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[READ ABOUT PAUL AND THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER IN ACTS 16](#)

## **Grace for Salvation - Ephesians 2:8-9 Study 1**

The word's **grace** and **salvation** are popular words, but what do they mean? Are they important for us? Is it necessary for us to understand them? They are rich words that speak volumes to Christians, but are absolutely necessary for those who wish to be Christians.

**The Gospel** - At the heart of grace and salvation is the gospel. The word gospel simply means GOOD NEWS. Many things can be considered good news, it all depends upon where you are. There is a good news for those who are not Christians and it is found in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - "[1] Now, brothers, I make known to you the good news which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and by which you stand; [2] By which also you are saved, if you hold fast what I preached unto you, unless you believed it without a purpose. [3] For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; [4] And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" Let's look at what Paul says about this good news.

Verse 1 - Paul had PREACHED this good news.

- They had RECEIVED this good news.

- They STAND by means of this good news.

Verse 2 - They were SAVED by this good news.

- They had hopefully BELIEVED it with a purpose. [CP ROMANS 1:16](#)

Now what does Paul say that good news was?

Verse 3 - Christ \_ DIED \_ for our \_ SINS \_ according to the scriptures.

Verse 4 - Christ was \_ BURIED \_.

- Christ \_ ROSE AGAIN \_ the

third day according to the scriptures.

That good news confronts a person with his or her sins.

But it also holds out a hope, Christ died for those sins.

You and I are accountable to God for our sins. But Christ died for those sins. A person then has a choice, either he believes that Christ died for those sins, or he remains accountable to God for them himself. In Acts 10:43 we find, "all the ones believing in Him [Jesus Christ] receives forgiveness of sins". The word forgive means "to send away."

If a person believes in Jesus Christ, that He died for your own sins and was buried and rose again the third day, his sins are forgiven or \_ SENT AWAY \_. So you are no longer accountable for those sins, Christ dealt with them. But you must believe that He did everything necessary.

**The Grace** - In Ephesians 2:8-9 we find, "[8] *For by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* [9] *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*" So what is this grace? The apostle Paul helps us understand grace in Romans 11:6, "*But if by grace, it is no longer works, otherwise the grace no longer becomes grace. But if it is out of works, it is no longer grace, otherwise the work is no longer work.*" Do you see that, it is either grace or work. If you must do good works, even one good work, then it is not grace, but we saw in Ephesians 2:8&9, we are saved by \_ GRACE \_ not \_ WORKS \_.

Grace is an attitude which God has, by which He gives or provides something for those who don't deserve it. Since we are all sinners, we don't deserve anything but God's judgment, but He has given us salvation.

**The Faith** - The next word related to salvation in Ephesians 2:8 is faith, "saved by grace through faith". What is faith? "*Now faith gives substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" (Hebrews 11:1). You can't see the forgiveness of sins, but it is a hope held before a person, that if he will believe that Jesus Christ died for his sins, was buried and rose again, he too can have the forgiveness of sins. But he must believe that. There is no physical evidence or proof that this will happen, so faith makes that hope real, so the person can trust in what Christ has done for him.

#### CP 1 PETER 2:24 WHERE PETER INCLUDES HIMSELF

Salvation is related to faith so that it can be by God's grace, "Wherefore, this is from faith in order that it is according to grace . . ." (Romans 4:16a). In fact we find in verse 5 of this same chapter, "*but to the one not working but believing upon the one declaring the ungodly person righteous, his faith is logically credited for righteousness*". Do you see that? Salvation or righteousness is not by one \_ WORKING \_ but by \_ BELIEVING \_. Like 1 Corinthians 15:3, where Christ died for our \_ SINS \_, here we find God declares righteous the \_ UN-GODLY \_ person. This salvation is not for good and righteous people but for sinners and ungodly people, and whether we want to admit it or not, we are all sinners and ungodly people, every person born on this earth needs

this salvation. Any person can have that salvation, if He will \_ [BELIEVE](#) \_ in Jesus Christ, that He died for our sins, that He was buried, and that He rose again from the dead. What if a person doesn't believe in Him? John wrote, "*The one believing in Him is not judged. The one not believing is already judged . . .*" (John 3:18). It is not enough to just believe in a person named Jesus. We must believe in the Person, Jesus Christ, God in flesh, Who died for our sins, was buried and rose again. If you have believed that you are \_ [SAVED](#) \_ and are not \_ [JUDGED](#) \_ . [SEE ALSO ROMANS 3:10: 5:8](#)

**The Question of Repentance** - Let's answer one more question. Do we not find in the Bible that a person must "repent"? Indeed, we do find "repentance", "*Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (Acts 20:21). What does repent or repentance mean? It simply means to change one's mind. Some have taught that repentance is "sorrow over sin". But that is not the meaning of this word. That is not to say that we should take sin lightly. But when people were told to repent, they were being told to change their minds about something. In the verse above, the apostle Paul was telling people to change their minds about God. For the Jews, they had to believe that Jesus is God. For the Greeks, they had to believe that there is but one God, absolutely no more. And then believe in Jesus Christ. If they didn't change their minds about God, then they wouldn't be believing in the Jesus Christ of the Bible but a different kind of Jesus, one who really can not save them from their sins.

Have you believed in Jesus Christ? Do you believe that He has done everything for your salvation and there is nothing more for you to do but believe? If not, believe in Him now! Are you still trusting in your works to save you? If so, why not stop your working and believe in Him?!

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## Grace for Living part 1 - Romans 5    Study 2

Last time we looked at the Gospel. Let's see what you remember.

The word "gospel" means - GOOD NEWS.

The "gospel" for salvation is about CHRIST.

What did He do? - DIED FOR OUR SINS  
- WAS BURIED  
- ROSE AGAIN

What is a person not supposed to do to be saved -  
WORK.

What is a person supposed to do - BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST.

We are saved by God's GRACE.

Now grace did not stop when you believed the good news. In fact for Christians, that's when we started to benefit from God's grace.

God's grace is still a big part of our lives.

Graced in the Beloved - In Ephesians 1:6 we can read,  
*"To praise of glory, consisting of His grace, from which [grace], He graced us in the One having been loved."*

Many Bibles don't make clear that the word "grace" occurs in this verse twice. The first time it is a noun "grace" and the second a verb "graced". If you have believed in Jesus Christ, that He died for your SINS, was BURIED and ROSE AGAIN, you too are graced.

