



THE GRACE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

There are as many opinions about God as there are thoughts in man's mind. False concepts develop out of ignorance of who God really is – out of the evil imaginations of man's darkened heart. Many view God as a hateful, unkind, severe master, demanding vengeance and punishment on anyone who is not worshipping Him through wearisome religious sacrifices or rites. Others believe God is an unconcerned, uncaring presence that is totally unaffected and uninterested in the universe much less in mankind and his suffering. God, however, has gone to great lengths throughout world history to demonstrate and bestow His love on mankind. A study into God's grace will expose these false beliefs and demonstrate that God is love and the motivation behind His actions is His grace – His unmerited favor toward man.

The grace of God is a perfection of the Divine character of God. It is the source from which flows the goodwill, love and salvation of God. It is the Divine attribute of God by which the sovereign¹ and saving favor of God is bestowed freely upon those who have no merit. God's grace is the love of God flowing abundantly to those who are thoroughly undeserving and hell-deserving sinners. It is unmerited favor, unsought and not earned by anything in or from the person it is bestowed upon. God's grace was clearly demonstrated on the cross by Jesus the Son of God. When He sacrificed His life for the sins of mankind.

THEME SCRIPTURE

But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more (Romans 5:20b).

¹ sovereign: ruler that exercises and possesses supreme and independent authority over all.

SECTION I – Definitions

1. WRITE your own definition of *grace*. _____

Dictionary Definition

Webster's definition of *grace* is beauty or charm of form, goodwill, favor; the love and favor of God toward men.

Biblical Definitions

The Biblical Old Testament Hebrew word for *grace* is *chen* kindness: favor, graciousness, pleasantness and preciousness.

The Biblical New Testament Greek word for *grace* is *charis* graciousness (of manner): act or spirit (the divine influence upon the heart), acceptance, benevolence, favor, gift, joy, pleasure and thank worthiness; God exerting His holy influence on souls that they may turn to the cross.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures on the grace of God. UNDERLINE the word or phrase that speak of and/or describe God's grace.

John 1:17	<i>For the law was given through Moses, but <u>grace and truth</u> came through Jesus Christ.</i>
John 3:16	<i>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.</i>
Romans 5:15	<i>For if by the one man's [Adam] offense many died, much more the <u>grace of God and the gift</u> by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.</i>
Ephesians 1:6, 7	<i>To the praise of the glory of His <u>grace</u>, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His <u>grace</u>.</i>
Ephesians 2:8, 9	<i>For by <u>grace</u> you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.</i>
II Timothy 1:9	<i>Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and <u>grace</u> which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.</i>

3. What did you learn about God's grace from these Scriptures? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted your life? _____

SECTION II – The Grace of God

The crucifixion of Christ is the ultimate demonstration of God's grace poured out on mankind. Observe the various responses of the people who witnessed the agony of the cross; not all chose to receive the gift of His grace, others received it freely. Reading from the four Gospels² note the depth of Christ's grace regardless of the responses of the people.

READ Matthew 27:27-60. WRITE the actions and responses of the people who were present and witnessed the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ as He offered His life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

NOTICE the harmony of the Gospels in each of the LOOK DEEPER sections.

The Soldiers:

Matthew 27:27-37 _____

² Gospels: Good News; the story of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; the same story in all four Gospels.

LOOK DEEPER

NOTICE the harmony of the Gospels.

Mark 15:16-26 _____

Luke 23:36-38 _____

John 19:1, 2, 23, 24, 32-37 _____

The Two Thieves:

Matthew 27:38 _____

LOOK DEEPER

Mark 15:27, 28, 32b _____

Luke 23:32-34, 39-43 _____

Crowd and Spectators:

Matthew 27:39, 40 _____

LOOK DEEPER

Mark 15:29, 30 _____

Luke 23:35a, 48 _____

Chief Priests, Scribes, Rulers and Elders:

Matthew 27:41-43 _____

LOOK DEEPER

Mark 15:31,32a _____

Luke 23:35 _____

John 19:19-22 _____

Christ on the Cross:

WRITE the scene that is depicted during Christ's last moments on the cross.

Matthew 27:45-53 _____

LOOK DEEPER

Christ's seven last sayings from the cross were recorded in Matthew, Luke and John. ALLOW the Holy Spirit to engrave them in your heart as you WRITE them.

1. Luke 23:34 _____

2. Luke 23:43 _____

3. John 19:26,27 _____

4. Matthew 27:46 _____

5. John 19:28 _____

6. John 19:30 _____

7. Luke 23:46 _____

PERSONAL

Throughout Christ's last words spoken on the cross how has His abundant grace been poured out on your life?

The Centurion:

Matthew 27:54 _____

LOOK DEEPER

Mark 15:39 _____

Luke 23:47 _____

The Women:

Matthew 27:55, 56 _____

LOOK DEEPER

Mark 15:40, 41 _____

Luke 23:49 _____

John 19:25-27 _____

The Apostle John:

John 19:26, 27 _____

Joseph of Arimathea/Nicodemus:

Matthew 27:57-61 _____

LOOK DEEPER

Mark 15:42-46 _____

Luke 23:50-53 _____

John 19:38, 39 _____

PERSONAL

WRITE of a time when you identified with the various people at the foot of the cross. Which ones?

SECTION III – Scriptural References of God’s Grace

MATCH the Scriptures reference with what God’s grace will perform in you and/or why it is needful.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ___ Proverbs 3:34b | a. through God’s grace we are saved |
| ___ Acts 15:11 | b. grace of God that brings salvation |
| ___ Romans 3:24 | c. the exceeding riches of His Grace, manifested in ages to come |
| ___ Romans 5:20 | d. God gives grace to the humble |
| ___ II Corinthians 8:9 | e. the God of all grace makes you perfect, strong and settled |
| ___ II Corinthians 12:9 | f. we are justified ³ freely through the redemption ⁴ that is in Christ |
| ___ Ephesians 2:7 | g. when sin abounds, grace abounds much more |
| ___ II Timothy 2:1 | h. God’s grace is sufficient for you |
| ___ Titus 2:11 | i. through His Grace, Christ became poor that we might be rich |
| ___ James 4:6 | k. be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus |
| ___ I Peter 5:5 | l. be clothed in humility, God gives grace to the humble |
| ___ I Peter 5:10 | m. God gives more grace, resists the proud, gives grace to the humble |

³ justified: man’s sins are blotted out and he is cleansed by the blood of Jesus. . . . *you were washed . . . you were justified . . .* (I Corinthians 6:11).

⁴ redemption: man’s sins are paid for by the shedding of the blood of Christ. *You were bought at a price . . .* (I Corinthians 6:20).

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

(Romans 5:20b).

*For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves;
it is the gift of God . . .*

Ephesians 2:8

NOTES: _____

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Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

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