 3:26 we find that all who are believers are _____ in Christ. The Galatians were Gentiles. Their tradition of graduating a male child to the status of son took place in the _____ ceremony. The believer who had been placed into Christ has _____ Christ (Galatians 3:27). Christ Himself functions as our toga of maturity. Because we are in Him God counts us to be wearing Him as our adult clothes. Paul was a Jew before he personally believed in Jesus Christ. In chapter four he explained what God had to do for the Jewish believers so that they might also be sons in Christ. He illustrated this from the both the Jewish and Roman traditions.

Galatians 4:1 The _____, while he was a child, didn’t differ from a _____ even if he was _____.

4:2 - He remained under the authority of _____ and _____ until the time which his father decided.

4:3 - The “we” was the Jews, which Paul uses to illustrate this. When they were babes, they were under the basic elementary rules of the _____ and were _____.

4:4 - God sent the Son to born under the _____ [the Mosaic _____], of which the Ten _____ were a summary].

4:5 - The Son _____ the Jewish believers from being under the Law. The idea of redeeming meant to pay a price in order to remove. Christ paid to remove the Jewish believer from living under the _____. He did this so they could be placed as _____. The Greek word “adoption” was not strictly used in the same manner which

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in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἣν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεξοποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

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we use it in English. In English, adoption is legal process of making another’s biological child one’s own legal child. However, the Romans also used this word to describe the act of graduating one’s own child to the status of son and the Greek word meant literally “son placement.” By God the Son paying the price, He was able to remove the Jewish believers so that they could be sons in Christ.

4:6 - The Holy Spirit has been sent into the hearts of believers crying “_____” an Aramaic word like our “daddy.”

Therefore, it doesn’t make any difference whether you are a male or female. Every one who believes in Jesus Christ as His Savior Who died for his sins, was buried and rose again, he is in Christ. Everyone who is in Christ is a son.

4:7 - Since one is a son, he is no longer a _____.

4:8 - In the past we didn’t _____. At that time we also were _____ to those things which were not really _____.

4:9 - Then we came to _____ God [or rather to be _____ by God]. Paul wanted to know how they could turn back to the _____. Paul used the same word for “basic elements” as in verse 3.

4:10 - How were they living like slaves? They were keeping _____, _____ and _____. These were special religious holidays of both the Jewish Law and Roman religion.

How can one live like a son?

Everyone who is in Christ is a son. Nothing can change that. One may be a son in Christ, however, and not live like a son. It is possible for the believer to live like a son.

Children need rules. Look back at Galatians 4:1-3. When one is a child he is under the authority of other people. When one is a child, he lives under the basic elements of the world (v. 3).

Believers are not little children any more but are sons.

A son is one who is mature in the family. He doesn’t live by the rules by which a child lives. How is this possible. Does he simply do whatever he wishes? No. God has a better way for him to live his life.

Romans 8:14 - Those who are being _____ are sons. Rather than a set of rules, the Spirit leads these kind of people. How can one be led by the Spirit? Romans 8:4-6 - He is to _____ by the Spirit. Paul did not use “walk”

ἵνα ἐνδεδίχηται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπιερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

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literally of taking footsteps. He used walk to describe how one lives his life. In verse 5 Paul explained that walking involves how one thinks. The word “mind” or “thinks” describes how one places certain facts in his mind to adjust his attitude so that he can think and act properly. “Flesh” is the fallen, perverted nature inside of every human that does not want to do God’s will. The believer can choose to put facts in his mind which the Spirit has for him or facts from the _____. When one has an attitude which comes from the flesh, its is _____. Paul meant that the individual is still living like he did before he believed the gospel. On the other hand, the attitude which comes from the Spirit is _____ and _____.

Therefore, one can live like a son by _____

Paul used this same language of being led back in his letter to the Galatians. In 5:18 he wrote that those who are _____ by the Spirit, they are under _____. They don’t need a law. What law could be given to them. Read verses 22-23. Note the final words of verse 23. We can interpret this passage that the fruit comes from the _____ and there is no _____ against the fruit. If one is walking, living, thinking, or being led by the Spirit, why would he need a law? He doesn’t. We are sons **in Christ** and we can **live like sons** when we remember that we are and think like sons **in Christ**.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

Are You A Priest? Study 8

In the Old Testament, the word *cohen* [כהן] is translated “priest”. It describes one who stands between, that is, one who stands between God and other people. He represents those other people before God. When God gave the Nation Israel the Law through Moses, the Ten Commandments, God established a priesthood. God chose one family from among the twelve families of Israel and then the family of Aaron within that family to serve Him as priests (Exodus 28:1). For the next 1,500 years only men from the family of Aaron, between the ages of 30 and 60, could serve as priests. That meant that only they could come near to God (Numbers 1:51; 18:7).

All this changed with Christ’s death in our place for our sins and His resurrection. When you believed that good news you were placed into _____ (Galatians 3:26). You were placed into Him by faith, or in response to your faith. Your part was to believe the good news that Christ died for your sins, was buried and rose again [He’s alive!] and nothing else!

Read Ephesians 2:19-22. “Verse 19 You are no longer _____ and _____ but you are _____ of the saints and the _____ of God. Verse 20 You are being _____ upon the foundation which was laid by the apostles and prophets [New Testament believers in the 1st Century], Jesus Christ Himself is the _____ - _____. Verse 21 In Whom [see, this is about being in Christ] all the building, being neatly put together, grows into a _____ in the _____. Verse 22 In Whom [still about being in Christ] all _____ [so that would be _____] are _____ into a _____ of God by the Spirit [Since the Holy Spirit puts you into Christ, He is doing the building, putting each believer in His place].”

Now read 1 Peter 2:4-5. “Verse 4 Facing Whom, you are approaching a _____, [That’s Christ] Who was on the one hand rejected by _____ [He was rejected at the cross] but on the other hand was chosen precious by _____.

Verse 5 And you are being built as _____ a spiritual _____, into a holy _____

to offer spiritual _____ which are well received by God through Jesus Christ.”

When these two passages are compared, we find that both Paul and Peter use the metaphor of all believers forming a _____ [a place where one lives] or a _____ [a place where God meets with men]. We have previously studied another metaphor that all believers form the body of Christ. This is another way of looking at being in Christ. In the Ephesians passage, Paul uses two phrases to tell us where this building or temple exists. Verse 21 In _____ and in the _____ and then in verse 22 in _____. In 1 Peter 2:5 Peter specifically calls all of us “a holy _____”. Do you see that, all of us are priests. We don’t have a priesthood, we are a priesthood. In this same verse, Peter wrote what we do as priests, _____.

If you have believed in Jesus Christ as your Savior and are trusting in nothing else for your salvation, then you are in Christ and in Him you are a priest. If that’s the case and you can offer spiritual sacrifices to God, what are those sacrifices?