Where are we graced? In the One having been LOVED. That's Jesus Christ. What does Paul mean by "in"? Simply, that at the same time you and I live down here on this earth, God the Father counts or credits you

and I to already be in heaven. He does this by crediting us to be in Christ Jesus. Let's look at things right here in Ephesians 1 that are true of us in Christ Jesus. "[1] *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, even the faithful ones in Christ Jesus:* [2] *Grace is to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.* [3] *Blessed is the God even Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ:* [4] *According as he chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love:* [5] *Having set boundaries for us unto the graduation as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of his desirous will,* [6] *To the praise of the glory of his grace, from which He has graced us in the Beloved.*

[7] *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of his grace"*

1. The Christians in Ephesus were \_ **SAINTS** \_ in Christ Jesus. v. 1
2. He has \_ **BLESSED** \_ us with \_ **ALL** \_ **SPIRITUAL** \_ **BLESSINGS** \_ in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. v. 3
3. He \_ **CHOSE** \_ us in Christ, to be \_ **HOLY** \_ and \_ **BLAMELESS** \_ . v. 4
4. In Christ Jesus, we have \_ **REDEMPTION** \_ , which is the \_ **FORGIVENESS** \_ of our offenses. v. 7

Number 2 is very important. The word "bless" and "blessings" means "to say \_ **GOOD THINGS ABOUT** \_". Because you and I are in Christ, God the Father says good words about us there. That's because in Christ we are \_ **GRACED** \_ . We don't deserve God to say those good things about us, but He does! What are those good things? There are two in verse 4, we are \_ **HOLY** \_ and without \_ **BLAME** \_ before God. That is certainly grace! In verse 7, He says we have \_ **REDEMPTION** \_ , which means that He \_ **PAID** \_ [or \_ **REDEEMED** \_] the \_ **DEBT** \_ we owed, so now He can say we are \_ **FORGIVEN** \_ .

**Grace not Law** - Probably the hardest idea for us to learn is that since we are under God's grace, we aren't under law anymore. We find in the Bible and our experience certainly backs this up, that one of our problems is that our human nature has been affected by sin and is corrupted. The Bible calls this the flesh or "the sin". We sometimes call it the sin nature. Everyone has one. We were born into the world with one. But because of God's grace, we don't have to do everything our sin nature wants us to do. In Romans 6:2&3 we find out something else God says about us in Christ, "*We who died to the sin, how shall we yet live in it, or don't you know that as many of us as were put into Christ Jesus, we were put into His death.*" In some of your Bibles you find the word "baptize" which simply means to "put into" and is not referring to any water here but rather, what we saw in Ephesians 1, that God put us in Christ when we believed. Remember the first part of the

gospel, "Christ \_ **DIED** \_ \_ for our sins". He suffered and He died, but by God's grace, He says we \_ **DIED** \_ with Christ. Now is that great grace! Later in verse 11, Paul tells us to "*Logically count yourselves to be dead to the sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus*". God logically says it's true and so we should think it! We should logically count it to be so! This is how God gives us victory over the flesh or sin nature. Then in verse 14, we find "*for sin shall not be a lord over you, for you are not under law but under grace*".

The sin is not to be a \_ **MASTER** \_ over you. That means it isn't your boss anymore. It can't tell you what to do.

You are not under \_ **LAW** \_.

You are under \_ **GRACE** \_, because we are graced in Christ. And as we have seen right here in Romans 6, one of the ways God graced us was by saying that we \_ **DIED** \_ to sin in Christ and that we are \_ **ALIVE** \_ to God in Christ.

This gracious position in Christ is referred to in Hebrews 4:16. Can you find what Paul calls it? "*Therefore, let us come boldly to the throne of grace, in order that we might receive mercy and we might find well-timed grace for a cry for help.*" \_ **THRONE** \_ \_ **GRACE** \_\_\_\_\_. Read verses 9-10, "*Therefore, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one entering into His rest, he also ceases from his works, just as God from His own works.*" At that throne of grace, we can \_ **REST** \_\_\_\_\_. To rest means we cease from our \_ **WORKS** \_\_\_\_\_. This is not a weekly sabbath, or a cessation of our physical labor. This is a spiritual rest. When we understand that

we've been graced in Christ, we can stop trying to gain favor with God. We stop trying to earn a position with God. God has already said \_ **ALL** \_ good things about us in Christ in the heavens! What else could we get?!

Maybe this week, if you've never done so before, you will start thinking these things that God says. Maybe you can start enjoying some of the benefits of knowing that we are "graced in Christ" - the One Who is Loved.

CAN ADD COLOSSIANS 2:11-14, 20 - WE DIED TO THE ELEMENTS OF THE WORLD SYSTEM.

ROMANS 8:1 - SINCE WE DIED TO THE SIN NATURE, AND SINCE THE SIN NATURE WAS THE REASON FOR OUR CONDEMNATION (ROMANS 5:15, 16, 18) WE ARE NOT CONDEMNED IN CHRIST.

## Grace for Living part 2 - 2 Timothy 2:1 Study 3

### Let's review.

Who is the gospel about? \_\_\_\_\_ JESUS CHRIST \_\_\_\_\_.

What did He do for your salvation? - \_\_\_\_ DIED FOR OUR  
SINS \_\_\_\_\_. - \_\_\_\_ WAS  
BURIED \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ ROSE  
AGAIN \_\_\_\_\_.

How must an unsaved person respond to that gospel in order to  
be saved? \_\_\_\_\_ BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST \_\_\_\_\_.

Anything else? \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_.

If you have believed the gospel, where does God count or credit  
us to be? \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE HEAVENLIES \_\_\_\_\_.

In whom does the Father count us to be? \_ CHRIST JESUS \_.

The apostle Paul says that in Christ Jesus we have been  
\_\_\_\_\_ GRACE \_\_\_\_\_, (Ephesians 1:6).

Can you think of some things God has graced us with in Christ?  
\_ ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS \_, \_\_\_\_\_ BLAMELESS \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ REDEEMED \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ FORGIVEN \_\_\_\_\_.

**Grace provides power** - If you remember, God's grace is an attitude by which He provides or does for us that which we do not deserve. Many of these things are tied to our being **in Christ**. Power is one of those things which God provides for us by His grace. Look at the following scriptures and note where this strength is.

2 Timothy 2:1 "*Therefore, my loved child, be empowered by the grace in Christ Jesus*" \_\_\_\_\_ GRACE IN CHRIST JESUS \_\_\_\_\_.

Philippians 4:13 "*I am endued with strength for all things, in the One empowering me - Christ*" \_\_\_\_\_ IN CHRIST \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 6:10 "*For the rest, be empowered in the Lord and by the manifest might from His endued strength.*" \_ IN THE LORD \_.

So in each case, the strength is in \_ CHRIST THE LORD \_.

According to 2 Timothy 2:1 this strength is available to us because of God's \_ GRACE \_\_\_\_\_ which is in \_\_\_\_\_ CHRIST \_\_\_\_\_.

