Jesus Death, Resurrection, and Grace

But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone

Hebrews 2:9

Jesus' death was God's plan to restore mankind

⁵ It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? ⁷ You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor ⁸ and put everything under their feet." In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. ⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

Hebrews 2:5-10 (NIV)

Jesus freely gave his life in compassion for men

¹⁷...I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

John 10:17-18 (NIV)

Jesus' death and resurrection provided a cascade of benefits for us now:

Sin forgiveness

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace (Ephesians 1:7 NIV)

Justification

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (Romans 4:25 NIV)

Peace

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... (Romans 5:1 NIV)

Access to and standing in grace

...through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:2 NIV)

Jesus' death and resurrection provided a cascade of benefits for us yet unseen:

- Ultimately in the life to come, eternal life
 - ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.
 ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:22-23 NIV)

Cross grace is for all people

³ This ... pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. I Timothy 2:3-6 (NIV)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

Titus 2:11 (NIV)

Cross grace is for all people

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

II Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)

Jesus' death and resurrection provided a cascade of benefits for us to accept not earn

- We accept the benefits by:
 - Believing that He can provide the benefits (faith)
 - Forsaking rebellion (repentance)
 - Allowing our old man to be put to death, then buried, and accepting a new life (baptism)
 - Thankfully living a new life of service not selfishness

Acts 12:1-11 God's work/Peter's activity

God's work (angel):

- 1. Light shined
- 2. Chains fell off
- 3. Gate opened

How does this earn release? Peter's activity:

- 1. Girded himself
- 2. Put on his shoes
- 3. Followed the angel
- 4. Walked into the city

Gratefully eating a meal paid for by another out of compassion when we did not have anything to pay with (eating does not earn compassion)

