

## Chapter 1: Grace in Perspective: The Importance and Meaning of Grace

### I. Series Theme Verses

(John 1:16-17) <sup>16</sup> For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

(Deuteronomy 7:6-8) “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (Compare Exodus 19:4-6) (Read Both in Context)

(Ephesians 2:4-10) But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Study in the Context of the Entire Chapter)

### II. Grace Series Titles: Six Chapters (Possibly an Epilogue & an Appendix)

#### A. Section 1: Grace Re-Examined

1. Chapter 1: Grace in Perspective – The Importance and Meaning of Grace
2. Chapter 2: Grace Plus Theologies – “Sola Gracia” or “O Foolish Galatians”
3. Chapter 3: Growing in Grace – Attitudes and Actions for Appropriating Greater Grace

#### B. Section 2: Grace Delivered

4. Chapter 4: Grace Delivered – The Word of His Grace
5. Chapter 5: Grace Delivered – The Spirit of Grace
6. Chapter 6: Grace Delivered – The People of Grace

#### C. Epilogue: Grace and \_\_\_\_\_ ; Truth, Glory, Faith and More

#### D. Appendix: Thoughts Toward Reconciling Camps on Grace

### III. The Importance of Grace

- A. Grace: A Central Theme of All Scripture – (See Hebrew & Greek Definitions in IV B Below.)
- B. Grace: Realized in Jesus Christ; He is the Essence & Fountain of Grace; He is Grace (John 1:17 Above)
- C. Grace: The Critical Issue of the Reformation – *Sola Gracia*

### IV. Grace: Seven-Fold Working Definition (Starting Point)

- A. Grace As Unmerited Favor: (See Deuteronomy 7:7-8 & Ephesians 2:4-9 Above) (See Ephesians 4:7)
  1. Popular Definition Currently
  2. True Partial Definition - However, Extremely Incomplete

(Ephesians 1:3-8a) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us.

(John 15:16) You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

(Rom. 3:24) being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus (Rom. 5:15, 17)

B. Grace From the Hebrew & Greek –

1. Hebrew OT – *chen*: favour, grace, acceptance (69 Xs in KJV)
2. Greek NT – χάρις: (156 Xs in NT)
  - a. That which affords joy, pleasure, delight, grace of speech, good-will, loving-kindness, favour
  - b. The merciful kindness by which God, exerting His holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian character, virtues and deeds
  - c. Thanksgiving for benefits, services, favors, recompense, reward (Root of Eucharist)
3. Greek NT – χαριτώω: to make highly favored, accepted or honored with blessings (2 Xs in NT)  
(Luke 1:28) And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”  
(Compare Eph. 1:6) “by which He made us accepted”(NKJV) “freely bestowed” (NASB) “blessed us” (ESV)

C. Grace As Covenant: (Suzerainty Covenant Terminology & History Depict Both Testaments)

1. His People – For His Own Possession; His Peculiar or Special Treasure (Not Merely “Personal”)
2. Chosen for Reasons Known Only to God – Explain Context of Theme Verses Above
3. Granted Relationship by Merciful Suzerainty Covenant: Ransomed, Made Righteous, Favored, Sustained (Provisions), Delivered, Protected, Enlightened (Law) & Obligated (See Exodus 19:4-6; 1 Pet. 2:5,9)

D. Repentance is Granted by Grace & Grace Produces Fruit & Works:

(Romans 2:4b) ... the kindness of God leads you to repentance?  
(Acts 11:18) “... God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life.”  
(Matthew 3:8) “..Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance ...”

E. Grace As Divine Enablement: Empowered: Equipped & Transformed by His Glory to Do His Will

(Acts 20:32) And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.  
(Luke 2:40) The Child continued to grow & become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.  
(Acts 4:33) And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.  
(Romans 1:4b-5) Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name’s sake, (See Romans 5:2)  
(1 Corinthians 15:10) But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.  
(2 Corinthians 9:8) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; (Compare Ephesians 2:8-10; 3:2, 7-8)  
(Hebrews 4:16) Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.  
(Hebrews 12:15-16a) See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; <sup>16</sup>that *there be* no immoral or godless person ...  
(1 Peter 5:5) You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (James 2:4)

F. Grace As Relationship:

1. Grace and The New Covenant – “They Shall All Know Me”
2. Grace Realized In Jesus Christ
3. Growing In Grace – Two Types of Knowledge (*Ginōskō* & *Gnōsis*)

G. Grace Upon Grace:

(John 1:16-17) <sup>16</sup> For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. (Explain)

V. **Upcoming Weeks – See Chapter Titles in “II” Above**