Where do I receive this strength? In my arms, legs and neck? Read

Ephesians 3:16, "*In order that He might give to you, according to the riches consisting of His glory, by power, to be manifestly mighty [displayed strength] through His Spirit, in the inner man.*" I am empowered in my position in Christ, by God's grace, through the work of the Holy Spirit and I receive that strength in \_\_\_\_\_ THE INNER MAN \_\_\_\_\_. What is the inner man? It's your mind, your spirit. 2 Corinthians 4:16-17. "*Our outer man is perishing [breaking down] but our inner man is renewed day by day. For our present lightness consisting of pressure is working for us an exceeding weight of glory.*" Our outer man is our \_ BODY \_ . It is \_ BREAKING \_

DOWN \_\_\_\_\_. Our inner man is \_ BEING RENEWED \_\_\_\_\_. So God gives us mental strength to keep it together. Paul was able to call the pressure he experienced \_ MIGHT \_ but it is also producing an eternal \_ WEIGHT \_ of glory. You and I, like Paul are able to keep on keeping on, not by our own grit and determination but by God's inner strength and it all goes back to our position in \_ CHRIST \_\_\_, where God had graced us. This is important because if you think about it, your spiritual life really takes place in the mind. You can be a powerful witness and spiritual person even when your physical

body is very sick, maimed or injured. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 *"And by the abundance of revelations, in order that I should not lift myself up, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger from Satan, in order that it might beat me up, in order that I should not lift myself up. Concerning this, three times I asked the Lord that it [the thorn] might leave me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will gladly boast in my weakness in order that the power of Christ might dwell upon me. Wherefore, I think it is good in my weaknesses, in arrogant insults, in necessities, in persecutions, in tight places on behalf of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then I am strong."* God's grace is  SUFFICIENT . When we are weak and must depend upon God's grace then we are really  STRONG . We should always depend upon God, but sometimes, we rely upon our own efforts and strength. It is good for us to have times of weakness to remind us to always depend upon God for this strength. How do we get this strength? We are to think about being in  CHRIST . We are to remind ourselves that we have been  GRACED  in  CHRIST .

In Colossians 1:9-11, Paul expressed his wish for the Colossians to know God's will in verse 9 made possible by an empowerment in verse 11. *"being empowered by means of all power according to [measured by] the manifest might [show of strength] consisting of His glory unto all patience and longsuffering with joy."* The goal of being empowered is a display or manifestation of strength. In verse 10 we find the activities of the believer that make this empowerment necessary. *"that you walk worthy of the Lord in all things pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the full experiential knowledge of God."*

5. We might  WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD .

6. We can bear  FRUIT IN EVERY GOOD WORK .

7. We can increase  IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD .

None of this would be possible without this empowerment in your mind [inner man]. You and I just could not do it!

Then look at the end of verse 11. This empowerment makes it possible for us to have  PATIENCE  along with longsuffering and joy. Patience is a mental quality. It is the maintaining of proper character or attitude while remaining under an adverse circumstance. To have patience, you need power. But you don't need power in your body but in your  MIND  which is your  INNER MAN , because patience is mental.

Let's read again Philippians 4:13 but this time we'll include verses 11-12. *"Not that I speak according to a lack, for I have learned in which I am, to be content. For I know how to be humble, and I know how to abound. In all things and in all ways I have been taught to be full and hunger, to abound and to lack. I am endued with strength for all things in the One strengthening me - Christ."* In this context, what does the empowerment in Christ make possible for Paul?  THE ABILITY TO BE CONTENT IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES .

**Grace accessed by Faith** - In our New Testament, we find things God does by His grace to and for us in Christ over 100 times. That shows how important this truth is. How am I to relate to all this? Previously, we learned that **faith** makes things I hope for and for which I can find no concrete evidence, real! Not just anything I hope



for, but those things God tells me in the Bible, things He has promised to you and I. Now, I can't see "grace". I can't even see myself "in Christ". But God tells me that I can enjoy certain benefits because He counts me to be in Christ Jesus. Since I have God's promise and I can't see it, I have to have faith in that promise, that if I do "think" about what God says about me in Christ, I can do certain things. So, we find in Romans 5:2-4, "*[2] through Whom [Jesus Christ] we have the access by the faith into this grace, in which we stand and we boast upon hope consisting of the glory of God. [3] But not only, but we also boast in pressure, knowing that the pressure produces patience, [4] but the patience approval, but the approval hope, but the hope does not shame, because the love of God is gushed for in our hearts...*" Now there is a reason to access this grace.

We can boast in   PRESSURE  . v. 3 [Tribulation means severe pressure]

Pressure produces   PATIENCE  . v. 3

Patience produces   APPROVAL  . v. 4

Approval produces   HOPE  . v. 4

And this goes back to verse 2, we boast in the hope of God's   GLORY  .

You see, anyone can boast about success in great things, but Christians can face real pressure. When we "think" about being in Christ, where we are "graced" God gives us the strength to keep on keeping on under that pressure. When we keep on keeping on by the power from God's grace, that results in approved character. And approved character results in hope concerning God's glory, that God can indeed do what He has promised me He will do. He will complete my salvation. He will do this for every believer, but

the one who faces pressure by God's power really has hope in what God, because he's had a little taste of what is to come.

## Grace for Finishing - 1 Peter 1:11      **Study 4**

We have seen that we were saved by grace at the moment we believed in Jesus Christ through the gospel. We have also seen that our present way of life is by the grace from God. Now we will see that our salvation will be finished by grace.

Review -

"Gospel" means - GOOD NEWS

Who is the gospel about? JESUS CHRIST

What does the gospel tell us that He did?

8. HE DIED FOR OUR SINS

9. HE WAS BURIED

10. HE ROSE AGAIN

What must a person do to be saved? \_\_\_\_\_

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

What must a person not do to be saved? WORK

So, we are saved by GRACE THROUGH FAITH

When a person believes the gospel, he is put into CHRIST. God the Father GRACED him in Christ "the One Who is loved." The believer can access this grace by FAITH. He receives STRENGTH by this grace which is in Christ. He receives this strength in the INNER MAN which is his MIND.

Our salvation is not finished. We all suffer aches and pains. There are things we simply can not do because we do not yet have all of

our salvation which God has promised for us. We do have all spiritual BLESSINGS in the heavenlies. But we are waiting for the time that those good words which God says about us become absolutely true. We are waiting for the day that God not only logically counts us to be in heaven but we truly are in heaven. Paul wrote in Philippians 3:20-21, "*For our citizenship exists in heavens out of which we are eagerly awaiting the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our humble body, that it will be conformed to His glorious body...*" Paul calls our present body HUMBLE which means "low". Our present bodies are limited. We are EAGERLY AWAITING the Savior who will change the body to be like HIS GLORIOUS body. Note, that Paul does not say that some of us will be changed. All who have believed in Jesus Christ as their Savior will be changed. John wrote about 30 years later, "*Loved ones, now we are God's children and it is not yet plainly visible what we will be. We know that whenever He is plainly visible, we will be like Him, because we will see Him for ourselves, even as He is.*" (1 John 3:2). We don't see Jesus Christ right now. Peter wrote, "*Whom, having not seen, you love...*" (1 Peter 1:8). But John wrote that we will see Him someday. There is a day coming when He will be plainly visible to all of us. We will see Him as He truly is. What happens to us then? WE WILL BE LIKE HIM. He's writing about seeing "Jesus" which is the title of His human nature. Therefore, John is not saying that we will become God or even little gods. We become like Jesus' human nature. He is God, but it will be His "glorious body" that we will see and our HUMBLE bodies will be changed like His GLORIOUS body. His body belongs to His human nature not His "God" nature.

