

# The Grace of God

## MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

When asked to summarize the law, Jesus responded that one must love God and neighbor. Considering the grace of God ought to help believers fulfill both commandments. God's grace should both flood one's heart with thankfulness and love for Him, and also provide the model for how we should treat our neighbor. In this lesson, Dr. Lawson uncovers the extent of God's grace, which is seen most clearly in the salvation accomplished in His Son.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 15:10; Titus 2:11–15

## TEACHING OBJECTIVES

1. To explain the character of God's incomparable grace
2. To show the unworthiness of man to receive God's grace
3. To commend the grace of God which ought to lead to thankfulness and worship

## QUOTATIONS

*Faith is a living, unshakeable confidence in God's grace; it is so certain, that someone would die a thousand times for it. This kind of trust in and knowledge of God's grace makes a person joyful, confident, and happy with regard to God and all creatures.*

—Martin Luther

*Repentance was never yet produced in any man's heart apart from the grace of God. As soon may you expect the leopard to regret the blood with which its fangs are moistened—as soon might you expect the lion of the wood to abjure his cruel tyranny over the feeble beasts of the plain, as expect the sinner to make any confession, or offer any repentance that shall be accepted of God, unless grace shall first renew the heart.*

—Charles Spurgeon

## LECTURE OUTLINE

## I. God's Grace Is Free

- A. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a gift that God offers and extends to those who are guilty.
- B. Grace and works cannot mix.
  - i. If works play a role in justification, then God's grace is no longer grace (Rom. 11:6).
  - ii. Ephesians 2:9 states that salvation is "not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

## II. God's Grace Is Eternal

- A. Before time began, God planned to give His grace to His elect.
  - i. The elect were not chosen on the basis of what they would do.
  - ii. They were chosen according to God's own purpose and grace (2 Tim. 1:9)

## III. God's Grace Is Sovereign

- A. God did not have to choose to be gracious to anyone.
- B. No one has a claim on the grace of God because it's given to those who are undeserving (Ex. 33:19).

## IV. God's Grace Is Far Reaching

- A. It is extended to and made real in the lives of all kinds of people around the globe (Titus 2:11).
- B. This includes men and women, Jews and Gentiles, slave and free, educated and uneducated, and people from all languages and cultures.

## V. God's Grace Is Mediated

- A. It is mediated through the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:5)
  - i. There is *no* salvation outside of Christ (Rom. 5:15).
  - ii. Christ alone can represent man to God and God to man, since He is fully God and fully man.
- B. To have Christ is to have everything; not to have Christ is to have nothing.

## VI. God's Grace Is Saving

- A. God's grace saves believers from God Himself. Apart from His grace, mankind can only expect His judgment and wrath.
- B. God's saving grace is super-abounding. There is no amount of sin that God's grace cannot overcome (Rom. 5:20).
- C. God's saving grace is transformative. By it, He transforms believers into the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18).

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### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Because salvation is a gift of God's grace, works are unimportant.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
2. Because God is gracious, which of the following statements is false?
  - a. His grace overcomes the hearts of the wicked.
  - b. There is no amount of sin that He cannot forgive.
  - c. He will not ultimately judge the wicked.
  - d. Humans must respond with thanksgiving.
  
3. Since God's grace is mediated, which of the following statements is false?
  - a. Christ is the mediator between God and man.
  - b. There is no salvation outside of Christ.
  - c. The church is unimportant.
  - d. Other religions can experience His grace through different mediators.
  
4. Because God's grace is sovereign, no one can resist it.
  - a. True
  - b. False

### BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Reflect on the first time you became aware that salvation is purely a gift of God's grace, apart from any works. How did you respond to God?
2. There are many people who believe they will experience a pleasant afterlife on account of their having been a good person. How could you give a biblical response to such a person?
3. Are there times in your life when you've felt that your sins were too great to be forgiven? What passages of Scripture address such situations?
4. How should a consideration of God's free and sovereign grace influence Christian worship? How should it affect Christian relationships?