

Bible Study: The Character of God

IX. God is Gracious

Passages to read: John 1:14-17; Romans 11:6; 2Corinthians 8:1-9, 12:7-9;
Ephesians 1:6-7, 2:7-9; James 4:6; 1Peter 5:10

Related passages for personal study:

- * Luke 1:28 & Ephesians 1:6 are the corresponding verb, found only 2 places in NT (“to endue with divine favor or grace”)
- * Rom. 4:16, 5:1-2, 12:6; 1Cor. 15:10; 2Cor. 9:8,14-15; Eph. 4:7; Col. 3:16, 4:6; 2Thes. 1:12; 1Pet. 4:10; 2Pet. 3:18

Description of grace: (*WE Vine*) (all aspects not given here)

- * that which bestows or causes pleasure; Luke 4:22
- * graciousness, loving-kindness, goodwill with stress on its freeness and universality; Romans 4:16
- * “Unmerited favor”: An attitude of God that proceeds entirely from Himself conditioned in no way by an object of His favor.

In relation to mankind:

- * a feeling of gratitude, often translated “thanks”; Romans 6:17 (Reflection of grace on the heart, *Strong’s*)
- * the effect of grace (spiritual state); enablement; Romans 12:6

Aspects To Consider:

- * God’s grace in Salvation, Standing (Eph. 1-2)
- * God’s grace in His bountiful Sharing (Eph. 2:7)
- * God’s grace in our Service, daily living (see below) (Eph 3:7, 4:7)
- * God’s Special grace given (e.g. Mary, Luke 1:28; Paul, Eph. 3:8) (“special” as in singling out individual believers)

How should God’s grace affect me?

Needed to:

- * Serve & steward 1 Cor. 15:10; Eph 4:7; Heb. 12:28; 1 Pet 4:10
- * Supply (give) 2 Cor. 8:7, 9:8
- * Be Strong in weakness 2 Cor. 12:8-9
- * Sing Col. 3:16
- * Speak Col. 4:6
- * Suffer: stablish, strengthen, settle 1 Pet. 5:10

Questions for Discussion:

- * What are some *examples* of God’s grace shown in Scripture (by God directly or indirectly through man, as in David and Mephibosheth).
- * Is grace ever *earned*? (see related question following)
- * Are there *conditions* that must be present in order for divine grace to be shown or found (and does it vary with the aspects of grace)? Consider Eph 2:8, Noah (Gen 6:8), Mary (Luke 1:30), Paul (1Cor 15:10, 1Tim 1:12-14), etc.