*"Because the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of an archangel and with a trumpet of God, and the dead ones in Christ will rise first, then we the living ones, the ones remaining here on earth will be snatched together with them in clouds to a meeting with the Lord in the air, and in this way, we will always be with the Lord."* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). We won't be changed and stay here. We will be SNATCHED to be with the LORD. In fact from that time on, we will ALWAYS be with the Lord. On our way to heaven, Jesus will judge all our works. These "works" can not be our sins or bad things, because we saw in our second study that our sins were forgiven which means "sent away". These works are the things we do for God. They are our "good works". Jesus will judge the nature of those works. *"So that, you do not judge anything before that time, until whenever the Lord comes, who will both shed light on the hidden things of darkness and will make plainly visible the choices of the hearts. And then, there will be praise from God for each one."* (1 Corinthians 4:5). "Good works" which no one here ever saw, will be seen. Then EACH one will receive PRaise from God. That's pretty amazing. That's grace that God would give praise to any of us!

Then the Bible states that Jesus Christ is the One who is responsible for the Church being perfect. *"That He might present it [the church] to Himself a glorious church, not having a spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."* (Ephesians 5:27). Because of Christ, not because of you and I, the church will be HOLY and WITHOUT BLAME. That again is grace! Let's read Philipians 1:6, *"being confident of this same thing, that the One having begun in you a good work, will*

*complete it until the day of Christ Jesus."* Who will complete our salvation? GOD. Do you see again how God works by grace? Salvation is God's work. God started it by sending His Son. God provided it freely by grace through faith. God is giving us a place in Christ by grace. God will finish our salvation. You and I are more than a body. We read in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, *"Now, may the God of peace Himself sanctify [set apart] you completely and may you whole spirit, soul and body be guarded blamelessly in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* You and I have three key parts which make us a human being. We have a SPiRiT, a SOUL, and a BOdy. The spirit is that part with which you think. The soul is that part with which you "feel", it is the center of your senses and emotions. You know what your body is. When you were saved by BE- LIEVING in Jesus Christ as He is described in the GOSPEL, one part of those three was saved. We already know that your body is waiting the finishing of your salvation. Read the following passages then determine what part was saved? John 3:6 *"... that being born from the Spirit is spirit."*; Ephesians 4:23 *"to be renewed by the spirit of your mind"*; 1 Corinthians 6:17 *"But the one being joined to the Lord is one spirit."* So what part is saved? MY SPIRIT. That means that our souls are not yet saved. Our emotions are not dependable. Our senses can be deceived. 1 Peter 1:7, 9 *"In order that the approval of your faith, much more precious than gold which is perishing, though it is proved through fire, it might be found to the praise and honor and glory in the revelation of Jesus Christ. [v. 9] obtaining for yourselves the completion of your faith the salvation of your souls."* The "revelation" refers to Christ being unveiled or revealed to us. Remember

John's words, "when we see Him as He is" that is about which Peter is writing. So when our faith is completed when Christ is revealed, our SOUL will be saved.

Now, we've implied that this is grace that God finishes this salvation. But the Bible does specifically state this! We find in 1 Peter 1:13, *"Wherefore, binding up the loins consisting of our thoughts, being clear headed, hope completely on the grace being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."* Peter draws a word picture for us with *"binding up the loins..."* This is a picture of putting on a leather girdle. This girdle is not for vanity, to look nice. Romans soldiers wore girdles to maintain strength when they were under pressure. These Christians were under pressure and they needed a girdle but not a physical girdle but one for their thoughts. This girdle involved hoping upon the GRACE that was being brought to them. These believers needed to remember that when our Savior comes, He will bring grace with Him. I don't deserve for Him to change by humble body like to His GLORIOUS body. I don't deserve to always be with THE LORD. I don't deserve that God should PRAISE me for my works and choices. I don't deserve that my Savior should present me as part of the glorious church HOLY and without BLAME. I don't deserve that He should FINISH the work which He began in me. I didn't deserve the work He began. I don't deserve the work He is doing. I won't deserve the work He will complete. That's why Peter can write to these Christians to HOPE upon the GRACE which is being brought to them.

## More Grace for living - Growing by Grace Study

### 5

Now there is one last area that is closely related to this empowerment and that is growth. God wants us to grow spiritually. Spiritual growth involves discernment, being capable of facing greater challenges or adversity and ultimately of knowing how to depend upon God more consistently or regularly. In 2 Peter 3:18 we find *"Grow by the grace and experiential knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* How does a believer grow? BY GRACE and BY AN EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD.

Peter wrote much about grace but much of it is hidden because of the way in which our English Bibles are translated. Let's look at 1 Peter and see what he has to say about grace. You will need a Bible

1:2 - Grace is MULTIPLIED TO US.

1:10 - The PROPHETS wrote about the grace for our future.

1:13 - Christ will bring grace to us at His REVELATION. [the Rapture]. (We saw this last time).

2:19 - It is grace [thanks] when we wrongly endure GRIEF because of our CONSCIENCE.

2:20 - If you are suffering for DOING GOOD this is grace with God. Note that these last two are related to grace that empowers doing good and having patience.

3:7 - Believing spouses are CO-HEIRS of grace consisting of LIFE. (This is spiritual life. All believers receive the same)

4:10 - We are to be good \_\_\_\_ STEWARDS \_\_\_\_ of God's multifaceted grace by using our gift for others. (A manager)

5:5 - God gives grace to the \_\_\_\_ HUMBLE \_\_\_\_\_. The humble knows he needs God, always!

5:10 - God is the God of \_\_\_\_ ALL \_\_\_\_ grace! Why does he say all? Because it provides power for hardship as in 2:19, 20, a spiritual gift in 4:10, and will come at the Rapture in 1:13. It is not for just "good" things!

