Grace Living

Selected Scriptures from 1&2 Peter

9/9/07

Introduction:

Not only are we saved by Grace (Ephesians 2:8-9), but we as believers also live by Grace. Peter, Like Paul, has much to say about God's grace.

May the Lord encourage you with Peter's description of God's grace to live the Christian life!

I. We <u>NEED</u> Grace (1 Peter 1:2)

II. We <u>LOOK</u> for Grace (1 Peter 1:13; 3:7)

III. We <u>SERVE</u> by Grace (1 Peter 4:10)

IV. We <u>INCREASE</u> in Grace (when Humble) (1 Peter 5:5)

V. We <u>STAND</u> by Grace (1 Peter 5:10)

VI. We <u>GROW</u> in Grace (2 Peter 3:18)

Conclusion: Grace comes through knowing the LORD (2 Peter 1:2). Do you know Him?

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Not only are we saved by Grace (Ephesians 2:8-9), but we as believers also live by Grace. Peter, Like Paul, has much to say about God's grace.

May the Lord encourage you with Peter's description of God's grace to live the Christian life!

I. We <u>NEED</u> Grace (1 Peter 1:2)

1Pe 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: <u>Grace</u> unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

v. 1

"Peter" = *Petros*, a stone

"An apostle" - a sent one, a commissioned one; Peter was an official apostle sent to unlock the Gospel message to the Gentiles (Acts 10), the Samaritans (Acts 8), and primarily the Jews (Acts 2; Gal. 2:7-9).

Note: Peter was an apostle, not a "pope."

"Strangers" = sojourners; lit. ones living alongside; i.e. ones who dwell int he midst of a world which is not "family." Refers to someone who lives in a house that is <u>not</u> his own. It also refers to a foreigner in a strange land without citizenship rights. We have no right to act like the world because we are not permanent citizens of this world.

We are foreigners here! Hymn: "This World is not my home, I'm just a passing through..."

"Scattered" - dispersed. This is not necessarily referring to Jews of the *diaspora* (since this Epistle is written primarily to Gentiles - 1:14, 2:9-10; 4:3-4), but to God's people who (like O.T. Israel) were forced to scatter due to persecution. Because of opposition to the faith, God's people were forced to flee and scatter (thus fulfilling God's sovereign purpose of spreading the Gospel to regions beyond - cp. Acts 8:1, 4, 11:19).

V. 2

***"Elect"* =** chosen ones; selected out from the world of humanity.

"According to the <u>foreknowledge of God"</u> - What did God foreknow?

--He knew in advance whom He would save (he knew what He would do)

--He knew in advance who would believe (He knew what we would do)

--He knew in advance the glory He would bestow upon the elect (He knew what He <u>will</u> do) (Rom. 8:28-30)

"Though sanctification of the Spirit" - the means by which God drew us to Himself; and pulled on our hearts; and convinced us of the Gospel message; and thereby made us His *"elect"* is by the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit, who set us apart. This act of setting us apart speaks of how the Holy Spirit worked in our hearts and gave us the new birth (Jn. 3). No one gets saved without the sanctification of the Holy Spirit.
"Unto" - points to the <u>goal</u> or <u>purpose</u> of the Spirit's work.

The Spirit sanctified us so that we would become "obedient" to the faith (ie. the Gospel) and of our Heavenly Father (1:14).

The practical goal of the new birth is obedience.

"Sprinkling of the blood" - This is reminiscent of the O.T. practice of sprinkling blood on the mercy seat so as to satisfy the holiness of God and to appease the wrath of God. Christ's blood cleanses our hearts from all sin (Heb. 10:22).

In just one verse of Scripture the Trinity is manifested (*"...the Father...Spirit...Jesus Christ")*

Grace and peace are not only necessary for salvation [Grace being the means of salvation [Eph. 2:8], peace being the result [Rom. 5:1]), but grace and peace are needed in multiples for the believer to successfully live the Christian life.

"Multiplied" - It is God who can fill us to overflowing with His grace and peace.

The recipients of this letter needed God's grace and peace to handle the trials they faced.

Peter does not leave us guessing as to the purpose of this Epistle. He clearly expresses his intention in 5:12 - *"...I have written briefly exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God, wherein ye stand* (imperative: "in which you must stand fast").

This epistle unfolds the "wonderful grace of Jesus," which is to be the firm foundation on which we stand staunchly no matter what troubles, suffering, hardship, or persecution we face.

When one faces opposition and hatred for the sake of the Gospel, the temptation exists for one to question whether or not his belief is right. "If what I believe is God's truth, why do I experience hardship? Why are people antagonistic toward me?"

