

GRACE – “Charis”

In each lesson: **learn something about God our Father**

Definitions:

1. Grace : English Dictionary: 10 definitions
 - artistic movement, a prayer said before meals, an ornamental musical note...
 - goodwill, mercy
 - a favor rendered by one who need not do so
 - unmerited gift from God
 - a gracious favor or benefit bestowed
2. Righteousness – just, upright, to acquit or vindicate behavior in conformance with a moral code

GRACE

The Crucial Question: “How can anyone be righteous?”

- o One of Jesus’ early tasks was to restore the effectiveness of the Law.
- o Pharisees had “made the law of none effect” by their insistence on a strict, legal observation of the law.

Outward observance of the law only left the people blind and empty.

Prostitute (Prov 7) “I have peace offerings with me...I have paid my vows.”

- o Jesus – “You have heard that it was said...but I say unto you...”

Took the Law from the external to the heart.

No wonder the question was asked: :” How can anyone be saved?”

“How can anyone be righteous?”

His answer: “It is not possible with man but with God.”

Everyone faces this question because fellowship with God is a matter of righteousness. Only the righteous can fellowship with God.

Grace

	Religion (Always involves man's efforts)	Grace is a radical departure from established traditions
View of Humanity	Basically good Able to satisfy God's demands	
Associated concepts	Man specifies remedy Works – human achievement	
Focus	Self	
Result	Sin Condemnation Death	Rom 3: 20 "Noone shall be justified by works of the law."
Definition	Man' effort to do good and by his own works to merit salvation as a deserved reward for his behavior	

Grace

	Religion	Grace
View of Humanity	Basically good Able to satisfy God's demands	Basically sinful – Rom. 5:8 Unable to please God – Rom. 5:6 (<i>asthenon</i> - weak, powerless, sick, feeble)
Associated concepts	Man specifies remedy Works – human achievement	Promise – Rom. 4:13-16 Gift – Rom. 5:15-18 Faith – Rom. 5:1, 5
Focus	Self	Jesus – Rom. 5:1
Result	Sin Condemnation Death	Righteousness – Rom. 5:17 Forgiveness Life – Rom. 5:17
Definition	Man's effort to do good and by his own works to merit salvation as a deserved reward for his behavior	God's free action- based upon Jesus' death and motivated by love- to redeem all who believe and to make them righteous – Rom. 3:5

Grace

- Conclusions
 1. The biblical concept of grace is much greater than the simple definition.
 2. Grace teaches us that God's attitude toward us is one of love, mercy, benevolence and acceptance. (Heb. "chesed" lovingkindness)
 3. Grace is a dramatic statement about the human condition.
We are helpless, trapped in sin, incapable of winning God's favor, "poor in spirit" (ptochos = a lowliness which is the opposite of pride)
 4. Grace is a proclamation: the triumphant announcement that God in Christ has acted and will come to the aid of all who will simply trust Him.
Consider all of the difficulties David gets himself into in Psalms.
And yet, God condescends to help him.
It is incomprehensible that a transcendent God would stoop to help one such as I. Hence grace...undeserved favor.
 5. Grace is full and entirely complete. (It needs no assistance from us.)
It provides all that we need.
 6. "The gospel of grace"

Grace

Traps:

1. Slip back into works: “Having a good day...or not”
2. Subtleties of the spirit of error:
 - a. C. Smith – guy who became a Mormon
 - b. Immersion baptism necessary for salvation
 - c. Cults – usually have a supplemental book (adds to God’s reqts)
Usually includes some truth from the bible.
 - d. Cults also use a system of rankings – you achieve levels of spirituality
by obedience to a set of rules
Christianity – all saved by grace and appointed to the responsibilities
of ministry depending upon your gifts and abilities as given by God.
3. Using grace as a license to sin more

GRACE

- What Grace does for us:
 1. Removes us from the realm of the law
 2. Secures righteousness for us
 3. Releases us from the bondage of sin
 4. Secures God's favor
 5. God's grace in Christ provides us with access to the Father.

GRACE

1. Is undeserved
2. “Grace in which we stand” (our possession and position)
3. Should be renewed daily
4. Through faith
5. Can be left (Gal. 1:6) and therefore, we must maintain our position
6. Is needed by everyone
7. Is one of Paul’s favorite words for God’s free gift of salvation
8. Galatians begins and ends with grace

What a blessedness (see Sermon on the Mount”) is ours to have in our possession the grace of God, His unmerited favor.

Grace

- Quick Exam

The following is a true or false test:

1. To be born again (saved, righteous), you must receive Jesus as Messiah and observe the laws of the Old Testament.
2. To be born again (saved, righteous), you must receive Jesus as Messiah and keep the 10 commandments.
3. To be born again (saved, righteous), you must receive Jesus as Messiah and observe the Sabbath.
4. To be born again (saved, righteous), you must receive Jesus as Messiah and be baptized in water by complete immersion.