Jewish priests killed and bled animals. They burned the animals’ bodies, fat and hair on an altar. They burned grains, oils and fruits on the altar. It was a smelly, dirty job but it was theirs. You’re a priest but your service is different than Old Testament priests.

The apostle Paul described six sacrifices which you can offer. Romans 12:1 - _____ . You don’t kill yourself, you get to live for God. Why should you present you body to God? 1 Corinthians 6:20 _____.

Philippians 4:15, 18 - _____ . Other believers have needs. You can serve God by giving to those needs. When you give, you should do so _____ (2 Corinthians 9:7) not as a

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ἵνα ἐνδεδίχηται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπιερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ’ ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῇ γὰρ χάριτι ἐστε

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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tax [tithe] or somebody pushing you to do so. God calls that _____ (v. 8).

Hebrews 13:15 _____
_____. Paul told us was “praise” is. Some Bibles have “giving thanks to His name” which literally is translated “confessing His name.” Confessing means “saying the same thing” or “agreeing”. You praise God by saying what He says about Himself [His name]. You agree with God about His character: “You are righteous! You are good! You are holy! You are Love! You are all-powerful! You are all-knowing! You are truth! You are eternal! You are unchanging! Praise usually does this because it sees a benefit connected to part of God’s nature. “You gave me shelter and food to eat because You are good!”

Two sacrifices are mentioned in the next passage.

Hebrews 13:16 - _____
_____. God gives you many opportunities to serve others. Galatians 6:10 tells you that you should do good to _____ but especially those who _____. You should give special attention to helping and serving other believers but you can also help those who aren’t believers.

Hebrews 13:16 - _____
_____. Fellowship means to “share in common.” You can do that by enjoying prayer or God’s Word with another believer. You can do that by living out your Christian life with other believers. You can do that by sharing what God has given you with other believers.

Philippians 2:17 - _____
_____. Read 2 Corinthians 5:7. God wants you to live by _____ not by _____. When you know what God wants you to do for other believers, you should direct faith at that work and do it even if your sight would tell you not to help or serve. Perhaps your afraid or uncertain of your ability. That’s why you can use faith. God

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδεξιότηται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ’ ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

16 (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

calls this a sacrifice. Paul was in prison and would do whatever was necessary for the Philippians to continue growing spiritually.

Now, you know you’re a priest in Christ. You know you have some spiritual sacrifices you can offer. Why don’t you operate in Christ and offer a sacrifice today. Look for opportunities God might be giving you and live out your priesthood.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

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Oneness in Christ Study 8

What are some reasons for conflicts and divisions among people?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Even Christians can have problems getting along with other Christians. Sometimes the same divisions and conflicts which plague unbelievers in the world are a problem for believers. God has done something to remove the bases of these conflicts. However this only works for believers because it is only true of believers.

Let's Review the Gospel

The gospel means _____ and it is about _____.

What did Jesus Christ do?

He _____, was _____, and _____.

Why is that good news?

He did everything necessary for you to be saved. All you have to do is _____.

So what has He done about these conflicts with people. He's removed the differences.

Let's look at Ephesians 2. In the church in the city of Ephesus there were some conflicts between believers who had been born Jews and some who had been born Gentiles [a non-Jew]. In the following verses Paul explained why Gentile Christians are not second-class Christians.

v. 11 - We [Gentiles] were previously called _____ by the _____. This was the physical difference between the Jews and the Gentiles.

v. 12 - We were without _____. We were separated from from the politics of _____ (they had the promises then). We

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were strangers from the _____. A covenant was a solemn agreement, like a contract, used to make promises. God hadn't been making any covenants with Gentiles but only with the Jews. So, we didn't have _____. We were _____.

v. 13 - Now, we are _____ in _____! We had been _____. How near are we? Verse 6 states that we are _____ in Christ. Where is Christ sitting? _____ (Colossians 3:1).

v. 14 - Christ is our _____. He has made the Jewish believers and the Gentile believers into _____. He removed the wall that divided the Jew and Gentiles. That wall was the _____ (v. 15).

v. 15 - He created all these believers into _____. This is how He made peace. He put them altogether in one body. The Body refers to all Christians together in Christ. Christ's body is the _____ (1:22-23).

v. 16 - he reconciled (_____) for the two in _____. He did this by His work on the _____. The cross refers to His death and means that His death made it possible for us to not only have peace with God but with other believers.

Galatians 3:28 Now that we are in Him, there is no _____ or _____ no _____ or _____ no _____ or _____ We (only believers are all _____ in Christ. cp Colossians 3:11

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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Oneness in Christ Study 9

What are some reasons that conflicts and divisions among people exist?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Even Christians can have problems getting along with other Christians. Sometimes the same divisions and conflicts which plague unbelievers in the world are a problem for believers. God has done something to remove the bases of these conflicts. However this only works for believers because it is only true of believers.

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The gospel means _____ and it is about _____.

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He _____, was _____, and _____.

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v. 13 - Now, we are _____ in _____! We had been _____. How near are we? Verse 6 states that we are _____ in Christ.

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no _____ or _____

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Anyone who claims this is cheap grace is demeaning Christ’s work. He did it all. He paid the price with His life. He paid the price on a Roman cross. That is why it is grace to me. It cost Him everything. It costs me nothing. That is God’s grace!

*One of the first individuals to call this cheap grace was a man who denied the deity of Christ and the bodily resurrection of Christ. To this man it was cheap because he was still working on a merit system. He didn’t understand who Jesus Christ is or what He had done.

ἵνα ἐνδείξηται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπιεικόμενοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ’ ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

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Defining God’s Grace - Study 1

The following acrostic is sometimes used to help define God’s grace:

God’s
Riches
At
Christ’s
Expense

This isn’t a bad definition, but we want to see how Scripture defines grace. The Hebrew word *chen* [ken] is sometimes translated grace. It was a word representing a _____ or a _____. The New Testament Greek word *charis* [χαρις] derives from the Greek word for _____. It was a greeting in New Testament times, wishing someone joy for their day as a gift.

Words change over time and so did the word “grace” [*charis*] was not a special word when the Church began, but God changed that. The first Biblical occurrence of the Hebrew word grace is in Genesis 6:8, “Noah _____ grace in the eyes of the Lord.” He was a _____ man and his genealogy was _____. Noah’s character traits elicited God’s favor. The same is seen in the Greek *charis*. Jesus submitted to His parents (Luke 2:51) and grew physically, mentally and **in grace with God and men** (52). He exhibited character which caused others to show Him favor or grace. When the Church began, the character of the people was such that they had favor with all people (Acts 2:47). This was true of Moses with Pharaoh, and David with God (Acts 7:10, 46). In each instance, one merited favor by some attitude or activity.