Therefore, "First Peter is pre-eminently an epistle of triumphant faith amid suffering. It exultantly proclaims the Christ centered hope of the believer in the midst of an unbelieving and antagonistic world" (Highboard, p. 11).

This letter confirms the love of God for suffering saints. It comforts and encourages the hearts of God's people as they gain a reassurance of their relationship with God and their eternal security.

"The opening paragraph (1:3-12) setting forth the glories of our salvation in Christ, provided a solid [doctrinal] foundation for Peter's series of exhortations that were intended to strengthen and stimulate the suffering readers." (Highboard, p. 28)

II. **We <u>LOOK</u> for Grace** (1 Peter 1:13; 3:7)

1Pe 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the <u>grace</u> that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

A sense of confident expectation about something future forms a basis for how we feel and act in the present (EX: Lk. 23:8; cp. Phil. 2:19, 23).

EX: a family looking forward to a future vacation lives with optimism, joy, and anticipation in the present.

Christians live now in the present in light of what the future holds.

Our "present actions and decisions are governed by this future hope. Just as an engaged couple makes all their plans in the light of that future wedding, so Christians today live with the expectation of seeing Jesus Christ (our Bridegroom)" (Wiersbe, p. 395).

Our future hope is the greatest incentive for present Godly obedience and faithfulness!

"to the end" - to the finish line; to completion; to the end goal; to the "end zone" of our life.

The "end" in view in this verse is the Rapture.

As "the end" draws closer, as "the day" approaches (heb. 10:25), there will be many many distractions that will try to undo our hope. Satan will unleash His fury and attempt to rip apart the confidence of God's children. Our faith will be tried and tested (1:7).

Why the need to endure in one's hope ***"<u>unto the end</u>"?***

1)The proliferation of: <u>demonic doctrines</u> (leading to apostasy) (I Tim. 4:1ff)

2)The prevailing <u>sin in society</u> (II Tim. 3:1ff)

3)The <u>persecution and pressures</u> brought on by Satan and his Antichrist (Mt. 24)

Note the phrase *"he that shall endure <u>unto the end</u> shall be saved"*

Because of the troubles, pressures, afflictions, persecutions Christians will face in the last days, God exhorts us to remain patient (SEE: James 5:7-9).

("the grace that is to be brought to you")

"the grace" - this is the object of our "hope." God is saying be confident that "grace" is on its way.

No only are you now already saved by grace (Eph. 2:8), but a special grace will be brought by Jesus Christ when He returns.

What would this "grace" include?
(whatever it involves, will be undeserved, unearned, unmerited. It will include free gifts by God through Christ)

At the Rapture what will Christ give us?

1)Deliverance from physical death

I Cor. 15:51 - *"Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed."*

2)Glorified bodies

I Cor. 15:52-55 - *"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"*

"I Jn. 3:2-3 - "Beloved, how are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

3)A Family Reunion

I Th. 4:13-18 - *"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."*

4)Rescue from God's wrath

I Th. 5:8-9 - *"But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."*

II Th. 1:7-10 - *"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."*

5)Rewards for faithful service

Rev. 11:18, 22:12 - *"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth." "And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."*

6)The greatest blessing: Jesus Christ Himself

John 14:3 - *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also."*

"the revelation" - the *apocalypsis*; the unveiling, revealing, disclosing, the appearing.

The word "revelation" is the same Greek word translated "appearing" in verse 7.

The Rapture and Revelation are one and the same event!

The Rapture will not be a secret, invisible, hidden event! Christ will be revealed like lightning when He comes!

"Revelation" always refers to Christ's second coming and particularly to the Rapture (I Pet. 1:7; 4:13; II Th. 1:7; Rom. 8:18-19; I Cor. 1:7).

III. We SERVE by Grace (1 Peter 4:10)

1Pe 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

"Every man" - You have a gift whether you know it or not. (don't seek other's gifts)

"received" - given to you in the past

"gift" - a result of grace. No matter what gift you have been given, serve one another with it.

"One another" = Fellow believers in a local church. Whether it be a gift of singing, mechanical, artistic, technical, musical, or teaching skill or an ability to comfort, help, finance, encourage etc. use it to the glory of God.

"Good stewards" - A good manager, put in trust. (ex Joseph in Potiphor's house). (ex. parable of the talents)

-Stewardship involves responsibility. We must do the best with what we are entrusted with. To not use your gifts in the assembly is to sin against God.

-Stewardship involves accountability. We will answer to the Master one

day. "To whom much is given, much shall be required".

"manifold" - many kinds, various kinds, different, diversified. Your gifts are different than mine.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the some Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the some Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the some God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."(I Cor.12:4-7)

Don't be selfish with your gifts. "And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."(Acts 2:44-45)

IV. We <u>INCREASE</u> in Grace (when Humble) (1 Peter 5:5)

1Pe 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth <u>grace</u> to the humble.

