

## The Grace of Godliness - Part 3

THE GLORY OF GRACE    Ephesians 1:1-14

### STIMULATE

\*\* Today, we continue in our series which we have called "The Grace of Godliness". As we do, it is important to carry with us the valuable riches that the Lord has taught us in the first two parts. You may recall the fundamental truth from Part 1, that brings us closer to a godly walk with Jesus Christ.

It was that "By the grace of God I am what I am".

\*\* And from last week, if we are going to experience victory in our daily walk, we must fix our hope . . .

Upon the glory of God. cf. 1Peter 1:13 "Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

\*\* Do you recall the process that causes us to grow as Christians?

- 1) Tribulations - James 1:2
- 2) Perseverance - Romans 2:5-8
- 3) Proven character - Philippians 2:19-22 (Timothy)
- 4) "Biblical" hope - Proverbs 3:5-6
- 5) Absence of Disappointment - Romans 9:33 & 10:11

\*\* What was "The Gift of Grace" that Christ gave to us in exchange for our sin?

His righteousness! 2Corinthians 5:21

### MOTIVATE

\*\* Now, to help us apply our "positional" righteousness to our everyday "practical" experience, we need to understand what is at stake when we let the Lord down by disobeying His will, which has been expressed in His Word. To learn about "The Glory of Grace", please join me in Paul's wonderful letter to the Ephesians, chapter 1, verses 1-14 for part 3 of our series.

Read passage (V. 1-6) (V. 7-14)

Opening Prayer

### *The Glory of Grace*

### INVESTIGATE

**V. 1** \*\* Paul wrote to his beloved Ephesian church around 60 A.D. and reminds them of the reason that they can trust totally in what he is about to say, what was that reason?

He was "...an apostle of Christ Jesus..."

\*\* Was that by his design?

No! It was "by the will of God" cf. Galatians 1:1, 15-16

**\*\* What two ways does Paul commend the Ephesian believers in verse one?**

- 1) saints - "holy ones" positional righteousness
- 2) faithful - practical righteousness

**V. 2 \*\* What two blessings does he bestow upon them?**

- 1) grace - God's kindness on undeserving sinners
- 2) peace - God's forgiveness, calming our souls

**\*\* An important note here, did you notice from whom we receive this marvelous grace and peace?**

From "God our Father **and** the Lord Jesus Christ".

The little word "and" [kai] indicates that these blessings do not come from two sources, but one. Here it indicates that the Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father are both deity.

### **V. 3 - 14**

This masterpiece is comprised of only one sentence in the original Greek language. It not only is going to teach us about "The Glory of Grace", but it will also show us the past, present and future aspects of our salvation. In addition, those same three aspects will portray all three Persons of the Trinity, as we see the role of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit beautifully described.

**V. 3 \*\* What does Paul say about the very nature of God, our Father?**

He is "blessed" or good. We derive our word "eulogy" from eulogeo, the word used for blessed. A eulogy is a declaration of a person's goodness and Paul is here declaring the goodness of God.

**\*\* What has our God done for us?**

"...who has blessed us..."

**\*\* Is there any limit to how much God has blessed us?**

Absolutely not! "...with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ..."

**V. 4 \*\* Along with "every spiritual blessing", what else did our Heavenly Father do?**

"...He chose us in Him..."cf.Ephesians 2:10, 2Thessalonians 2:13

**\*\* When did God do that?**

"...before the foundation of the world..." In God's mind, we were His before we existed, even before the world existed!

**\*\* Why did God do that, what was His purpose?**

"...that we should be holy and blameless..." Even the Son shared this same concern.

cf. Ephesians. 5:27

We can see that "The Grace of Godliness" was in operation long before we knew Him.

**V. 5** \*\* Besides choosing us to be holy and blameless, what did the love of God desire for us to become?

His sons! "In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself..."

\*\* What does God's work of predestination say about our eternal security as the children of God?

Because God called us and predestined us to this wonderful fate, it will come to pass and nothing can change it! All see - Romans 8:28-30, 33, 38-39.

\*\* We see the love of the Father on display in the past aspect of our salvation, what other attribute of God is on display here in verse five?