5:12 - This kind of grace is the \_\_\_\_ TRUE \_\_\_\_ grace of God. We \_\_\_\_ STAND \_\_\_\_ in it! (Remember Romans 5:1-5)

#### Grace not law

When parents think about growth we often think about our children. Well, you and I are God's children. We read in 1 John 3:1, *"Behold, what unique sort of love the Father has given to us, in order that we should be called the children of God, and we are."* We are not only called God's children, we \_\_\_\_ ARE \_\_\_\_ God's children. Since we are God's children, God will raise us as His children. Grace is an important part of how God raises. Titus 2:11-13 *"[11] For the grace from God has appeared, saving to all men, [12] child training us [for raising us as children], in order that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we might live soberly, righteously and godly in this present age, [13] while eagerly expecting the happy hope even appearing of the glory of the great God even our Savior Jesus Christ"*

Let's look at this verse carefully.

2:11 - The grace has \_\_\_\_ APPEARED \_\_\_\_\_. What does Paul mean, "has appeared"? Only since the day of Pentecost, has God used His grace to govern the lives of His people. From the time Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the Law, God

governed His people Israel, by the Law. Read John 1:17 *"Because the law was given through Moses, the grace and the truth came to be through Jesus Christ."*

God \_\_\_\_ GAVE \_\_\_\_ the Law through \_\_\_\_ MOSES \_\_\_\_\_. The grace \_\_\_\_ CAME TO BE \_\_\_\_ through Jesus Christ. Note the difference. Moses didn't give the Law, it was given through him. But the grace, as we know it now, came into existence through Jesus Christ.

God didn't give the law through Moses until Moses was about 80 years old. It didn't come at his birth. Likewise, the grace didn't come into being when Christ was born, but after He had died on the cross, arose, and returned to heaven.

Everyone who has been saved in the history of the world, was saved by grace. Both John and Paul are writing about the grace by which we live our daily lives. This grace is in contrast to the law that was given through Moses.

2:11 - The grace is \_\_\_\_ SAVING \_\_\_\_ to all men. God has extended His grace toward all men. Though all men may not believe the gospel, and therefore remain unsaved, God has provided for their salvation. If they remain judged, it's their fault, not God's. Grace has always been the basis of salvation. But Paul will now explain how that grace for salvation is also extended for our daily lives. This is the aspect of grace that has appeared.

2:12 - This grace is now \_\_\_\_ CHILD TRAINING (TEACHING) \_\_\_\_ us. It is raising us as \_\_\_\_ CHILDREN \_\_\_\_.

The remainder of this passage will explain what the grace is teaching us.

2:12 - To deny [ SAY NOT TO ] ungodliness and worldly lusts. Ungodliness is the kind of life that does not reflect God's kind of life and therefore does not honor Him. Worldly lusts describe the misuse of what God has provided for us. God has given us many things in salvation, but He has also explained that there is a certain way to use the benefits. When we misuse them, such as loving the world instead of loving God and His family, we are MISUSING that love.

How does grace train us as children to say not to these things? Grace points us to benefits which God has already given. Contrast this to law for just a moment. Read Deuteronomy 4:1 & 8:1 - If you would DO you could LIVE. Deuteronomy 28:1-2 - If you wanted the blessings, you had to OBEY the law. Deuteronomy 28:15ff - If you didn't OBEY then the CURSES would come upon you. That's the way law works. As a result, we find in Hebrews 7:19 that "the law made nothing PERFECT [that is MATURE]"

Let's contrast this to how grace trains us. According to Ephesians 1:3, we already have ALL spiritual blessings [ GOOD WORDS ] in the heavenlies. I don't have to OBEY to get them. But what grace then points me to is Ephesians 4:1 "Walk WORTHY of the calling with which you have been called." Ephesians 4:32 "be kind to ONE ANOTHER ... as God in CHRIST has been gracious with you." Ephesians 5:1-2 "Therefore, be IMITATORS of God as loved children; walk in

LOVE as Christ has LOVED you," Ephesians 5:7-8 "Therefore, do not be partakers with them; for you WERE darkness but NOW you are light in the Lord. WALK as children of light." Do you see the difference. We aren't earning blessings or fearing curses. Rather, God has already given us all blessings in Christ. Now, God is calling us to a life which is consistent with that gracious position we have in Christ. What is consistent? Let's look back in Titus 2 and see that grace also trains us to live - 2:12 - SOBERLY - This Greek word does not mean "not drunk" but "to think about salvation" or to be sensible. Grace teaches us to live thinking about our salvation.

2:12 - RIGHTEOUSLY - This means to do what is right.  
2:12 - GODLY - This is a life which shows God's life and therefore honors God.

2:13 - EAGERLY EXPECTING the appearing of our Savior. This is His coming to take His Church home to heaven. This agrees with 1 Peter 1:13, we look for His coming, we want to see Him. When He comes, He will come bring more grace.

This is how grace trains us. It points us to God's work for us so that it positively encourages a way of life which is consistent with all God has already given us. That's GRACE.

Do you see how God works in our lives by grace? He motivates us to consider what He has already done for us, especially what He has graced us with in Christ. God does not usually threaten us, or motivate us by holding out additional blessings. God points us to what He has already done. In this way, God's grace teaches us.

## Hidden Grace      Study 6

Our Bibles were not written in English but in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. We have English Bibles because people have translated copies of the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek into English. But whenever a person translates something from one language to another, he does so with his understanding of what he is translating. Sometimes a literal translation doesn't seem to make sense at first. **Grace** has been affected like this. Sometimes the simple translation "grace" is easy to understand. But at times the Greek word *charis* - grace, has been hidden from the English reader [probably not by intention] by an attempt to make sense of a passage with a word that seemed to the translator to be the intended meaning of the author.

Recall, **grace** is God's attitude by which He imparts to us that which we do not \_\_\_\_\_. In the following verses, the New Testament writers used the word *charis*, meaning grace as we have been studying it. This study will only consider "grace" as given from God to us. You will probably see that this word is commonly translated "thanks" or something similar. This is because the word "thanks" translates the Greek word *eucharistia* which is literally "good grace". When a person says, "thanks", he is expressing recognition of the good grace another has shown him. However, by translating *charis* thanks, it makes it more difficult to see the connection with God's grace intended by the writer.

In this study you will need a Bible. Following each Scripture reference is a literal rendering of the phrase with the word grace correctly translated. Find the phrase in your Bible. Then read the con-

text of the phrase and in that context, identify the undeserved benefit of the grace.

Romans 6:17 "But grace is by God,"

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Romans 7:25 "Grace *is* by God through our Lord Jesus Christ ..."

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1 Corinthians 15:57 "But grace is by God..."

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2 Corinthians 2:14 "But grace is by God..."

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2 Corinthians 8:16 "But grace is by God..."

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2 Corinthians 9:15 "Grace is by God..."

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1 Timothy 1:12-14 "I have grace in the One empowering me Christ Jesus..."

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2 Timothy 1:3-5 "I have grace by God..."

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1 Peter 2:19 "For this is grace if on account of conscience..."

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1 Peter 2:20 "...this is grace with God."

