THE GRACE OF GOD
Ephesians 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION: Definition of Grace

A. The Foundation of Grace (v. 1-4)

1. God's grace is undeserved (v. 1-3)

   a. Man's state shows him to be undeserving (v. 1)
   (What man is)

   b. Man's lifestyle shows him to be undeserving
   (v. 2)
   (What man does)

   c. Man's desires show him to be undeserving (v. 3)
   (What man wants)

2. God's grace is an expression of His love (v. 4)

B. The Source of Grace (v. 5-7)

God's grace is only found "in Christ"
["with Christ" (v. 5); "in Christ" (v. 6); "through Christ (v. 7)]

C. The Channel of Grace (v. 8-9)

God's grace is received through faith not works

E. The Goal of Grace (v. 7, 10)

1. The goal of God (v. 7) - that we would be "trophies of His grace"

2. The goal for the believer (v. 10) - that we should do good works because of the

salvation we already possess

a. We are God's product ("workmanship")

b. Our works are God's plan ("before ordained")

THE GRACE OF GOD

"The Lord is gracious " II Pet.2:3

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION: Definition of Grace

What do Noah, Moses, Samuel and the Virgin Mary have in common?

--Noah found grace int he eyes of the Lord (Gen. 6:8).

--God said of Moses: "Thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name" (Gen. 6:8)

--I Samuel 2:26 - "And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.

--Gabriel said to Mary - "Hail, thou that art highly favored (showered with grace), the Lord is with thee . . . Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour (grace) with God" (Lk. 1:28, 30).

The Hebrew word "hanan" depicts God's heartfelt (compassionate) willingness to grant favor on someone who has a need.

The word is believed to be derived from a root word meaning "to bend or to incline" (Theo. Wordbook of the O.T. p. 302).

it describes the action of a superior to an inferior as he stoops or condescends to extend a favor.

The Greek word "charis" - the undeserved kindness and favor of God, that is usually shown to man by means of a spiritual gift ("charisma") (Rom. 6:23; 12:6).

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Hymn - "Amazing Grace"

Examples of the amazing grace of God:

--Manasseh - II Chron. 33:1-20

--Nebuchadnezzar - Dan. 4:1ff

--Saul (Paul) - Acts 9:1ff

--The Corinthians - I Cor. 6:9-11

B. The Source of Grace (v. 5-7)

God's grace is only found "in Christ"
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In all of Paul's epistles, he begins and ends by referring to the grace of God (specifically, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ).

NOTE: Grace comes from God the Father (II Cor. 1:12) and God the Son (Gal. 1:6).

In I Thess. 1:12 (and several other passages), God and Christ are both described as sources of God's grace - a powerful indication of Christ's deity.

SEE John 1:14-17.

"Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (Jn. 1:17).

God's grace only comes through Christ!

Romans 5:15 refers to "the grace of God, and the gift by grace" as being "by one man, Jesus Christ."

Apart from Christ, God has no grace to offer!

--Eternal life is a gift that only comes to man "through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

--Spiritual blessings are only found "in Christ" (Eph. 1:3ff)

This being so, only believers are recipients of the grace of God. However, God offerings His grace to all!

C. The Channel of Grace (v. 8-9)

God's grace is received through faith not works.

Grace is a gift (something that God gives) - "He giveth more grace" (Ja. 4:6).

Grace and works cannot be united to produce salvation any more than oil and water can be mixed.

E. The Goal of Grace (v. 7, 10)

1. The goal of God (v. 7) - that we would be "trophies of His grace"

2. The goal for the believer (v. 10) - that we should do good works because of the salvation we already possess

   a. We are God's product ("workmanship")

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CONCLUSION:

Ps. 34:8 - "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

Have you tasted that "the Lord is gracious"? (II Pet. 2:3)

Our Response to God's Grace

1. Continue in it

   Remain confident in the grace of God -- Don't revert back to Law!

   Acts 13:43 - "Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God"

2. Pray for it

   Isaiah 33:2 - "O LORD, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble."

Malachi 1:9 - "And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts."

3. Desire it to be on others

Romans 16:20 - "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."

4. Rely on it

II Cor. 12:9 - "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

5. Be empowered by it

"Strong" = endued with strength, infused with strength.

II Timothy 2:1 - "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

I Cor. 3:10 - "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereof. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon."

Empowered for service - Eph. 4:7 - "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."

6. Guard your testimony because of it

Titus 2:11 - "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."

7. Proclaim it!

Acts 20:24 - "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."