

GRACE

The attributes of God

Elements Class: Sunday, Dec 13th
Choir Room 10:45am

BLESSING

Unmerited favor

God's-favor

Credit

Kindness

Approval

Regard

def·i·ni·tion

When we speak of the Grace of God, we do not mean:

The mercy of God:

Neither in the Old or New Testament is the 'grace' of God ever mentioned in connection with mankind generally. Which makes grace very different from mercy, because the mercy of God is "over all His works." (Ps. 145:9)

The LORD is good *to all*: and his tender mercies are *over all his works* (Ps 145:9)

Though very similar, for our study;
The **mercy of God** is what is mercifully shown to all people for all time... but the **grace of God** (*his saving favor & approval*), though freely available to all, is only bestowed on those specific people who believe and are his children. (See Rom 11:30-32)

def·i·ni·tion

When we speak of the Grace of God, we mean:

The free kindness of God on believers:

Grace is **free** kindness & goodness given to those who are thoroughly undeserving. It is completely unmerited. It can not be bought, won or deserved. If it could be, it would cease to be GRACE!

(Mercy is the same, free & unmerited)

But if it is by grace,
it is not on the basis of works,
otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Romans 11:6

For **by grace you have been saved**
through faith; and that not of
yourselves, it is **the gift of God**;
not as a result of works,
so that no one may boast....

Ephesians 2:8-9

def·i·ni·tion

When we speak of the Grace of God, we mean:

The full approval of God for believers:

Grace is the giving of **full** & eternal approval. God's grace towards believers in salvation is what guarantees his full, loving & gracious regard towards them forever.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also **obtained access by faith into this grace** *(approval)* in which we stand...

Romans 5:1-2

def·i·ni·tion

When we speak of the Grace of God, we mean:

The eternal favor of God on believers:

It is the eternal and absolute free **favor** of God, displayed in spiritual & eternal blessings which make the guilty and the unworthy, acceptable.

...that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, **what are the riches (*blessings*) of his glorious inheritance in the saints**, and **what is the immeasurable greatness of his power (*favor*) toward us who believe**, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead...