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Now we want to look at some verb forms of the word grace which are hidden. [A verb is an action word or state of being]. There are two Greek verbs from *charis*. The first is *charitao* and the second is *charizomai*. The first is translated highly graced in Luke 1:28. It also occurs in

Ephesians 1:6 "...from which He graced us in the Love One" \_\_\_\_\_

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The second word is most commonly translated by a variation of "forgive" or a variation of "give". This is part of the meaning does not do justice to the depth of this word. It literally means to deal with graciously, and therefore forgiveness may comprise some of that gracious dealing.

Romans 8:32 "and with Him graciously *give* us all things." \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Corinthians 2:12 "the things graciously *given* to us" \_\_\_\_\_

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Ephesians 4:32 [This is an important text] "being gracious with yourselves, even as God also dealt graciously with you in Christ" \_\_\_\_\_

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Philippians 1:29 "For it has been graciously *given* to you..." \_\_\_\_\_

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Philippians 2:9 "and graciously *gave* Him ..." \_\_\_\_\_

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Colossians 2:13 "...dealt graciously with you, all your trespasses" \_\_\_\_\_

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Colossians 3:13 "...dealing graciously with yourselves..." \_\_\_\_\_

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Philemon 22 "that through your worship, I shall be dealt with graciously by you all" \_\_\_\_\_

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Does understanding these passages as referring to grace open them up and expand there depth? Can you see the additionally benefits of God's grace for us? What a privilege to be the recipients of God's grace.



THESE NEXT  
PAGES  
ARE  
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SAME  
STUDIES  
BUT IN  
COPIABLE  
ORDER.

the apostle Paul was telling people to change their minds about God. For the Jews, they had to believe that Jesus is God. For the Greeks, they had to believe that there is but one God, absolutely no more. And then believe in Jesus Christ. If they didn't change their minds about God, then they wouldn't be believing in the Jesus Christ of the Bible but a different kind of Jesus, one who really can not save them from their sins.

Have you believed in Jesus Christ? Do you believe that He has done everything for your salvation and there is nothing more for you to do but believe? If not, believe in Him now! Are you still trusting in your works to save you? If so, why not stop your working and believe in Him?!

#### READ ABOUT PAUL AND THE PHILIPPIAN JAILER IN ACTS 16

### Grace for Salvation - Ephesians 2:8-9 Study 1

The word's **grace** and **salvation** are popular words, but what do they mean? Are they important for us? Is it necessary for us to understand them? They are rich words that speak volumes to Christians, but are absolutely necessary for those who wish to be Christians.

**The Gospel** - At the heart of grace and salvation is the gospel. The word gospel simply means \_\_\_\_\_. Many things can be considered good news, it all depends upon where you are. There is a good news for those who are not Christians and it is found in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 - "[1] *Now, brothers, I make known to you the good news which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and by which you stand; [2] By which also you are saved, if you hold fast what I preached unto you, unless you believed it without a purpose. [3] For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; [4] And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.*" Let's look at what Paul says about this good news.

Verse 1 - Paul had \_\_\_\_\_ this good news.

- They had \_\_\_\_\_ this good news.

- They \_\_\_\_\_ by means of this good news.

Verse 2 - They were \_\_\_\_\_ by this good news.

- They had hopefully \_\_\_\_\_ it with a purpose. CP ROMANS 1:16

Now what does Paul say that good news was?

Verse 3 - Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_ according to the scriptures.

Verse 4 - Christ was \_\_\_\_\_.

- Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the third day according to the scriptures.

That good news confronts a person with his or her sins. But it also holds out a hope, Christ died for those sins. You and I are accountable to God for our sins. But Christ died for those sins. A person then has a choice, either he believes that Christ died for those sins, or he remains accountable to God for them himself. In Acts 10:43 we find, "all the ones believing in Him [Jesus Christ] receives forgiveness of sins". The word forgive means "to send away." If a person be-

lives in Jesus Christ, that He died for your own sins and was buried and rose again the third day, his sins are forgiven or \_\_\_\_\_.

So you are no longer accountable for those sins, Christ dealt with them. But you must believe that He did everything necessary.

**The Grace** - In Ephesians 2:8-9 we find, "[8] *For by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:* [9] *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*" So what is this grace? The apostle Paul helps us understand grace in Romans 11:6, "*But if by grace, it is no longer works, otherwise the grace no longer becomes grace. But if it is out of works, it is no longer grace, otherwise the work is no longer work.*" Do you see that, it is either grace or work. If you must do good works, even one good work, then it is not grace, but we saw in Ephesians 2:8&9, we were saved by \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_.

Grace is an attitude which God has, by which He gives or provides something for those who don't deserve it. Since we are all sinners, we don't deserve anything but God's judgment, but He has given us salvation.

**The Faith** - The next word related to salvation in Ephesians 2:8 is faith, "saved by grace through faith". What is faith? "*Now faith gives substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" (Hebrews 11:1). You can't see the forgiveness of sins, but it is a hope held before a person, that if he will believe that Jesus Christ died for his sins, was buried and rose again, he too can have the forgiveness of sins. But he must believe that. There is no physical evidence or proof that this will happen, so faith makes that hope real, so the person can trust in what Christ has done for him.

#### CP 1 PETER 2:24 WHERE PETER INCLUDES HIMSELF

Salvation is related to faith so that it can be by God's grace, "Wherefore, this is from faith in order that it is according to grace . . ." (Romans 4:16a). In fact we find in verse 5 of this same chapter, "*but to the one not working but believing upon the one declaring the ungodly person righteous, his faith is logically credited for righteousness.*" Do you see that? Salvation or righteousness is not by one \_\_\_\_\_ but by \_\_\_\_\_. Like 1 Corinthians 15:3, where Christ died for our \_\_\_\_\_, here we find God declares righteous the \_\_\_\_\_ person. This salvation is not for good and righteous people but for sinners and

ungodly people, and whether we want to admit it or not, we are all sinners and ungodly people, every person born on this earth needs this salvation. Any person can have that salvation, if He will \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ, that He died for our sins, that He was buried, and that He rose again from the dead. What if a person doesn't believe in Him? John wrote, "*The one believing in Him is not judged. The one not believing is already judged . . .*" (John 3:18). It is not enough to just believe in a person named Jesus. We must believe in the Person, Jesus Christ, God in flesh, Who died for our sins, was buried and rose again. If you have believed that you are \_\_\_\_\_ and are not \_\_\_\_\_.

SEE ALSO ROMANS 3:10; 5:8

**The Question of Repentance** - Let's answer one more question. Do we not find in the Bible that a person must "repent"? Indeed, we do find "repentance", "*Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (Acts 20:21). What does repent or repentance mean? It simply means to change one's mind. Some have taught that repentance is "sorrow over sin". But that is not the meaning of this word. That is not to say that we should take sin lightly. But when people were told to repent, they were being told to change their minds about something. In the verse above, the apostle Paul was telling people to change their minds about God. For the Jews, they had to believe that Jesus is God. For the Greeks, they had to believe that there is but one God, absolutely no more. And then believe in Jesus Christ. If they didn't change their minds about God, then they wouldn't be believing in the Jesus Christ of the Bible but a different kind of Jesus, one who really can not save them from their sins.