God altered the emphasis of the word grace. It now emphasizes favor shown _____. Grace doesn’t care if one _____ or _____. Romans 11:6, “Now, if *it is* by grace, *it is* no longer from works, since then, grace would no longer be grace.” This is redefinition. Grace is now unmerited, or without regard to merit. God’s provision from grace is

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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contrasted to a provision from works. Philippians 2:9 illustrates a gift given without regard to merit. Christ Jesus' submitted to the Father's will. So, the Father lifted Him up in response to _____. The Father also "_____ Him a name above every name ..." Did He merit that name? _____. God just gave it as a _____. Here is the idea of grace redefined, _____.

Since grace now excludes the idea of merit or work, it also excludes the idea of _____. Law is a _____. Moses said, "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you will listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day; and the curse, if you will not listen to the commandments of the LORD your God," (Deuteronomy 11:26-28a). God would _____ Israel for _____. That is merit. They could also merit _____ for _____. That is law. Since grace is not a merit system at all, there is no grace in law.

God displayed grace to people who lived under His law. David knew that God had declared him righteous _____ (Romans 4:6-8; Psalm 31:1f). However, this was in spite of the law.

Grace is an _____. When the Scriptures speak of God's grace, they are describing God's _____ by which He chooses to not consider whether a person _____. God graciously gave _____, so we might know some of His plans for us (1 Corinthians 2:9, 12). Do we deserve that revelation? _____. God has provided each believer a _____ for serving in the body of Christ. That gift is from God's grace (Ephesians 4:7). Do we deserve the privilege of serving in the body? _____. God provides us benefits by His grace.

Somethings don't mix. Hot and cold, oil and water, grace and law. Sometimes two people can't cooperate? One walks into a room

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and the other leaves. That's grace and law. If it is grace, then it isn't _____. If it's law, then it isn't _____. We could also say, if it is merited, if it can be earned, if it can be deserved, then it isn't _____. Additionally, if it is grace then it is also _____. Galatians 2:21 says, "I don't set God's grace aside, for if righteousness is through law, then Christ died without merit." If they were able to merit righteousness on their own, then Christ's death had no merit. That would be pushing this grace from God aside, refusing it, saying we don't need it.

Some call this definition of grace, "cheap grace."* By cheap grace they mean that it costs us nothing, that it makes no demands upon us. However, isn't that exactly what Paul was saying about grace? Many Christians have this problem, we can't let go of our merit system.

What are some examples of Christian merit systems?

Yet, if that grace costs me something, then by definition, it ceases to be grace. Oh, don't get me wrong, grace costs something, but you and I don't get the bill. Our Savior Jesus Christ paid the bill and paid it in full.

What are some things Christ did to pay our bill?

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

— χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι — καὶ συνήγειρεν καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανοῖς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεξωποιοῖσεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

1. According to Romans 3:10, how many are righteous?
- 2.
- 3.
4. So how does one become righteous (Romans 4:5)?
- 5.
- 6.
7. Where does one become righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21)?
- 8.
- 9.
10. Who is the prince of the world (Ephesians 2:2)?
- 11.
- 12.
13. What kind of people are judged (John 3:18-19)?
- 14.
- 15.
16. What kind of people will not be judged (John 5:24)?
- 17.
- 18.
19. A person is lost because he or she doesn't know God. He or she doesn't believe in Jesus Christ as the Scriptures describe Him. He or she has no righteousness before God. The final state of one who is lost is that he or she will be judged. He or she will hear Jesus tell him to depart into the lake of fire, because He [Jesus] never knew him.
- 20.
21. But Jesus dealt with this terrible state of alienation from God and impending judgment. Our loving, merciful, righteous and gracious God has acted to save us from this condition. We now need to see how God's grace addresses this need.

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ἑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδείξηται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπιειχόμενοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

21 (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

Saved By Grace - Study 2

“For by grace are you saved through faith...” (Ephesians 2:8). If you are saved, I bet you know that verse, probably by heart. We’ve used that verse when presenting the gospel to the unsaved. We want them to know that they need to believe the gospel. We want them to know that believing is all they can do, that’s why God used the word grace. Indeed this verse does contribute to properly understanding how God saved us.

22. Learning about grace is really a family truth - _____. If a person isn't part of God's family, he or she will never understand grace because, only a family member _____ God's grace. For others it's just academic.

23. You get into God's family by believing that Jesus Christ is God; that He became man, died on a cross for your sins, was buried and rose again. That's called the good news or gospel. People who believe this are _____ and have _____. They know they can not do anything else to receive eternal life and be right with God.

List some things people try to do to be right with God?

The problem is these are a law system which works on _____, and Ephesians 2:8 said God saves by _____ which doesn't consider _____.

Who do some say that Jesus is?

The problem is that the Bible says Jesus is God and has become man. He is now both.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεζωοποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

— χάριτι ἔστε σεσωσμένοι — καὶ συνήγειρεν καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανοῖς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

If you think that your works can make you right with God or can help, or you think something different about Jesus than what the Bible teaches, you need to change your mind. This is called _____.

You don't need to know everything we are going to look at in this study, but you do need to know and believe the gospel which is stated simply in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, and He was raised the third day according to the Scriptures" If you do believe that, you've already begun to experience God's grace.

2.The Biblical Concept of "Lost"

1. We can better understand salvation by grace, if we understand what it means to be lost. You may not even know what the Bible means when it uses the word lost, so lets take a look. The New Testament word "lost" means "destruction, ruin, death" and a stronger form meant to "completely destroy" or to "completely ruin." Matthew 2:13 illustrates. What did Herod want to do to the child Jesus? _____. In Matthew 8:25 what did the disciples think would happen to them? _____. According to 2 Corinthians 4:3, what kind of people don't see the gospel? _____. According Jesus in John 3:15, 16 being lost is the opposite of having _____.

3. The Bible represents the lost as dead people, those cut off from God. According to Ephesians 2:1, what caused our death? _____ and _____. How does Ephesians 4:18 describe this kind of person? _____. They need God to make them _____ (Ephesians 2:5).

4. The lost man _____ (Psalm 53:1). God says no one is _____ (v. 2). God found they all _____(v. 3). But look at Galatians 4:9, those who believe _____ in fact God _____. What will Jesus say to those

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(by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

who haven't believed in Him (Matthew 7:23)? _____. Jesus used the Greek word *know* which means to know with experience, not just to know about. It is knowing a person through a relationship with that person. As God, Jesus knows everybody, but He only has relationship with those who _____. All others are lost.

1. How does Ephesians 4:17-18 describe a lost person?
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. Apart from salvation, all mankind is lost. Psalm 14:1-3 states that _____. Romans 5:12 that the whole human race _____. Everyone is lost without salvation.
9. The Holy Spirit helps the world (mankind) see they lost by convincing them of three problems (John 16:8-10). Note the three problems. Think about how Jesus is the answer to each problem.
- 10.
- 11.-
- 12.
- 13.-
- 14.-
- 15.
- 16.Let's look at each of these individually.
- 17.So who did Jesus say He was? (John 8:24) _____ And that meant _____
- 18.
- 19.What else must we believe? (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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23. So, how is repentance related to faith and the gospel? Paul preached repentance toward _____ and faith toward _____ (Acts 20:21). Usually the Jews needed to change their minds about God and believe that Christ Jesus is _____. Usually the Gentiles needed to change their minds regarding God and believe that there is only _____ God who is Christ Jesus! Read Acts 17:23, 29-31 and identify the areas of the Gentiles' thinking that was wrong and why they needed to change their minds.

