

# GOOD NEWS

about

# GRACE

## Part # 1: Amazing Grace

April 20, 2008

Gerald Thurman & Wes Porter

The concept of grace is very misunderstood. It is misunderstood from both the giving and the receiving. Surprisingly enough it is misunderstood equally among believers and seekers. This lack of understanding is not rooted in the choice of words used to define grace, but in our everyday behavior that does not reflect our allowing the grace principals to change our lives. We have a tendency to say we are saved by grace, yet live like we earn God's favor by works.

Grace defined is "God's unmerited favor". Simply put, it is God doing good for us that we do not deserve. Then grace lived out amongst ourselves is the continuing to bless others who may not deserve the goodness that we share with them.

## The Grace That Saves Us

God's saving grace can best be described as...

### God's Gift to Me

**Romans 3:24** "Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins."

To fully understand grace, we must **accept** it as a **priceless** gift.

### Receive by Faith

*Ephesians 2:8-9* "Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing."

**Romans 4:16** "So the promise is received by faith. It is given as a free gift. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe."

Salvation isn't based on my **performance**; it's based on God's **promise**.

Salvation isn't given based on my **goodness**, it's based on God's **grace**.

### Available to Everyone

**Romans 4:16** "...we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's..."

Anyone who has **faith** in the grace of God will be **saved**.

### Comes Through Jesus Christ

**John 1:17** "For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ."

Although grace is **free**, it is provided at a tremendous **cost** – the **life** of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 5:8**

<sup>8</sup> *But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.*

When God looks at us through eyes of **grace**, He sees the **perfection** of **Christ**.

**Galatians 2:21** "I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die."

Right standing with God is only **possible** through the **sacrifice** of Christ.

### Extended Throughout Eternity

**Romans 6:23** "Work hard for sin your whole life and your pension is death. But God's gift is real life, eternal life, delivered by Jesus, our Master."

Eternal life in **heaven** is the **ultimate** benefit of grace.

The **results** of God's grace will go on and on **forever**

The Bible says that heaven...

...is a place of **reunion** where we are reunited with loved ones who have **accepted** the grace of God.

...is a place of **reward** for the **character** that we developed and the way we **served** other people in this life.

...is a place of **release** of all pain, suffering, sadness, sorrow and grief.

...is a place of **reassignment** to do work that we **like** to do based on our gifts, talents and passion.

## *The Turning Point...*

We are **loved** by God through His grace, because we cannot do anything to **earn** His love.

**1 John 4:19**

*<sup>19</sup> We love Him, because He first loved us.*

We are **strengthened** by God through His grace, because we cannot **stand** against **everything** on our own.

**John 15:5**

*<sup>5</sup> I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.*

We are **saved** by God through His grace, because we are unable to **remove** the penalty of our **sin** ourselves.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*<sup>8</sup> For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.]*