You need to humble yourself
so that you may experience the <u>GRACE</u> of God and not the <u>OPPOSITION</u> of God (v. 5c)

"Resisteth" -<u>anti</u> tasso (cp. "submit" - *<u>hupo</u> tasso*)

"God <u>resisteth</u> the proud" - God positions Himself against the proud. The word means: He is lining Himself up against; He stands in opposition to the proud.

"If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). The opposition is also true - "If God is <u>not</u> for us, who could we withstand?"

The media, society, family, peers, etc., may resist me, but if God isn't, I can stand. However, I would never want God to <u>resist</u> me; no one could stand that!

"Proud" - *huperephanos* (*huper* = above, over) (*phainomai* - to appear or manifest oneself)

The Greek word for "proud" means to show yourself as having it over and above others.

It's really an overestimation of one's self, to think more of yourself than is right or true.

Pride is to show off what you really have no right to show off.

It's to take credit for something God did. (I Cor. 4:7 - *"For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?"*

Cp. Jer. 9:23-24 - *"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD, which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."*

It's a failure not to see yourself as God sees you.

How does He see us?--utterly <u>depraved</u> (any goodness or virtue is of His grace) --utterly <u>dependent</u> (any prosperity or success if of His grace)

Humility is not achieved by having talent and degrading yourself in front of others (denying the talent, putting yourself down), but by giving glory to the One who gave you the talent (and not stealing it for yourself).

One of the seven things God hates is a *"proud look"* (Prov. 6:17).

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18).

"The Lord will destroy the house of the proud" (Prov. 15:2)

--Ask Nebuchadnezzar (who boasted over Babylon) if God resists the proud (Dan. 4)
--Ask Hezekiah (who boasted of his vast wealth) if God resists the proud (II Ki. 20:12-18; cp. II Chron. 32:25)
--Ask Uzziah (who usurped the role of priest) if god resists the proud (II Chron. 26:16-20)
--Ask Herod Agrippa if God resists the proud (Acts f12:20-23).

If any had first-hand experience with the consequences of pride, it was Peter (Mk. 14:31).

God's ultimate day of resisting the proud will be in the Day of the Lord, when *"The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day."* (Is. 2:11; cp. Is. 2:17).

"When short men cast long shadows, it is because sundown is soon approaching in their lives."

God is either resisting you or giving to you, depending on your attitude toward yourself.

Which line do you want to be in? The line of fire or the line of blessing?

"He gives grace to the humble"

Grace for what?--the grace of salvation (God must humble a person before He saves him)

--the grace for living (this grace is God's gift of His blessings, strength, wisdom, direction, protection, success, etc.)

V. We STAND by Grace (1 Peter 5:10)

1Pe 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

So as to further encourage us, God draws attention to His grace toward us, and His eternal life awaiting us.

What an incentive to lift up our heads and look forward to what's ahead.

God is a gracious God who gives us that which we do not even deserve.

"All grace" - has its source in God.

During the attack of the Enemy, he may tempt you to doubt God's tender mercy and question His loving care. But remember, He will never leave you nor forsake you; and He is the source of good things that will eventually return to you (Ja. 1:17).

"Whatever begins with God's grace will always lead to God's glory" (Psalm 84:11) (Wiersbe, p. 433).

"Eternal glory" - Remember, your trial is only temporary; keep your eyes fixed on what is yours in eternity (Rom. 8:18 - *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*)

"Awhile" = A little time, a short period. It may seem long; however, against the backdrop of eternity, our temporary suffering is like a small dot on a 1,000 foot square canvas.

"Perfect" - mended; put in order; re-established

(the pieces of life's puzzle may be confusing and shattered now, but wait! God will straighten it out)

"Stablish" - to stand up; to set upright

(you may be flat on your face in a trial, but God will lift you up)

"Strengthen" - to impart physical and spiritual muscle and energy (God's strength is made perfect in weakness)

"Settle" - to ground firmly; to establish a solid and stable foundation (it may seem like the bottom of life has fallen out, but god will provide firm footing and stability to your life again. *"Wait on the Lord!"*

--When skies are dark and troubles are plenteous, when it seems like life is overwhelming and you were better dead, remember the truth of this song: "It's Just Like Jesus To Roll the Clouds Away"

VI. We <u>GROW</u> in Grace (2 Peter 3:18)

2Pe 3:18 But grow in <u>grace</u>, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Conclusion: Grace comes through knowing the LORD (2 Peter 1:2). Do you know Him?
2Pe 1:2 <u>Grace</u> and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord