

The Fullness of Grace

Introduction and Review

- God is working out His eternal plan for human history & grace is an essential part of His plan.
- “Common grace is the grace of God by which he gives people innumerable blessings that are not a part of salvation.” – WG.
- Special grace is distinct from common grace in that it is God’s special favor & blessings reserved for the elect & believers.
- Common grace & special grace co-exist & operate together in many venues of life: *Family, Employment, Gov. Church.*

I. Fundamental Principles of the Grace of God

A. Grace comes from God exclusively

Grace is God’s unmerited favor & blessings toward humanity. Grace involves God’s unmerited actions toward humanity – provision, protection, kindness, goodness, regeneration, repentance, forgiveness, salvation, etc.

B. God gives grace discriminately

God alone determines the type & extent of grace that will be given to any individual. God alone determines who will be the recipient of saving grace & all of the benefits (Rom. 9:14-16).

II. Grace in the Old Testament

A. God gave the law in grace (v. 17a)

*The law was a gracious gift from God to His chosen people in order to teach them how to live (Rom. 10:5). Israel had not earned or merited the privilege of having the law of God to guide them in life – **GRACE!***

B. God gave the law through Moses (v. 17a)

*Moses was also a gracious gift to the people from God. But the law was lacking in **grace** to save sinners & **truth** or the reality of Christ as sacrifice for sin. The law was not intended to nor was it able to save sinners (Rom. 8:3-4). However in the law, Moses points to Jesus as the fulfillment of all its demands (Jn. 5:46-47). **Even though the law was lacking is saving grace, God still gave saving grace to those who would trust Him & not the law for salvation!***

III. Grace in the New Testament

A. Fullness of grace in Jesus (v. 16)

Fullness & abundance is attributed to God throughout the bible (Ps. 51:1; 106:45; Lam. 3:22-23). He is God who lavishes us with the riches of His grace (Eph. 1:7-8). All believers have received from the abundance of this grace (Jn. 1:16). “grace upon grace” means the previous revelation of grace is superseded by the present revelation of grace.

B. Grace and truth in Jesus (v. 17b)

*The law was “**given**” in grace, but grace & truth “**came**” through Jesus. Jesus fulfills all the demands, types, shadows & promises of the law. The law that was given in grace is now superseded by Jesus who was full of grace & truth (v. 14). Jesus is the full & complete expression of grace (1Co. 1:30; Rom. 8:32; 2Co. 1:20; Eph. 1:3-14).*

APPL: We have received blessing upon blessing upon blessing from the abundance of grace is Jesus Christ – salvation, sanctification, edification, truth, wisdom, protection, provision, deliverances, spiritual gifts, ministry, promises, divine power, eternal life, eternal joy, eternal peace, eternal praise, eternal glory, eternal rewards, eternal home, eternal family, etc. “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than we ask or think, according to the power at works within us...” This is all available to us because of the fullness of grace in Jesus!

CONCLUSION

Therefore my beloved brothers & sisters since we are the recipients of the fullness of this grace, then we like John the Apostle must be witnesses for Christ. We must be good and faithful ambassadors for Christ telling others about this grace that can only be found in Jesus. You know that there is no other WAY, no other TRUTH & no other LIFE. Jesus declares that He is the way, truth & life... Everything good in you has come from Him. Therefore you must love Him & if you love Him, you must faithfully serve Him. Will you demonstrate your love for Christ everyday & in every way?

If you are not a Christian, I am here to remind you today that Jesus is the only way to have your sins forgiven, be at peace with God, know your real purpose in life, have real joy in life & have heaven as your future home. But you must believe...

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