So repentance is simply a changing of one's mind. When one doesn't believe in God, he needs to change his mind and believe in God. When one doesn't believe that Jesus Christ is God, he needs to change his mind and believe that Jesus Christ is God. When one doesn't believe that Jesus Christ died for his sins and rose again the third day, he needs to change his mind and believe that He did. When one doesn't believe that his salvation is based on Christ's death and resurrection alone, apart from any works he might do, he needs to change his mind. He needs to believe that he will be saved by God's grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ. In each of these situations, repentance is the change from unbelief to belief. Repentance is not an added requirement, it is simply another perspective on faith.

5. God has provided us salvation by grace. First, He sent the Son to become man. Then, the Son gave His life for our sins and rose again. Finally, God requires man only to believe in Jesus Christ. Each of these is an expression of God's grace extended to us.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

ἵνα ἐνδεδίξεται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπιερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

(by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

4. Saved by Grace - Study 3

6. We may not be able to identify God's first act of saving grace. Perhaps not destroying Adam after he sinned was grace. God the Son became man and entering the world was an act of grace. "The Word (_____) became flesh (_____) and dwelled among us, and we saw His glory, glory of a special one from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). That man is Jesus Christ. Only God could provide salvation to man. He took the responsibility on Himself. Hebrews 1:8, 9 states that the Son is _____. Though He is God, He became a _____ so He could experience _____ for every man (Hebrews 2:9). He had to become one of us, so He could die for us. He became _____ and _____ because we are flesh and blood. (Hebrews 2:14). This was an act of grace which made possible another act of God by grace.

- 1. Christ died for us in order to save us. Identify what He did in each of the following passages.
 - 2.1 Peter 2:24 -
 - 3.
 - 4.Romans 5:8 -
 - 5.
 - 6.1 Corinthians 15:3 -
 - 7.
 - 8.1 John 2:2 -
 - 9.
 - 10.Colossians 1:14 -
 - 11.
 - 12.Romans 5:10 -
 - 13.
 - 14.Each of these is a provision from God's grace, based on Christ's death.
 - 15. Three days after He died and was buried, Christ physically arose. He didn't rise as a ghost or apparition. Others saw Him after He

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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- arose. Did all His followers immediately believe He rose? (John 20:25-28)
- 16.
- 17. In what kind of body did He rise? (Luke 24:39)
- 18.
- 19. What does 2 John 7 say about Him?
- 20.
- 21. How does His resurrection affect us? (1 Peter 1:3)
- 22.
- 23. How does His resurrection affect us? (Romans 4:25).
- 24.
- 25. Must we believe God raised Him? (Romans 10:9).
- 26.
- 27. The resurrection is part of the good news (1 Corinthians 15:4).
- 28.
- 29. In John 5:24, what did Jesus promise to those who believe in Him?
- 30.
- 31. What was Jesus' requirement for receiving this promise? _____. What did the jailer in Philippi want to know? (Acts 16:30)
- 32.
- 33. What did Paul tell him to do? (Acts 16:31).
- 34.
- 35. So what must we believe about Jesus? (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
- 36.
- 37.
- 38. Is believing a work? Is it compatible with God's grace? (Romans 4:5)
- 39. Also read Ephesians 2:8-9.
- 40.
- 41. So what is faith? What does it do? Hebrews 11:1 defines faith.
- 42. 1. It makes real (gives assurance) of things -
- 43.

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

(by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

ἵνα ἐνδεηξήμεθα τοῖς ἀποστόλοις καὶ τοῖς ἀγγέλοις τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἐν τῷ Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῇ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

- 44.2. Those things cannot be -
- 45.
- 46. Hope results from a promise (Acts 26:6, "Hope from..."). Hope involves something which one doesn't _____ (Romans 8:24). Why doesn't he see it?
- 47. What was promised in the good news? (Acts 10:43)
- 48.
- 49. What else was promised in the good news? (Acts 13:38-39)
- 50.
- 51. In Romans 4, who are two examples of salvation by faith not by works. Romans 4:3-5 -
- 52.
- 53. Romans 4:6-8 -
- 54.
- 55. Identify human works for which God does not count anyone righteous.
- 56. Romans 4:10-12 -
- 57.
- 58. Romans 4:13-16 -
- 59.
- 60. According to Romans 4:16, God makes us righteous by faith so that it can be -
- 61. Remember, that isn't cheap grace. Jesus Christ did everything necessary. If God required anything more of you or me, it would cheapen Christ's work and be contrary to the very definition of _____.
- 62. According to Romans 4:23-25 what is true for Abraham and David is true for _____ and _____.
- 63.

The gospel was preached to two groups of people Jews (Israelis) and Gentiles (non-Jews). Both groups needed to repent. The word repent meant to have a change of mind. Sometimes we think that repentance means to be sorry. 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 does not state that repentance is sorrow but that sorrow can produce repentance. Having a sorrow which God produces in us can cause us to change our minds.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐνδοξίᾳ καὶ ἐν δόξῃ, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς ἐν τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεζωοποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

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ἵνα ἐνδεξιῶν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερέκλειστον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Ἦν γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

25

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

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ἵνα ἐνδεδιξῆται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτι ἔσται

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

Paul opened many of his letters, “Grace *is* to you.” This is our position. He closed his letters, “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *is* with you.” In Galatians 6:18; Philippians 4:23; Philemon 25 and 2 Timothy 4:22 what did he add to clarify?

So what is this relationship?

What does Galatians 3:1-3 say about how we start and how we grow?

The word “serve” or “worship” in Philippians 3:3 means to perform service as a priest. How does “God in us” affect this?

In 2 Timothy 1:16-18, with what two things was Timothy struggling?

How should “God in us” affect that?

The benefits of regeneration are the result of God's grace. The believer has eternal life. He is a child of God with the potential to share in the kind of nature God has. The indwelling Holy Spirit is able to take that life and energize the Father's seed. The result is a life which expresses God's grace.

The benefits of regeneration and the benefits of the Spirit's baptism are necessary for the Christian life. God works in the believer and produces _____ within him (Philippians 2:13). Desire is not enough. Early in Paul's christian life, he had desires but _____ (Romans 7:18).

Jesus Christ revealed the solution in John 15. He pictured us as vine branches and Himself as the vine (v. 1). He explained that we are capable of _____ unless we abide in Him (v. 5). We are to _____ in Him and He would _____ in them (vv. 2-4).