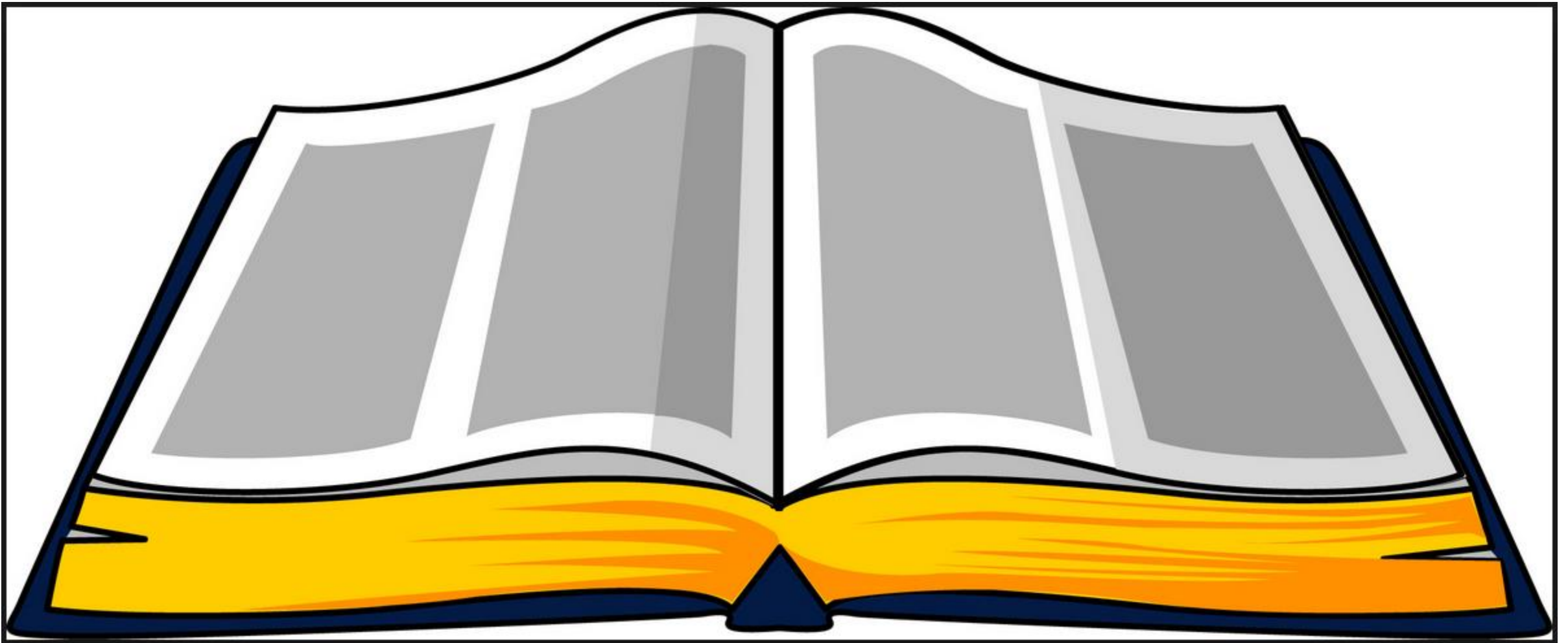
Ephesians 1:18-20

“Grace, then, is grace,—that is to say, it is sovereign, it is free, it is sure, it is unconditional, and it is everlasting.”

Alexander Whyte

What does the Bible say about God's grace?

15 Observations



This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:22-24



GRACE

Is being given
God's own
righteousness.

This righteousness is given...



GRACE

Comes through faith
in Jesus Christ.

...given through faith in Jesus Christ...



GRACE

Is given only to
those who believe.

given...to all who believe



GRACE

Is needed because of
human sinfulness.

*...for all have sinned and
fall short of the glory of God...*



GRACE

Is available to all
regardless of ethnicity.

*..to all who believe. There is no difference
between Jew and Gentile...*



GRACE

It is given freely,
undeservingly.

...all are justified freely by his grace...

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Ephesians 1:3-8

In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.

Ephesians 1:3-8



GRACE

Comes from God and is
mediated by Christ.

*Praise be to the God and Father...who has blessed
us...with every spiritual blessing in Christ...*



GRACE

Is about spiritual & eternal realities not physical blessings.

...who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing...



GRACE

Is about being declared
holy and blameless by God.

...to be holy and blameless in his sight.



GRACE

Is rooted in the love, pleasure
and will of God...
and aims for the glory of God.

In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will...to the praise of his glorious grace...



GRACE

Is freely being
forgiven our sin...

*...which he has **freely** given...
the **forgiveness** of sins...*



GRACE

Is receiving the full
favor of God.

*...every spiritual blessing...in accordance with
the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us...*

...he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure...to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment...you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession...

Ephesians 1:9-10, 13-14



GRACE

Comes through faith
in God's word.

*...you also were included in Christ when you heard
the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation.
When you believed...*



GRACE

Comes through Christ and is eternally
guaranteed by the Holy Spirit.

*in Christ...you were marked in him with a seal, the promised
Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance...*



Is something truly yet to be experienced.

It is actually a **future** hope.

A present truth...a future reality.

...to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment

...guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption...

How

Should



AFFECT

me



We should be
so grateful for the grace of God.



They also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:14-15

*We should continue
to grow into the
grace of God.*



You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord** and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:17-18

We should strive
to spread the grace of God.



For all things are for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:15-16

We should fight for faith & hope
in the future grace of God.



Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:12

“The only life I have left to live is a future life. The past is gone. All the expectations of God are future expectations.

All the possibilities of faith, grace and love are future possibilities. And all the power that touches me with help to live in love is a future power. As precious as the bygone blessings of God may be, if He leaves me only with the memory of those, and not with the promise of more, I will be undone. My hope for future goodness and future glory is future grace...We must fight for faith in future grace.”

John Piper, *Future Grace*

The grace of God should make us ever
grateful, growing, spreading & hopeful
Christians.

