

Sermon Title: God is Grace

Our Scripture text this morning is a little long – **All of Scripture!** But rather than reading all of it this morning, I'll hit a few highlights (but we should read it all because God's grace is seen from cover to cover)!

Grace is defined as **"Unmerited favor"**, **"Getting what we do not deserve"**. The distinction between "grace" and "mercy" is subtle, but significant!

Grace is getting what we don't deserve. **Mercy is not getting what we do deserve!** Here is an example of both – Mercy... Grace...

When it comes to God's grace, there is **"common grace"** that all mankind receives from God - life, provisions, made in His image, morality, restraint...

But there is also grace that is reserved for God's people alone (All those who God calls to Himself in a saving & effectual way).

Arthur W. Pink said *"Grace is a perfection of the Divine character which is exercised only towards the elect. Neither in the Old Testament nor in the New is the grace of God ever mentioned in connection with mankind generally."*

I don't know if I agree completely with this statement, in light of common grace, but I do know that God has directed a special kind of grace towards His people!

There is much evidence of such grace from God to His people in Scripture:

- **God's grace at creation.** God made man in His image, in the very likeness of God was man created – **Genesis 1:26-27** Both common & special grace!
- **God's grace after the fall of man.** God would have been completely just to have carried out His decree of immediate death... He could have started all over, but instead He gives a promise of a second Adam who will make all things new (the promise of the gospel) – **Genesis 3:15**
- **God's grace to Noah.** Humanity's sin had become exceedingly great, so much so that God regretted creating man (**Genesis 6:6**). But Noah found favor with the Lord (**Genesis 6:8**), and though God destroyed the earth with the flood, He spared Noah & his family and started creation over!
- **God's grace in the call of Abraham.** There was nothing special about Abraham, except that He was the one God chose to be the Father of a great nation, the father of God's people – **Genesis 12:1-3**
- **God's grace to Moses.** God gave Moses success against Pharaoh, & God's

enslaved people were set free, b/c of God's mighty hand – **Exodus 7:1-4**

- **God's grace towards Israel as a chosen people.** Not because of their size, or might, but simply b/c God keeps His promises – **Deuteronomy 7:7-9**
- **God's grace in the giving of the Law.** It set God's people apart, gave them wisdom/understanding & revealed the nature of God - **Psalms 119:97-104**
- **God's grace in raising up judges.** God gave His people victory over their enemies as He raised up these leaders to lead His people - **Judges 2:16**
- **God's grace to David & the nation of Israel.** Even though God's people wanted an earthly king, which was a slap in the face of God, God raised up a king like no other, a king after His own heart – **1 Samuel 13:14**
- **God's grace in sending prophets.** God always provided His people with the truth of His Word, so they would know His ways – **Deuter. 18:18**

But all this grace pales in comparison to God's greatest display of grace in the sending of His Son Jesus into this world! All the Law & the Prophets point to Him as the fulfillment/pinnacle of God's amazing display of grace!

Ephesians 1:3-14 – This is probably my all-time favorite passage of Scripture

- **Vs. 3 - We have been blessed, in Christ, with every spiritual blessing...** And not just on earth, but in heaven as well – an eternal blessing!
- **Vs. 4 – We have been chosen, in Christ, before the foundation of the world! The origin of our salvation precedes creation!** That's grace!
- **Vs. 5 – We have been adopted as sons & daughters through Jesus Christ!**
- **Vs. 6 – All of this for the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved (Christ)!** This is a grace to make known!
- **Vs. 7 – What the Law couldn't do, the blood of Jesus provided – redemption, forgiveness... all according to the riches of His grace!**
- **Vs. 9 – The mystery of the will of God??? It is revealed in the purpose set forth in Christ's coming – our salvation!**
- **Vs. 11-14 – In Christ we have an eternal, guaranteed inheritance, sealed by the gift of the Holy Spirit! What unmerited favor God has shown!**

Application??? Ephesians 2:4-10 Be His workmanship, His work of art! Live out good works as evidence of a changed life! Walk in the ways of Christ! Get to know God's amazing grace, thru His Word, & be a testament to it!

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