

X.1. Lambs to Rams: Grace

1Jn 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Grace (*Gk.5485*) according to Thayer: “*of that kindness by which God bestows favors even upon the ill-deserving, and grants to sinners the pardon of their offences, and bids them accept of eternal salvation through Christ.*”

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he **by the grace of God** should taste death for every man. (*Emp. added*)

First and foremost, our salvation depends on “God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense”. Other substitutes for the letter “R” in the acronym for grace could be “redemption” or “righteousness” as in Romans 3:22 where it can only be attained “through faith in Jesus Christ”. The gloss for faith here (*Gk.4102*) is “especially *reliance* upon Christ for salvation”. If we are to rely on Christ to save us, wouldn’t we then do as He has commanded to receive it according to Mark 16:16?

Mar 16:16 He that believeth (*Gk.4100- from 4102*) and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not (*Gk.569- to be unbelieving, that is, [transitively] disbelieve, or [by implication] disobey*) shall be damned.

Since baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, to **disobey** it one would **not** be under the protection of Christ’s blood and thus should **not** rely on Christ to save them. Nearly all denominations do not teach the necessity of immersion for the remission of sin in order to have a “good conscience toward God” (*1 Pet 3:21*) for when the Day of Judgment arrives.

As Jesus questioned His disciples concerning Who people (*and His disciples*) were saying He is, Peter exclaimed “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”. Jesus went on to state that upon Peter’s confession He would “build [His] church, and the gates of Hades [would] not prevail against it” (*Mat 16:15-18*). Jesus has “the *keys of Death and Hades” (*Rev 1:18*) and with those keys death could not hold Him in the Hadean realm (*Lk 16:26*). Thus He was able to resurrect in order to “go and prepare a place (*the glorified church*) for” His followers (*Jn 14:1-4*). (See also VI.2. *The Church, the Bride & Holy City New Jerusalem.*)

* “To hold the key of this, was to hold the power over the invisible world. It was the more appropriate that the Saviour should represent Himself as having this authority, as He had Himself been raised from the dead by His own power (compare John 10:18), thus showing that the dominion over this dark world was entrusted to Him.”- Albert Barnes

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man **cometh unto the Father, but by Me.** (*Emp. added*)

1Pe 3:21 The like figure (*the flood of Noah*) whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh [*as it did for the Levite in order to don the priestly garment under the Old Testament- Lev 16:4*], but the **answer** (*Act 22:16*) **of a good conscience toward God,**) (*thus giving entrance into the New Testament priesthood*) **by** the resurrection of Jesus Christ: (*were it not for His resurrection, thus defeating the power of Satan [death- Heb 2:14] our salvation would not be possible*)
 22 Who is gone into Heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him. (*Emp. added*)

Sacrifice.

Heb 9:22 And almost all things are by the Law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.** (*Emp. added*)

Even under the Old Testament, and before that (*Gen 3:21*), the shedding of blood (*sacrifice*) was necessary to cover man's sin. Whatever their offerings were for, Abel's offering (*through faith- Heb 11:1, 4*) was more pleasing to God than was Cain's (*Gen 4:4*), perhaps since his offering included blood whereas Cain's did not. Leviticus 17:11 states "the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar **to make an atonement** for your sins: for it is the **blood** that **maketh an atonement** for the soul". (*Emp. added*)

We are commanded to grow in it.

2Pe 3:18 But **grow in grace**, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen. (*Emp. added*)

By this passage Peter reveals that both grace and knowledge go hand in hand. Can you imagine the one without the other? We received grace through our knowledge of the plan that brought salvation down to man. To "grow" in these two is in command form since Peter was inspired by Holy Spirit to write it. And as imitators of what the Berean brethren did, we then must further that knowledge through searching the scriptures continually to make our "calling (*2 Thes 2:14*) and election sure" (*2 Pet 1:10*). As the "elect", "grace and peace" are "multiplied" (*1 Pet 1:2*) to us as we "continue" in it (*Act 13:43*).

Act 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were **more noble** than those in Thessalonica, **in that** they received the word **with all readiness of mind**, and **searched the scriptures daily**, whether those things were so. (*Emp. added*)

God only gives grace to the humble.