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## **Grace for Living part 1 - Romans 5      Study 2**

Last time we looked at the Gospel. Let's see what you remember.

The word "gospel" means - \_\_\_\_\_.

The "gospel" for salvation is about \_\_\_\_\_.

What did He do? - \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

What is a person not supposed to do to be saved - \_\_\_\_\_.

What is a person supposed to do - \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

We are saved by God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Now grace did not stop when you believed the good news. In fact for Christians, that's when we started to benefit from God's grace. God's grace is still a big part of our lives.

Grace in the Beloved - In Ephesians 1:6 we can read, "*To praise of glory, consisting of His grace, from which [grace], He graced us in the One having been loved.*" Many Bibles don't make clear that the word "grace" occurs in this verse twice. The first time it is a noun "grace" and the second a verb "graced". If you have believed in Jesus Christ, that He died for your \_\_\_\_\_, was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, you too are graced.

Where are we graced? In the One having been \_\_\_\_\_.

That's Jesus Christ. What does Paul mean by "in"? Simply, that at the same time you and I live down here on this earth, God the Father counts or credits you and I to already be in heaven. He does this by crediting us to be in Christ Jesus. Let's look at things right here in Ephesians 1 that are true of us in Christ Jesus. "[1] *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, even the faithful ones in Christ Jesus:* [2] *Grace is to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord*

*Jesus Christ, [3] Blessed is the God even Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavens in Christ: [4] According as he chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love: [5] Having set boundaries for us unto the graduation as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of his desirous will, [6] To the praise of the glory of his grace, from which He has graced us in the Beloved. [7] In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of his grace"*

1. The Christians in Ephesus were

\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus. v. 1

2. He has \_\_\_\_\_ us with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the

heavens in Christ Jesus. v. 3

3. He \_\_\_\_\_ us in Christ, to be  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . v. 4

4. In Christ Jesus, we have \_\_\_\_\_,  
which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our offenses. v. 7

Number 2 is very important. The word "bless" and "blessings" means "to say \_\_\_\_\_". Because

you and I are in Christ, God the Father says good words about us there. That's because in Christ we are \_\_\_\_\_. We don't deserve God to say those good things about us, but He does! What are those good things? There are two in verse 4, we are \_\_\_\_\_ and without \_\_\_\_\_ before God. That is certainly grace! In verse 7, He says we have \_\_\_\_\_, which means that He \_\_\_\_\_

[or \_\_\_\_\_] the \_\_\_\_\_ we owed, so now He can say we are \_\_\_\_\_.

**Grace not Law** - Probably the hardest idea for us to learn is that since we are under God's grace, we aren't under law anymore. We find in the Bible and our experience certainly backs this up, that one of our problems is that our human nature has been affected by sin and is corrupted. The Bible calls this the flesh or "the sin". We sometimes call it the sin nature. Everyone has one. We were born into the world with one. But because of God's grace, we don't have to do everything our sin nature

wants us to do. In Romans 6:2&3 we find out something else God says about us in Christ, *"We who died to the sin, how shall we yet live in it, or don't you know that as many of us as were put into Christ Jesus, we were put into His death."* In some of your Bibles you find the word "baptize" which simply means to "put into" and is not referring to any water here but rather, what we saw in Ephesians 1, that God put us in Christ when we believed. Remember the first part of the gospel, "Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins". He suffered and He died, but by God's grace, He says we \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ. Now is that great grace! Later in verse 11, Paul tells us to *"Logically count yourselves to be dead to the sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus"*. God logically says it's true and so we should think it! We should logically count it to be so! This is how God gives us victory over the flesh or sin nature. Then in verse 14, we find *"for sin shall not be a lord over you, for you are not under law but under grace"*.

The sin is not to be a \_\_\_\_\_ over you. That means it isn't your boss anymore. It can't tell you what to do. You are not under \_\_\_\_\_. You are under \_\_\_\_\_, because we are graced in Christ. And as we have seen right here in Romans 6, one of the ways God graced us was by saying that we \_\_\_\_\_ to sin in Christ and that we are \_\_\_\_\_ to God in Christ.

This gracious position in Christ is referred to in Hebrews 4:16. Can you find what Paul calls it? *"Therefore, let us come boldly to the throne of grace, in order that we might receive mercy and we might find well-timed grace for a cry for help."* \_\_\_\_\_, Read verses 9-10, *"Therefore, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one entering into His rest, he also ceases from his works, just as God from His own works."* At that throne of grace, we can \_\_\_\_\_. To rest means we cease from our \_\_\_\_\_. This is not a weekly sabbath, or a cessation of our physical labor. This is a spiritual rest. When we understand that we've been graced in Christ, we can stop trying to gain favor with God. We stop trying to earn a position with God. God has already said \_\_\_\_\_ good things about us in Christ in the heavens! What else could we get?!

Maybe this week, if you've never done so before, you will start thinking these things that God says. Maybe you can start enjoying some of the benefits of knowing that we are "graced in Christ" - the One Who is Loved.

CAN ADD COLOSSIANS 2:11-14, 20 - WE DIED TO THE ELEMENTS OF THE WORLD SYSTEM.

ROMANS 8:1 - SINCE WE DIED TO THE SIN NATURE, AND SINCE THE SIN NATURE WAS THE REASON FOR OUR CONDEMNATION (ROMANS 5:15, 16, 18) WE ARE NOT CONDEMNED IN CHRIST.

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Where are we graced? In the Beloved (lit. the One having been \_\_\_\_\_). That's Jesus Christ. What does Paul mean by "in"? Simply, that at the same time you and I live down here on this earth, God the Father counts or credits you and I to already be in heaven. He does this by crediting us to be in Christ Jesus. Let's look at things right here in Ephesians 1 that are true of us in Christ Jesus. "[1] *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, the faithful ones in Christ Jesus:* [2] *Grace is to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord*

So in each case, the strength is in \_\_\_\_\_.

According to 2 Timothy 2:1 this strength is available to us because of God's \_\_\_\_\_ which is in \_\_\_\_\_.

Where do I receive this strength? In my arms, legs and neck? Read Ephesians 3:16, "*In order that He might give to you, according to the riches consisting of His glory, by power, to be manifestly mighty [displayed strength] through His Spirit, in the inner man.*" I am empowered in my position in Christ, by God's grace, through the work of the Holy Spirit and I receive that strength in \_\_\_\_\_.