Jesus used the word “abide” which means to remain comfortably, or at ease. We are to relate to who we are in Christ, Christ then lives out that life through us, and the Spirit produces fruit through us. The “I in you and you in Me” relationship comes full circle. We can only live out Christ in us, as we are comfortable with who we are in Christ. Both are benefits of grace, and both are the basis for a life under grace.

Being Saved by Grace: It's not just about the past? Study 4

Ephesians 2:8 is about our current life as much as it is how we came to salvation. We can expand the first phrase, “for we were saved in the past by grace with the result that we are still saved by grace...”

Many Christians think of salvation as something that happened in the past: believing the gospel, forgiveness of sins, and saved from eternity in Hell. The word “save” can refer to initial salvation when one believes the good news about Jesus Christ (Titus 3:5; Romans 1:16). It can also refer to growth or maturing in the Christian life (1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Timothy 4:16; Philippians 2:12). Sometimes it refers to Christ's return for us (Romans 13:11; 5:9-10). We can say that we are saved, we are being saved, and we will be saved.

Identify salvation in these verses as past, present or future.

Philippians 2:15 -

Romans 13:11 -

1 Timothy 4:16 -

To understand grace in the present tense we need to compile a list of benefits from God's grace. Then we need to assess how Scripture connects God's grace to these benefits.

Benefits of Salvation by Grace

Our salvation has two facets: regeneration or new birth, Spirit baptism. Regeneration involves the Godhead indwelling us. Spirit baptism involves the Spirit placing us into Christ, so we are “in Christ.” We sometimes call this our standing or position

Graced In Christ

The Spirit's placed us - _____ (1 Corinthians 12:13)

We are in Christ because the Father _____ us _____ in Him (Romans 4:5, 22-24). It is Him _____ (v. 17).

Where does 2 Corinthians 5:21 state that we righteous? _____

Ephesians 1:3 tells us that being in Christ involves blessings. This word “blessing” means _____.

Identify some of the blessings in these verses.

Ephesians 1:4 -

Ephesians 1:5 -

Ephesians 1:7 -

Ephesians 2:5 -

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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Ephesians 2:6 -

How does Ephesians 1:6 state that God has provided these blessings?

Who is the “Beloved”?

Since all these benefits are based on God’s grace, can they be lost?

Identify some more blessings in these verses.

1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 12:5 -

Romans 6:3; Galatians 2:20 -

Romans 6:4 -

Ephesians 1:1 -

Ephesians 1:22-23 we are part of the _____ which is His

Ephesians 2:13 -

Galatians 3:27-28 - (what is changed?)

Because we are in Christ, God not only says good things about us, He has also given benefits to us which we can use in life. We sometimes call these possessions. Identify some possessions in these verses.

Romans 12:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:7 -

What do you do with this (1 Peter 4:10-11)?

What does this do for the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:16)?

Galatians 2:4 -

Compare this to Romans 6:14 and 8:2. From what are we freed?

1 Peter 2:4, 5, 9; Ephesians 2:19-21 - We are -

This means we can -

Identify some sacrifices in Romans 12:1; Philippians 4:18; Hebrews 13:15-16 -

According to Colossians 3:1-2 how should we respond to these benefits in Christ?

In verse two, the word “think” or “set your mind” means to restrict our thinking to a set of facts. This is like a corral in which we confine our thinking. The framework or corral consists of the truths of who we are

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ἑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδειχθῆτε τοῖς ἀποστόλοις καὶ τοῖς ἑπισκόποις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τοῦ χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ’ ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

27 (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*

in Christ. By contrast, what were false teachers promoting (Colossians 2:18)?

What else did they suggest (Colossians 2:8)?

What did Paul say about this (Colossians 2:6)?

By grace, God saves, provides, and then directs our lives.

The Other Side of In

In John 14:17-20, Jesus told His disciples that when the Holy Spirit arrived, “you shall know that I am in the Father, and you are in Me, and I in you.” The Spirit causes both. We looked at the “you in me” side of this relationship. Now we wish to look at the “I in you” side.

“I in you” involves the truth of regeneration. The Spirit performs regeneration (Titus 3:5). By regeneration, He joins the Godhead to us. This union happens in the believer’s _____ (1 Corinthians 6:17). God is _____ (John 4:24). This isn’t the Holy Spirit but the essence or substance of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. 1 John 3:24 states that it is from the Holy Spirit that He _____. Regeneration causes this birth in our human spirit. That which is born from the _____ is _____ (John 3:6). The result is that the believer joined to the Lord is _____ (1 Corinthians 5:17). It also results in God’s _____ (1 John 3:9). From the following passages, identify who indwells and what results.

1 John 5:11-12 -

How is it described in 1 Peter 3:7 -

in Romans 6:23 -

Ephesians 4:6 -

2 Peter 1:3-4 -

Romans 8:9, 11; 1 Corinthians 3:16 -

How is the Spirit described in Hebrews 10:26-29?

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in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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Because Jesus brings grace with Him, He could promise (John 5:24) -

Aren't you glad God's grace isn't just for our past but also our present and our future!

Grace makes our hearts _____ (Hebrews 13:9). The Hebrew Christians were trying to be firm by approaching the temple while observing laws (4:10). Identify what we have that is better than law.

Hebrews 7:19 -

Hebrews 13:9 -

Hebrews 4:16 -

Our primary goal is not to be moral people. but to

John 17:3. Jesus used a word meaning to know in an experiential relationship. Remember the synergy between Christ being in you (1 John 5:11-12) and you being in Christ (John 14:20). We are to _____ in Him, and He _____ in us (John 15:4). By doing this we can (1 Timothy 6:12)

Morality does result from grace, but grace is truly about knowing God.

Grace motivation does not involve the promise of blessings. God has already given us **all** spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). What else is there? Grace is the opposite of law. Law says, "Here is a blessing, obey and you will get it." God by His grace says, "Here is a blessing, I'm giving it to you, free and clear and it will not be taken away. Now go live like a blessed one and know Me!"

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδεξιῶτα ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος ᾖ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτι ἐστε

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Motivation for Living - Study 5

Life is often about motivation. Motivation to get up, to go to work, to proper behavior. God motivates us to live righteously. This study will consider only the motivation under Mosaic law and under the present form of grace. These two are distinct (Romans 6:14; John 1:17).

Law Motivation

The Law motivated Israel to obey with the promise of blessings or curses. Identify some blessings in Deuteronomy 28:1-14.

What blessing is added in Leviticus 26:14-16?

The Law also motivated Israel to obey by the threat of curses. Summarize the type of curses named in Deuteronomy 28:15-68.

What is the basic motivation under Law? _____. How does Exodus 20:18-20 relate to this motivation?

According to Deuteronomy 1:1-2, how much time had passed since Exodus 20? _____ What was Moses doing for this new generation of Israelis (Deuteronomy 1:5; 4:10)?

Had the basic motivation changed (Deuteronomy 6:2, 13, 24; 8:6)? Compare Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10; 1:7 and Deuteronomy 4:6. How do these relate to Israel's activity.

