

TOPIC: The Grace of God

Friend, I'd like to talk to you next about something beautiful and incredibly important: **God's grace**. The Bible has a lot to say about grace, but it is something Satan has successfully kept many people from hearing about and understanding.

What is grace? Here's a good definition. Grace is favor or kindness **SHOWN** by God **WITHOUT** regard to the worth or merit of the person who receives it and in **SPITE** of what that person deserves. This bears repeating: Grace is favor or kindness **SHOWN** by God **WITHOUT** regard to the worth or merit of the person who receives it and in **SPITE** of what that person deserves.

There are surely millions of people alive right now, during the Tribulation, who thought everything was fine between them and God. Many thought to themselves, if and when they died, "Surely" they thought, "if God exists and Heaven is real, I'll go to Heaven." Or "If there ever is a Rapture," as my Christian friends once said to me, "I'll probably be taken up." You might be one of the persons who thought that. The common reasoning behind this belief is "Good people go to Heaven and seeing that I haven't murdered anyone or done something really evil, it will all work out fine in the end. God will welcome me with open arms." We are guilty of comparing "our sins" with another (worse) person's sin and try to excuse our sin condition as "well—I'm not as bad as that person over there...". This is a false and man-made distinction.

Furthermore, "good people go to heaven" might be the third most widely believed lie in human history, only following "there is no God" and "Satan isn't real". Being good enough, or having our good deeds outweigh our bad deeds has never been the correct position according to the Bible. As if to underscore the point, your present situation—being left behind and facing the impending Tribulation period is a stark wake-up call. This must be a **TERRIBLE SHOCK** to you, but it is also a merciful opportunity at the same time. Let me explain. You now have concrete evidence that your previous religious framework was wrong. **However, you CAN still obtain the Grace of God and salvation!**

But the Bible makes it clear that no one will be saved on their own merit, by their own goodness, or even by obeying all the rules. You might have tithed, done good works, and attended Church your entire life. It's not enough. We have all broken a variety of God's commandments over the course of our lives. We are all guilty. And we all deserve judgment, condemnation, and Hell. It takes just **ONE SIN** or act of disobedience to condemn us and therefore lead to everlasting separation from God. Just one—*this is why we need a Savior!*

Knowing that to be the case, Jesus, God Himself, **lovingly received the judgment and condemnation for us on the cross**. He took the penalty of every one of our sins and provides a miraculous spiritual substitution; a transaction if you will. He takes our unrighteousness, sin, and even death, and gives us His forgiveness, salvation, and eternal fellowship with God forever! Romans 6:23 says: "For the wages of sin is death, but the **FREE GIFT** of God is **eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**." Because of Jesus, the gift of eternal life with Him is yours for free! Jesus made a way for you to overcome the curse of sin so that we can stand blameless before God! This is why you hear the words "in Christ" so many times...we are literally hidden **IN** Christ as believers and able to have a full and eternal relationship with a holy and perfect God. All because of the substitutionary death Jesus paid for on the cross many years ago.

Salvation is not about works but our **FAITH** in Jesus. Listen to a couple of these verses. In Galatians 2:16, Paul said, "a man is not justified by the works of the Law but **through faith in Christ Jesus**" for "by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified." One of the primary purposes of God's Law was to show mankind how much we need a Savior and to lead us into a relationship with Jesus Christ. In Galatians 3:24, Paul said, "Therefore the Law has become our tutor [to lead us] to Christ, so that we may be justified [how?] by faith."

This is GREAT news friends. You don't have to earn forgiveness of your sins. You can't. The way to receive salvation is simply by placing your **FAITH** in Jesus. In Ephesians 2:8–9, Paul reminded the Ephesians how they had been saved, "For by grace you have been saved [how?] **through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the [what?] **gift of God**; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

If you are watching this presentation you too can lay hold of the gift of salvation right now. How? By placing your faith in Jesus. Call upon Him in prayer. Say something like, "Save me Jesus! Forgive me for my sins. I can't save myself. I need

You. Be my Lord and Savior and help me to live out the remainder of my life for You. Amen.” It doesn’t have to be a fancy prayer, but you must dig deep and mean it with all your heart, mind, and soul. Be sincere!

Well, the news gets even better! Not only will God graciously wash away your sins and declare you righteous in His sight, but He will also continue to supply all the grace you need to live for Him. How? The grace of God doesn’t stop at the moment of salvation, that’s how! God has lots more grace for you. That’s why Hebrews 4:16 encourages believers to “...draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may **receive mercy and find grace** to help in time of need.”

The time you are living in is certainly your personal time of need. Things are going to be **VERY CHALLENGING**. You need God’s grace, His help and mercy, and He will supply it to you as you walk with Him, trust in Him, and call out to Him. But here’s a warning: so often we believe we are independent, self-sufficient, and capable of solving our own problems. Note what James 4:6 says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Pride is opposed, but God values the humble. Whatever you do, don’t shake your fist at God and blame Him for your current circumstances...that is so unfair. See past your circumstances and embrace the grace that God extends to you. Look at the example of Job, a man that endured incredible trials, loss, and suffering. Look at Job’s reaction to this devastation in Job 1:20-22 “Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. ²¹ He said, “Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. **The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.**” ²² **THROUGH ALL THIS JOB DID NOT SIN NOR DID HE BLAME GOD.**” And so, too, you should not blame God, but imitate the example of Job.

One more thing you need to know about God’s grace! Not only will God dispense grace to you for salvation and for your remaining time here on the Earth, but note how Ephesians 2:7 puts it: “...so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of **His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Isn’t that amazing!? God loves you and plans to continue showing the redeemed the riches of His grace throughout all eternity! What wonderful things God has in store in Heaven for those who love Him! Don’t miss out on Heaven, embrace God’s grace right now!

As we transition to the next segment, many people don’t have any background or knowledge about what makes the Bible so amazing. It has to do with the fact that Bible Prophecy—especially, the track record of its exact fulfillment—sets it apart from all other religions, philosophies, including the summation of all other teachings of mankind. Are you ready?