1Pe 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and **giveth grace to the humble.** (*Gk.5011- [figuratively] humiliated [in circumstances or disposition]*).” (*Emp. added*)

In the context of this passage Peter was bringing up the subject of subordination to a mixed audience where a younger set may have needed instruction concerning age and wisdom as opposed to youth and zeal. He told them how God only gives His unmerited favor to those whose lives are lived in such a lowly estate, no matter what their age or status may be. When Jesus stated that “the meek (*Gk.4239- mild, that is, [by implication] humble [here referring to the saints post Pentecost]*) shall inherit the earth” (*Mat 5:5*) that prophesy was fulfilled at Pentecost with the coming of the kingdom (*the church*) and the beginning of her stewardship over the souls that inhabit it (*the earth*). See also Mat 28:19-20.

Grace is not merited but inherited.

Eph 2:4 But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Yes we are saved by grace as the preceding passage plainly shows. But grace is only a piece of the synecdoche (*one part representing the whole*) pie. If given a slice of pie one can tell of what the rest of the pie consists. Without this piece of the pie

the pie is not whole; grace without obedience cannot be obtained. The other pieces of the pie that make it complete are the steps that lead to grace: hear, believe, repent, confess and immersion for remission of sin. Therefore we can conclude that grace is not merited. (*See also X.2. Salvation*)

Rom 11:6 And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works (*obedience to the Law of Moses*): otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

But there must be a certain amount of works by which our faith is acknowledged according to James 2.

Jas 2:14 What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be *ye* warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Works of faith are more than just physical acts of kindness in order to receive God's grace. There is also of a greater significance, a spiritual side to our obtaining grace as a heritage. Concerning a Christian's marital relationship as an example, how husbands and wives treat each other, as evidenced by their prayer, life determines their heritage "of the grace of life".

1Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being **heirs together of the grace of life**; that your prayers be not hindered. (*Emp. added*)

It was prophesied.

Throughout the Old Testament there are prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah which, although in the presence of God, even the angels didn't understand. Those who lived before the establishment of the New Covenant couldn't obtain until later (*Heb 11:40*) what those afterward have since received (*Rev 6:11*).

1Pe 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of **the grace that should come unto you**: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and **the glory that should follow**. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the Gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. 13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end **for the grace that is to be brought unto you** at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (*Emp. added*)

Not that we don't receive God's grace while alive on earth or after we've gone into Paradise but that it will be revealed in full when Jesus returns.

2Th 1:5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: 6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, **when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven** with His mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking

vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (*Emp. added*)

We are rendered justified once we receive it.

Tit 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which He shed on us abundantly (*Act 2:38*) through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being **justified** (*Gk.1344- to render just*) **by His grace**, we should be made heirs according to the hope (*Gk.1680- expectation*) of eternal life. (*Emp. added*)

Our reception of God's grace comes the moment we have accepted His Son through our obedience to His words (*Jn 12:48*). Without God's grace salvation is impossible and we are left to suffer an eternity away from His presence (*2 Thes 1:9*). Baptism is not a work of man but a grace of God.

X.1. Questions

1. By what is God's favor bestowed on the undeserving? a) love; b) grace; c) kindness.
2. What does the acronym for G.R.A.C.E. stand for? a) God's redemption at Christ's expense; b) God's riches at Christ's expense; c) both a and b.
3. What is necessary to receive God's grace? a) works of righteousness; b) obedience; c) charity.
4. What does faith have to do with receiving God's grace? a) it shows an understanding of how salvation works; b) it believes God's grace is available to everyone who asks for it; c) it is the reliance on Christ to save by which grace is received.
5. Name the keys in Jesus' possession by which He was able to resurrect. a) death and Hades; b) Heaven and Hell; c) life and death.
6. Who alone does God give grace to? a) the rich and famous; b) the arrogant; c) the humble.
7. Is faith all that's necessary to receive God's grace? a) yes; b) no; c) maybe.
8. What was it that those under the Old Covenant had to wait for until the New was established? a) love; b) grace; c) the resurrection.