So what was the two-fold motivation under Law?

Grace Motivation

What are the two areas of benefits God provides us by His grace?

Now God calls us to live worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1).

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in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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According to Ephesians 1:4, where is this calling?

We identified this as our -

Ephesians 5:1 encourages believers to become imitators of God as loved children. “Children” connects this with . Therefore, God motivates or calls us to a behavior matching benefits of His grace.

Victory/Freedom

Grace motivation involves victory or freedom from the sinful nature. Sin is not to be lord over us because (Romans 6:14) -

What does God say about our relationship to the sin nature (Romans 6:3-4)?

How does God say we are to respond to the sin nature (Romans6:11)?

Since God provides these benefits to us by grace, then our response to that grace is to not be enslaved to the sin *nature*.

Let’s examine Paul’s logic in Romans 5:20-6:4 phrase by phrase.

5:20 - Why did God give the Law?

According to 7:13 it demonstrates that we have -

5:21 - Why could the sin nature reign?

What kind of death is this?

Why can grace reign?

“Unto eternal life” is better “because of eternal life.” (cf. 6:23).

6:1 - What do some errantly conclude from these facts?

6:3-4 - Why is this reasoning inconsistent with God’s grace?

Do we automatically have victory?

How does Romans 6:11 instruct us to respond to the sin nature?

How does Romans 6:13 instruct us to respond to the sin nature?

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ἑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδεξιῆται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερέκλειον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ’ ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῇ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

29 (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*

Grace Our Teacher

Titus 2:11-12 informs us that God’s grace “teaches” us or trains us like children. We normally use rules (law) to raise children, but God uses His grace. 2:12 trains us to

What does “deny” mean in this context?

These activities are inconsistent God’s _____. Neither of these activities express eternal life. So, unlike law which involves promises of _____ and _____. Grace focuses us upon benefits and encourages us to respond appropriately. Focusing on God’s great salvation we see that some activities don’t fit. When we enjoy freedom from your sin *nature* and are living out God’s kind of life, ungodliness and worldly lusts lose their luster.

2:12 it then trains us to

“Sensibly” is an attitude built around salvation.

“Righteously” means one performs well.

“Godly” describes activity which honors God.

2:13 it also trains us to

Do we have everything God promised us?

When will we get it?

Relate this to John 14:2-4.

How does 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 explain this.

What happens to us at that time (1 John 3:2)?

What does 1 Peter 1:13 tell us that Christ will bring when He comes for us? How should this affect our view of our future?

How does Peter suggest we use this truth?

Why might believers need a “mental girdle” (1 Peter 1:6-7)?

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in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

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— χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι — καὶ συνήγειρεν καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

Who else did God use to reveal this grace-way of life (Ephesians 2:20; Ephesians 3:4-5)?

What kind of prophets were these?

So, in what Scriptures will we find most of the revelation about how God wants us to live as New Testament believers?

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ἑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδεδειγμένοι τοῖς ἀποστόλοις καὶ προφήταις τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις τὸ ἔργον τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

30

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

(by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

Grace as a Way of Life - Study 6

In Ephesians 3:2, Paul wrote of the “dispensation of the grace from God.” In English Bibles “stewardship” or “administration” translate the word dispensation. The Greek *oikonomia* described the rule or principle by which a household received benefits. An owner of a house appoints a steward or manager, an *oikonomos*. The owner made available provisions for the household’s needs and a set of principles by which the household could receive those provisions. Under a law principle, the household would be required to obey that law in order to receive the provisions. Obedience to the Mosaic law brought blessings.

In Ephesians 3:2 identify the steward-

the management principle -

the owner -

the household -

How does Ephesians 1:3 identify some of those benefits?

How does Ephesians 1:6 state that those blessings are provided?

Since it’s grace, what can you do to merit these provisions?

When did this type of life begin and who first expressed it (John 1:17)?

To what does John contrasted it?

Was there grace before this time?

So what does John mean?

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνέξωποιοῦσεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

— χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι — καὶ συνήγειρεν καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

How does Ephesians 2:8 relate to this grace?

When did Jesus Christ cause that grace to start?

At His birth (Galatians 4:4)?

During His earthly ministry (Matthew 5:17; Romans 15:8)?

What did Christ end (Romans 10:4)?

When did He do this?

To what part of Jesus' life does John 1:14 refer?

How does John 17:4 help explain this?

Jesus' grace is seen in the controversial passage of John 7:53-8:11.¹ A woman caught in the act of adultery was brought before Jesus. Her accusers wanted to place Jesus in a no-win situation. If He said stone her, He would be against Roman law. If He said let her go, He would have not have upheld Mosaic Law. What was Jesus' response?

Did Jesus condone the woman's actions?

How do we know?

¹ This section is omitted in some early Greek manuscripts. However, without this passage, the struggle in chapter seven is left hanging. It is likely that it was omitted early in the text's history because some felt it might promote adultery.

² The KJV has "fellowship" rather than "dispensation/administration."

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδεξιῆται τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερέκλειον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

³¹ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

How does this relate to Romans 8:1?

In Ephesians 3:9, how did Paul identify this way of life?²

Give Paul's definition of a mystery from Romans 16:25-26; Ephesians 3:4-5; Colossians 1:26.

Based upon this, when did God reveal our way of life by grace?

This grace way of life followed Christ's ascension when He became our position in heaven and our life here on earth. Christ had to sit down in the heavens, so we could be seated in Him. We are crucified with Christ because He was crucified. We are made alive and raised with Christ because He has been made alive and raised. Our way of life is directly connected to these benefits from God's grace.

God chose Paul to be the steward, the one who explains our way of life. Identify what Paul tells us to do in the following passages.

Colossians 3:1-2 -

Romans 6:11 -

Ephesians 4:2 -

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

— χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι — καὶ συνήγειρεν καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

Peter and Grace

What did Peter say in general about Paul’s letters? (2 Peter 3:15-16)

What did Peter say we should do by grace? (2 Peter 3:18)

Peter had avoided the word grace until 3:18 because false teachers were misusing and perverting the word (cf Jude 4, same teachers), teaching that grace meant (cf 2 Peter 2:15-19)

How did Peter describe grace in 2 Peter 3:15?

How did Peter say we should think about longsuffering?

How does 2 Peter 3:18 contrast to the false teaching?

Grace Towards Others

The verb “forgive” in Ephesians 4:32 is “be gracious.” It is to yourselves, while kind and compassionate are to one another. How does this relate to being kind and compassionate?

The verb “forgive” in Colossians 3:13 is “be gracious.” It is to one another. So how should you act toward other believers?

What might exist between believers?

What did Paul tell the Corinthians to do in 2 Corinthians 2:7, 10?

The word “forgive” is “be gracious,” so what were they to do?

