

SO ITS ALL ABOUT GRACE

Grace abounded even when we forfeited it—Romans 5:6-12, 5:20

Grace gets us in the door—adopts us as children Eph 1:5 John 1:12-13

Grace propels us into ministry and maintains us in our growth

We do not receive the grace in vain—2 Cor 5:20-6:1

We are turned away from sin—Romans 6:1-2

We do not loose heart - 2 Cor 4:15-16

We experience growth and greater hope in trials —Romans 5:1-5

We do not stop being generous—2 Cor 8:7

We abound in every Good work—2 Cor 9:8

We extend grace to others in forgiveness—Matthew 6:14-15

We make use of the gracious gifts earned by Christ to build one another up until we all reach maturity—Eph 4:11-13

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

Christ came to pay your debts not to create them. If you refuse grace or accept it reluctantly you will find it hard to act graciously towards others. That is why Jesus ties our forgiveness to our willingness to forgive. You cannot expect God to deal with you apart from the law if you expect him to apply the law to others. (Matthew 18:23-35)

The reason that grace is hard to accept is that it places us completely at the mercy of God—we are always tempted to strengthen our position by adding works of our own. In doing this we deny grace by trying to make God obligated to us.

Grace provides robustness in a changing unpredictable world because the Gospel of grace is eternally secure no matter what culture or what period of history it is being communicated in. Holding on to human traditions is a sign of doubt in God's promises, it is not a sign of holiness.

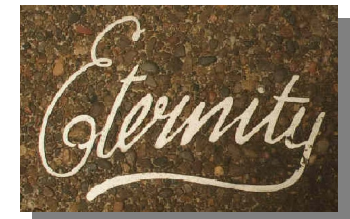
GRACE

REDEEMS OUR PAST



GIVES MEANING TO OUR PRESENT

PROVIDES SECURITY FOR OUR FUTURE



“NOTHING LEFT TO PAY NOTHING LEFT TO PROVE”

GRACE IS

A characteristic attitude of God where he gives abundantly and generously to those who have done nothing to deserve it and cannot pay him back.

When we say God acts graciously in choosing people for salvation we are saying that he acts in complete freedom. Nothing we can do will coerce or manipulate him in the process of making choices. He freely commits himself to us but he is never obligated to do so in the slightest degree. When he responds to our requests, he does so freely and according to his own desires and will. It is like mercy—but mercy is something one might give because he cannot stand the discomfort of experiencing another's pain - unlike grace it is not entirely free.

Grace is free to us but incredibly costly to him. He did not waver from his plan to save his people even in the knowledge that:

- He would witness the abomination of continuing sin in his world
- Many would reject him and face eternal death as a consequence
- His own dear Son would suffer and die on the cross to justify us, redeem us, make atonement for our sins and reconcile himself to us.

This indicates just how valuable we are to God. That value is the result of his choosing us and making us valuable rather than anything we have done for ourselves.

WHAT GRACE MOST DEFINITELY ISN'T

A power given to people to enable them to earn their own salvation.

IT BEGAN BY GRACE

God created the world and placed it at our feet. We did nothing to earn our existence or the world we exist in.

Q. What part do you think Adam's attitude towards God's grace played in his act of disobedience? _____

READ EPHESIANS 1:3-7

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace”

SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT GRACE

When were God's people Chosen? _____

What might we have done to make us suitable objects of choice?

What kind of people did he want to create?

What motivated him to do it?

What determined the nature of his plans and his choices?

What are we to praise and enjoy forever as a result?

I DID IT FOR GRACE

God has provided everything for us—he did that so that we might ultimately praise him for his glorious, freely given grace. If we believe that there could be any other ultimate purpose we would have to face eternity in a world where God is obligated to his subjects. Worse still he would be obligated to his subjects in varying degrees depending on the things they may have done to contribute to their salvation.

How might that effect our relationship with God? _____

How might it effect our relationship with each other?