His kindness..."according to the kind intention of His will..." Psalm 136 repeats the phrase "For His lovingkindness is everlasting" in each of its twenty-six verses. In the Old Testament the writers repeat the term 176 times!

**V. 6** \*\* What is to be our response to our Heavenly Father's kindness that was put on display in the past aspect of our salvation?

"...to the praise of the **glory of His grace**..." This is our first reminder that "The Glory of Grace" belongs totally to God! It is "His" grace!

\*\* Did you notice what all this grace cost us?

Nothing! It was "freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."

So the past aspect of our salvation is "our election" by the love and kindness of our Heavenly Father. Next, we will see the present aspect of our salvation, which comes through the Son.

**V. 7** \*\* What is it that we gain "In Him"?

Our redemption! The word used here means "to release on payment of ransom".

\*\* What was the payment?

"...through His blood..." cf. 1Peter 1:18-19

\*\* What did that accomplish for us in this present time?

"...forgiveness of our trespasses..." cf. Hebrews 9:22

\*\* Was there any limitation to God's forgiving power?

No, "...according to the riches of His grace, (V.8) which He lavished upon us."

**V. 8 - 10**

\*\* What is it that God made known to us by granting us wisdom and insight?

"...the mystery of His will..." cf. Colossians 1:26-27 and 1Peter 1:10-12

**V.10** \*\* What was God's kind intention, "which He purposed" in Jesus Christ, looking toward?

The "administration suitable to the fulness of the times..."

\*\* What is that?

"the summing up of all things in Christ..."

**V.11** \*\* What else have we obtained in Him?

"...an inheritance..." All see - 1Peter 1:3-5

\*\* Just a footnote here, how many things does God work out after the counsel of His will?

"...all things..." Remember Romans 8:28?

**V.12** \*\* So again, what is to be our response to the redemptive work of the Son of God in the present aspect of our salvation?

We "should be to **the praise of His glory**". Here is the second reminder that "The Glory of Grace" is all God's and we owe praise to Him!

In this section Paul is saying that the present aspect of our salvation (which is our redemption) brought about our understanding of God's plan to bring all things together in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. cf. Philippians 2:10-11

Finally, for the Holy Spirit's work in the future aspect of our salvation, let's look at the last two verses of our passage for this today.

**V.13** \*\* There are three illustrations of God's grace on our behalf in this verse, do you see them?

1) listening to the message of truth 2) having also believed 3) you were sealed in Him

\*\* What is the message of truth?

"...the gospel of your salvation..."

\*\* What does that say about all other "messages" about life, death and eternity?

They are not the truth, but Satan's lie!

\*\* How is it that we were sealed in Christ and thus made eternally secure in the future of our salvation?

"...with the Holy Spirit of promise..." cf. Ephesians 4:30, John 16:7 & 13.

**V.14** \*\* Why was the Holy Spirit given to us?

As a "pledge" or down payment. The word Paul used here is "arrabon" in the Greek and a form of this word came to be used for an engagement ring.

**\*\* What was God saying about us when He redeemed us and gave us His divine engagement ring?**

He wants us for His own possession! cf. Titus 2:14

**\*\* So for the last time then, what is to be our response to the Holy Spirit's "sealing" of our salvation in the future?**

It is **"to the praise of His glory"**!

### **EXTRICATE**

**\*\* If I am to fully appreciate "The Grace of Godliness" granted to me in Jesus Christ, what should be my constant response to God?**

Give Him the glory and praise for equipping me to walk in a godly manner and then excel still more! cf. 1Thessalonians 4:1, 9-10

### **DELINEATE**

**\*\* What were the three aspects of our salvation and how was the Trinity involved in each of them?**

1) Past - The Father "elected" us.

2) Present - The Son "redeemed" us.

3) Future - The Spirit "seals" us.

### **EVALUATE**

**\*\* Are you following the Lord Jesus Christ with a heart of praise to His glory, into a lifestyle of ever increasing godliness?**

### **ACTIVATE**

**\*\* What do you need to add to your life or possibly remove from your life, that would help you to develop a more godly walk with the Lord. In the days ahead, please take the time to prayerfully consider this self-examining question so that you might grow in "The Grace of Godliness".**

Closing Prayer