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

32 (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

What Does It Take to Live By Grace? - Study 7

To learn a practical truth we must learn the facts then live them as we have opportunity. We learn the facts in God’s Word then practice it. We must evaluate our circumstances so that we use the proper truths at the proper time. It is necessary to practice these truths in order to know them as God intends. The New Testament uses two Greek words to describe “knowing” ginoskō is knowledge involving experience and oida is knowledge by watching, reading, or hearing, apart from experience. The level of understanding begins to rise as we use what we know. To understand grace, we begin with God’s Word. When we apply those truths, we get to know God’s grace on a new level.

The Practice of Grace

What did Paul persuade the new believers to do? (Acts 13:43)

After evangelizing Jews and Greeks, while Paul spoke boldly “upon” the basis of the Lord (Acts 14:3). The Lord gave testimony to “the word about His _____.” (cf. Acts 20:32)

In Antioch, men from Judea came and taught the _____ that it was necessary to by circumcised in order _____ (Acts 15:1). What kind of salvation did they mean (v. 5)?

Why did Paul and Barnabas go to Jerusalem? (Galatians 2:1-4).

How does verse 4 describe their message?

Remember Romans 11:6, it can’t be

The Freedom and Liberty

Grace frees the believer from sin. What are we to do to experience this freedom? (Romans 6:11).

How does Romans 8:2, 13; Galatians 5:17 describe this?

How do you “walk”? (Romans 8:4-5)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεξοποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

ἵνα ἐνδεδιχημένοι εἴμεθα ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ’ ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἡν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνέζωοποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

— χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι — καὶ συνήγειρεν καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

What else is necessary for freedom from sin? (Romans 6:14)

What is God’s goal for our freedom? (Galatians 5:13; Romans 6:22)

Where do we find this freedom? (Galatians 2:4).

Give some reasons why we shouldn’t live by the law. (Galatians 5:1-4)

Our Past (Accomplishments) and Grace

Paul listed some past accomplishments in Philippians 3:4-6. How did He think about them now? (3:8)

He didn’t want his own _____ (Philippians 3:9).

What would have been its source? _____

Is this past salvation or present salvation?

To what part of salvation does Ephesians 2:8 refer?

Faith focuses us forward, never the past, because it is always in something _____ (Hebrews 11:1; Romans 8:24).

Daily, God calls us to relate to who we are in Christ. This too is present.

One’s Calling and Grace

Even believers are sometimes impressed by _____, _____ (1 Corinthians 1:20-26).

We should not _____ (1 Corinthians 1:29). Christ became for us _____, _____ (v. 30).

Where should we boast? (1 Corinthians 1:31)

Grand Experiences and Grace

Some believers boast in an experience (2 Corinthians 12:1-4). How long had Paul waited to tell his? _____ Why?

What did the Lord have to teach Paul? (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐν δειλίᾳ καὶ ἐν ταπεινότητι ἐν τοῖς αἰσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερέκτατον πλοῦτος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ’ ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτι ἐστὶν

(by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

Grace and Failure - Romans 7

When Paul tried to live by the law, did he experience freedom from the sin nature? (Romans 7:7-13)

The problem arose from Paul’s _____ (7:11, 17, 20).

The law was _____ 7:14, but Paul was _____.

Why did Paul use past and present tense to describe his struggle (7:14-25)?

Why?

How did he feel in this struggle? (7:24)

What did failure under law bring? (2 Corinthians 3:7-9).

What new thing did Paul have to learn? (Romans 8:1)

What did Paul have to learn to experience freedom? (Romans 8:2)

What could he have which was different than under law? (8:4-11; cf 3:21-22)

-Remember that walking by the Spirit frees us from sin, and we walk by framing our minds with something to which the Spirit points us, that is, who we are in Christ: our life in Christ Jesus. (see notes on first page)

How did it free him? Law focuses him on the negative, the flesh. The Spirit focuses him on the position in Christ. This is key for the believer to live by grace. Failure teaches us what we _____, grace teaches us what only the _____ can do, and that even though we have failed, we are not _____.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεζωοποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

— χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι — καὶ συνήγειρεν καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανοῖς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

An Illustration of Chastening

What did Paul proclaim for those who proclaimed another gospel?
Galatians 1:8-9

Define the Greek word *anathema* translated “accursed.”
What was Paul willing to experience in Romans 9:3?

What were these Jews willing to experience in Acts 23:12,14, 21?

What did Peter do in Mark 14:21?

The Gospel in Galatians

The word gospel refers to several different messages in the New Testament. Romans 1:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 are the gospel for initial salvation

According to Galatians 3:1-3, what was this gospel about?

According to Galatians 2:4, what was this message about?

According to Galatians 5:4, what was this message about?

What had Paul written about circumcision? Galatians 5:6; 5:15

Did the Holy Spirit want Paul to go to Jerusalem? Acts 21:4, 11

When Paul traveled to Jerusalem were the reports about Paul true?
Acts 21:19-21

What did Paul do? Acts 21:23-26

What happened to Paul? Acts 21:27-32; 22:35; 24:27

What was this?

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ἑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδεδειχθῶμεν τοῖς ἀποστόλοις ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπισημοῦσι τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τοῦ χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

34 (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*

Can Chastening Be Part of Grace? study 8

“Chasten” translates the Greek παιδεύω *paideuō* meaning to train or raise a child. It can involve _____ and _____ (cp Titus 2:11-13). The negative or disciplinary side of this work is tied to God’s _____ not His grace (Hebrews 12:6). Why?

Identify the nature of chastening/discipline in the following passages.
Acts 5:1-11.

1 Corinthians 11:30

1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 13

1 Timothy 5:19-20

What did each of these share in common?

What is the goal of discipline? Hebrews 12:8-11

Discipline is not the dominant motivation for Christian living. Each case in Scripture involved a stubborn believer who would not turn by grace.

How should we respond to a brother sinning a sin that does not lead to death? 1 John 5:17

Is this a specific sin?

How does 1 John 3:14 help us understand this problem?

How long does God wait (suffer long)?

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεξωποιοῖσεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

ἵνα ἐνδεηξήμεθα τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τοῖς ἀποστόλοις ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῇ γὰρ χάριτι ἐστε

Church Discipline and Separation

Separation can involve believers from unbelievers, but only in the matter of serving together (cf. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

Separation can involve believers living righteously from believers who are sinning.

Should mature believers separate from immature believers? Romans 14:1f; 15:1

How should they respond?

Compare these last verses to Romans 16:17-18. What kind of division were these believers causing?

How should believers living righteously respond to such a believer?

What sort of problem were the believers in 2 Timothy 2:17-18 causing?

How was Timothy to respond? v. 16

What did the heretic believers want to talk about in Titus 3:8-10?

How was Titus to respond?

What were the disorderly believers doing in 2 Thessalonians 3:15?

How were the Thessalonian believers to respond?

God's Chastening Work

The book of Hebrews illustrates God's work of chastening believers.

