

A Study of God

The Grace of God

Grace defined

- *charis, Gr.* - a gift that brings joy
 - It can refer to any kind of gift including:
 - God's gifts of creation
 - His providential blessings
 - The gifts of the Spirit
 - Divine aid in general
 - Sometimes, though, it refers to *saving* grace, it reflects that aspect of God's nature that causes Him to desire the salvation of sinner and to go to whatever lengths are necessary to make this salvation possible
- Exodus 34:6-7
- Number 14:17-20
- Neh 9:17
- Micah 7:18-20
- Romans 3:24-26

God's grace

- Psalm 103:8-12

8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always contend with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our guilty deeds. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our wrongdoings from us.

God's grace includes:

- 1) Giving
 - To say that God is gracious means that it is His nature to give of Himself and of His bounty to His creatures
 - Grace is a form of love
 - Holiness demands – Love GIVES
 - Where sin is concerned, love-becomes-grace gives SALVATION
 - Romans 6:23
 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - Salvation is a GIFT

God's grace includes:

- 2) Forgiving
 - Being forgiven by one whom you have offended is the greatest gift that person can give you. When the one offended is the Holy God, and when the offense is sin against His holy law, then His forgiveness is the greatest imaginable gift
 - Psalm 86:5
 - “For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all who call upon You.”
 - Forgiveness = Grace

God's grace includes

- 3) Grace means “favor bestowed when wrath is owed”
 - Not just unmerited favor
 - The OPPOSITE of what we deserve
 - The OPPOSITE of what His holiness demands
 - “The grace of God is love freely shown towards guilty sinners, contrary to their merit and indeed in defiance to their demerit” -Packer

The Grace of God

- 4 Reasons the average Christian fails to appreciate and properly understand grace
 - How sinful we are
 - God's wrath against sin
 - Our inability to save ourselves
 - God's right not to save us

The Grace of God

- Grace is not earned or deserved
 - Grace is the source or foundation of our forgiveness. Summarize:
 - Romans 3:24-25
 - Ephesians 1:7
 - Grace is God reaching out to save us. Summarize how the following passages make the point that grace motivated God to make a plan to save us
 - Ephesians 1:5,9,11
 - Ephesians 2:4-8
 - Grace is not only the source of our forgiveness it is the force which enables us to grow and mature in Christ and the source of our security in Christ
 - 1 Peter 1:5
 - Ephesians 3:14-21