

Session #21 – The Grace of God.

Introduction

God is merciful and gracious – Exodus 33:18ff; Ephesians 2

Mercy is the kindness of God motivated by _____ and _____ for those who are miserable. Grace is the kindness of God that focuses on what is justly _____.

The Definition of Divine Grace

“Grace is the good pleasure of God that inclines Him to bestow benefits on the undeserving. It is a self-existent principle inherent in the divine nature and appears to us as a self-caused propensity to ... spare the guilty, welcome the outcast, and bring into favor those who were before under just [condemnation]” (Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, 100).

“The grace of God is love freely shown towards guilty sinners, contrary to their merit and indeed in defiance of their demerit. It is God showing goodness to persons who deserve only severity, and had no reason to expect anything but severity” (J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, 120).

Two Kinds of Grace

1. COMMON GRACE.

Common grace refers to “every favor of whatever kind or degree, falling short of salvation, which this undeserving and sin-cursed world enjoys at the hand of God.”

A. Common grace is manifest in divine _____.

1. God restrains evil in the world. (2 Thessalonians 2:6; Romans 13)

2. God also graciously restrains _____ from the exercise of wrath.
(Romans 3:25; 2:4-5; 1 Peter 3:20)

B. Common grace is manifest in God’s blessings upon nature and humankind.

Psalm 65:9-13; Genesis 39:5; Acts 14:16-17; Luke 16:25

Every favor, every _____, every success in the common arena of life is a gift of the common grace of God because each one comes despite what every human actually deserves.

2. SPECIAL GRACE.

Special grace is that measure of divine grace which is specifically granted to those humans who are being saved. It is “his voluntary, _____, unmerited favor toward guilty sinners, granting them justification and life instead of the _____ of death, which they deserved” (Herman Bavinck, *The Doctrine of God*, 208).

Romans 8:31-32.

Ephesians 1:3-10.

Grace is the _____ within God from which flow not only his daily kindnesses but also his eternal plan of salvation with all of its profound components.

Romans 3:23-25a. The concept of grace is wed to the concept of a _____.

Romans 5:15-17 – The gracious gift of God is NOT LIKE the trespass.

The one man's sin.

1. Many _____.
2. Judgment brought _____.
3. _____ reigned.

God's grace.

1. It _____ MUCH MORE.

For those who are being saved, death is not the last word. Grace is the last word and grace overcomes death.

2. It brings _____. (Romans 8:3-4)

Andrew Wilson: "The gift is of a different scale from the condemnation, and God's grace is of a different magnitude from his judgment. Instead, [many sins] lead to justification" (*Incomparable: Explorations in the Character of God*, 262).

3. It makes _____ reign over death; they reign in life.

Properties of God's Grace (See Sam Storms, *The Grandeur of God*.)

(1) Grace presupposes _____ and _____.

(2) Grace views sinners not merely as ___deserving but as ___-deserving. (Romans 5:8, 10).

(3) Grace cannot be _____ to ANY degree. Neither can you be good enough for it or too bad for it. Either way it would cease to be grace.

(4) Grace cannot be _____. It is a gift. Repayment would suggest otherwise. You don't live to pay God back. You can't do it. Rather, you live as an expression of gratitude.

(5) Grace has a varying relationship to our _____. "Whereas we are saved by grace and *not* of works, we are saved by grace *unto* good works" (Storms, 126). (Ephesians 2:8-10)

(6) Grace is the _____ and salvation is the _____. (Titus 2:11)

(7) Grace is _____. 2 Timothy 1:9-10

Responding to the Grace of God

How shall we respond to the grace of the Lord?

1. Worship joyfully. Give thanks abundantly. Sing of God's grace. "Amazing Grace!" "Grace Greater than Our Sin"
2. Rest securely.
3. Live zealously but freely. You can't earn God's favor, so don't try. Don't saddle yourself with a performance mindset. God will bless me if . . .
4. Treat others with grace.

Conclusion

Rock of Ages

Not the labors of my hands
 Can fulfill Thy law's demands.
 Could my zeal no respite know,
 Could my tears forever flow,
 All for sin could not atone
 Thou must save, and Thou alone

GREAT God of wonders!

1 GREAT God of wonders! all thy ways
 Display the attributes divine;
 But countless acts of pardoning grace
 Beyond thine other wonders shine:
 Who is a pardoning God like thee?
 Or who has grace so rich and free?

2 In wonder lost, with trembling joy
 We take the pardon of our God;
 Pardon for crimes of deepest dye,
 A pardon bought with Jesus's blood:
 Who is a pardoning God like thee?
 Or who has grace so rich and free?

3 O may this strange, this matchless grace,
 This God-like miracle of love,
 Fill the wide earth with grateful praise,
 As now it fills the choirs above!
 Who is a pardoning God like thee?
 Or who has grace so rich and free?

Grace 'tis a Charming Sound
 Grace first inscribed my name
 In God's eternal book;
 'Twas grace that gave me to the Lamb,
 Who all my sorrows took.

Grace taught my soul to pray
 And pardoning love to know;
 'Twas grace which kept me to this day,
 And will not let me go.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
 Oh to grace how great a debtor
 Daily I'm constrained to be
 Let Thy goodness like a fetter
 Bind my wandering heart to Thee
 Prone to wander, Lord I feel it
 Prone to leave the God I love—
 Take my heart, oh, take and seal it,
 Seal it for Thy courts above!