To whom was the book of Hebrews written?

Had they ever stopped living by the Old Testament law?

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ

Identify Paul's instructions to these Hebrew believers to do?

Hebrews 3:6

Hebrews 4:14)

Hebrews 10:23

Hebrews 13:13

Identify the better things they had as Christians.

Hebrews 1:4; 2:2

Hebrews 7:22; 8:6

Hebrews 7:19

Hebrews 9:23, 26

Hebrews 10:34

Identify the warnings given to these believers.

Hebrews 2:1-3

Hebrews 3:12, 4:1

Hebrews 5:12-6:8

Hebrews 10:29

If they didn't enter (10:19-20), stopped assembling (10:24-25)

There was no more- (10:26)

There only remained- (10:27).

How would the expected punishment compare to that under law?

Hebrews 12:15-16, 25-27

So first believers are reminded of their _____.

If a believer refuses to respond to these, God _____.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνέζωοποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

ἵνα ἐνδεδειχθῆται ἐν τοῖς αἰῶσιν τοῖς ἐπερχομένοις τὸ ὑπερβάλλον πλοῦτος τοῦ χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἐν χρηστότητι ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τῆ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε

Violent Acts

To what did Paul point when identifying himself the foremost sinner (1 Timothy 1:13-15)?

How might we understand Paul's claim in light of (Ephesians 4:26)?

Confessing Sin

Grace does not mean that sin is not an issue. In our last study we saw that God chastens believers for persistent sin. However we do sin.

Why is one reason John wrote 1 John (1 John 1:3-4)?

Fellowship involves sharing something in common. They shared eternal life and used it by keeping the new command to love one another as Christ loved us (1 John 2:7-8).

What problem had arisen among these believers (1 John 2:19)?

Before leaving, these people had promoted some lies. Identify the lies. 1 John 1:6 - (cf John 1:4) -

1 John 1:8 -

1 John 1:10 -

Rather than lie, what should believer do when they sin (1 John 1:9)?

Confess means to agree. About what are we to agree?

In this context, what does the forgiveness restore?

Even under grace, believers sin, but grace does not make it OK. Rather God by His grace gives us the means of freedom from sin. God by His grace gives us the opportunity to grow. God by His grace gives us the privilege of enjoying restored fellowship with God.

How Does Sin Fit in a Grace System? Study 9

Because some forget that grace frees us, and part of that freedom is denying ungodliness and worldly lusts (Titus 2:11-12), some believers go to extremes. One extreme is to deny that sin is a concern. Another is to emphasize sin or specific sins so one does not live by grace

What is sin?

Sin is one form of unrighteousness. God is righteous. Activity, thoughts, and character which are contrary to God's are unrighteous. Romans 1:24, 26, 28 tell us that God- According to Romans 1:29-31, what did people fill full?

When we confess our sins, what does God forgive and what does He cleanse (1 John 1:9)?

Two word families are properly translated sin: the Hebrew *chata* [חַטָּא] and the Greek *hamartia* [ἁμαρτία]. Both mean to miss, misstep, or a missing of a mark.

Sin is Lawlessness

1 John 3:4, "The sin is the _____." So sin is not just missing the mark by accident, but shooting at the wrong mark or target on purpose. Lawlessness is telling God "You're not _____ of me." Lawlessness is acting without _____. Since we are under grace, sin is not about break _____, but refusing to live in the boundaries provided by God's grace.

In 1 John 3:1 we God's _____. That results from _____.

1 John 3:6 we are to _____, which relates to our position _____, which results from _____. So sin results from believers refusing to live God's _____ or live consistent with one's position in Christ. One benefit of being in Christ is that we are freed from our _____ (Romans 8:2). So if we that freedom is a boundary. One might claim liberty, but our only liberty is in _____ (Galatians 2:4).

Not Doing God's Will

James 4:17 states "For the one who knows to do good, but isn't doing it, for him it is sin." According to verse 15, what is the good thing?

What were they trying to do? (4:13-14)

So it is a sin to make plans and never stop -

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have

ὁ δὲ θεὸς πλούσιος ὢν ἐν ἐλέει, διὰ τὴν πολλὴν ἀγάπην αὐτοῦ ἦν ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς, καὶ ὄντας ἡμᾶς νεκροὺς τοῖς παραπτώμασιν συνεζωοποίησεν τῷ Χριστῷ.

— χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι — καὶ συνήγειρεν καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανοῖς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

What James stated can be placed in the larger context of God's will. Identify the aspects of God's will in the following Scriptures.

Romans 12:1 -

Romans 12:2 -

To what is this contrasted?

How is this contrasted to James 4:1-3?

1 Corinthians 12:18 -

2 Corinthians 8:5 -

Ephesians 5:17-18 -

Ephesians 6:6-7 -

Colossians 1:9, 10 -

Colossians 1:27 -

1 Thessalonians 4:3 -

1 Thessalonians 5:16, 18 -

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 -

1 Thessalonians 5:18 -

1 Peter 2:15 -

1 Peter 3:17; 4:19 -

1 John 5:14-15 -

Showing Partiality

To whom were some showing favoritism (James 2:1-4)?

What did James call this (James 2:9)?

Compare this to James 2:14-15.

Being A Heretic

σεσωσμένοι διὰ πίστεως· καὶ τοῦτο οὐκ ἐξ ὑμῶν, θεοῦ τὸ δῶρον - Ephesians 2:4-8

ἵνα ἐνδεδειγμένοι εἴμεθα τοῖς ἀποστόλοις καὶ τοῖς ἀγγέλοις τοῦ ἐπουρανοῦ ἐν τῷ Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τῷ υἱῷ τῆς δόξης, ὃν ἠγάπησεν ἡμεῖς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

37 (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places

What was one problem the elders would face on Crete (Titus 1:13-15)?

What was Titus (and the elders) not do (3:9)?

How were they to respond to a heretic (3:10)?

A heretic is one who chooses form himself what teaching he will hold.

These were heretics because they refused to recognize: Romans 6:14

Why is he self-condemned (Titus 3:11)? Think about what the law does (2 Corinthians 3:7, 9).

Where is he not living (Titus 2:11-12)?

Actions Between Mature and Immature Believers

Are some things naturally unclean (Titus 1:15)?

What is the responsibility of the mature believer (Romans 15:1)?

If a mature brother does not do this what can it do to the immature brother (1 Corinthians 8:9)?

What does the immature brother do (Romans 14:22-23)?

What is the mature brother doing in this matter (1 Corinthians 8:12)?

He's operating outside the boundary of His position in the body.

Lying

How did Peter identify Ananias and Saphria's lie (Acts 5:1-4)?

This lie was outside the boundary of being in Christ.

Immoral Behavior

To engage in sexual immorality is sin (1 Corinthians 6:15). In what boundary is such a person not operating (Romans 6:1-3)?

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God.

in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace toward us by kindness in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have