What is the inner man? It's your mind, your spirit. 2 Corinthians 4:16-17. "*Our outer man is perishing [breaking down] but our inner man is renewed day by day. For our present lightness consisting of pressure is working for us an exceeding weight of glory.*" Our outer man is our \_\_\_\_\_.

**It is** \_\_\_\_\_. Our inner man is \_\_\_\_\_. So God gives us mental strength to keep it together. Paul was able to call the pressure he experienced \_\_\_\_\_ but it is also producing an eternal \_\_\_\_\_ of glory. You and I, like Paul are able to keep on keeping on, not by our own grit and determination but by God's inner strength and it all goes back to our position in \_\_\_\_\_, where God had graced us. This is important because if you think about it, your spiritual life really takes place in the mind. You can be a powerful witness and spiritual person even when your physical body is very sick, maimed or injured. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 "*And by the abundance of revelations, in order that I should not lift myself up, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger from Satan, in order that it might beat me up, in order that I should not lift myself up. Concerning this, three times I asked the Lord that it [the thorn] might leave me. And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will gladly boast in my weakness in order that the power of Christ might dwell upon me. Wherefore, I think it is good in my weaknesses, in arrogant insults, in necessities, in persecutions, in tight places on behalf of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then I am strong.*" God's grace is \_\_\_\_\_.

When we are weak and must depend upon God's grace then we are really \_\_\_\_\_. We should always depend upon God, but sometimes, we rely upon our own efforts and strength. It is good for us to have times of weakness to remind us to always depend upon God for this strength. How do we get this strength? We are to think about being in \_\_\_\_\_. We are to remind ourselves that we have been \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

In Colossians 1:9-11, Paul expressed his wish for the Colossians to know God's will in verse 9 made possible by an empowerment in verse 11. *"being empowered by means of all power according to [measured by] the manifest might [show of strength] consisting of His glory unto all patience and longsuffering with joy."* The goal of being empowered is a display or manifestation of strength. In verse 10 we find the activities of the believer that make this empowerment necessary. *"that you walk worthy of the Lord in all things pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the full experiential knowledge of God."*

1. We might \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We can bear \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We can increase \_\_\_\_\_.

None of this would be possible without this empowerment in your mind [inner man]. You and I just could not do it!

Then look at the end of verse 11. This empowerment makes it possible for us to have \_\_\_\_\_ along with longsuffering and joy. Patience is a mental quality. It is the maintaining of proper character or attitude while remaining under an adverse circumstance. To have patience, you need power. But you don't need power in your body but in your \_\_\_\_\_ which is your \_\_\_\_\_, because patience is mental.

Let's read again Philippians 4:13 but this time we'll include verses 11-12. *"Not that I speak according to a lack, for I have learned in which I am, to be content. For I know how to be humble, and I know how to abound. In all things and in all ways I have been taught to be full and hunger, to abound and to lack. I am endued with strength for all things in the One strengthening me - Christ."* In this context, what does the empowerment in Christ make possible for Paul?

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Grace accessed by Faith** - In our New Testament, we find things God does by His grace to and for us in Christ over 100 times. That shows how important this truth is. How am I to relate to all this? Previously, we learned that **faith** makes things I hope for and for which I can find no concrete evidence, real! Not just anything I hope for, but those things God tells me in the Bible, things He has promised to you and I. Now, I can't see "grace". I can't even see myself "in Christ". But God tells me that I can

enjoy certain benefits because He counts me to be in Christ, Jesus. Since I have God's promise and I can't see it, I have to have faith in that promise, that if I do "think" about what God says about me in Christ, I can do certain things. So, we find in Romans 5:2-4, " [2] through Whom [Jesus Christ] we have the access by the faith into this grace, in which we stand and we boast upon hope consisting of the glory of God. [3] But not only, but we also boast in pressure, knowing that the pressure produces patience, [4] but the patience approval, but the approval hope, but the hope does not shame, because the love of God is gushed for in our hearts..." Now there is a reason to access this grace.

- We can boast in \_\_\_\_\_. v. 3 [Tribulation means severe pressure]  
 Pressure produces \_\_\_\_\_. v. 3  
 Patience produces \_\_\_\_\_. v. 4  
 Approval produces \_\_\_\_\_. v. 4  
 This refers to verse 2, we boast in the hope of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

You see, anyone can boast about success in great things, but Christians can face real pressure. When we "think" about being in Christ, where we are "graced" God gives us the strength to keep on keeping on under that pressure. When we keep on keeping on by the power from God's grace, that results in approved character. And approved character results in hope concerning God's glory, that God can indeed do what He has promised me He will do. He will complete my salvation. He will do this for every believer, but the one who faces pressure by God's power really has hope in what God, because he's had a little taste of what is to come.



## **Grace for Living part 2 - 2 Timothy 2:1**

### **Let's review.**

Who is the gospel about? \_\_\_\_\_.

What did He do for your salvation?

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

How must an unsaved person respond to that gospel in order to be saved? \_\_\_\_\_.

Anything else? \_\_\_\_\_.

If you have believed the gospel, *where* does God count or credit us to be? \_\_\_\_\_.

In *whom* does the Father count us to be? \_\_\_\_\_.

The apostle Paul says that in Christ Jesus we have been \_\_\_\_\_.

Can you think of some things God has graced us with in Christ?

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Grace provides power** - If you remember, God's grace is an attitude by which He provides or does for us that which we do not deserve. Many of these things are tied to our being **in Christ**. Power is one of those things which God provides for us by His grace. Look at the following scriptures and note where this strength is.

2 Timothy 2:1 *"Therefore, my loved child, be empowered by the grace in Christ Jesus"* \_\_\_\_\_.

Philippians 4:13 *"I am endowed with strength for all things, in the One empowering me - Christ"* \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 6:10 *"For the rest, be empowered in the Lord and by the manifest might from His endowed strength."* \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Study 3**

which means "low." Our present bodies are limited. We are \_\_\_\_\_ the Savior who will change the body to be like \_\_\_\_\_ body. Note, that Paul does

not say that some of us will be changed. All who have believed in Jesus Christ as their Savior will be changed. John wrote about 30 years later, *"Loved ones, now we are God's children and it is not yet plainly visible what we will be. We know that whenever He is plainly visible, we will be like Him, because we will see Him for ourselves, even as He is."* (1 John 3:2). We don't see Jesus Christ right now. Peter wrote, *"Whom, having not seen, you love..."* (1 Peter 1:8). But John wrote that we will see Him someday. There is a day coming when He will be plainly visible to all of us. We will see Him as he truly is. What happens to us then?

\_\_\_\_\_. He's writing about seeing "Jesus" which is the title of His human nature.

Therefore, John is not saying that we will become God or even little gods. We become like Jesus' human nature. He is God, but it will be His "glorious body" that we will see and our \_\_\_\_\_ bodies will be changed like His \_\_\_\_\_ body. His body belongs to His human nature not His "God" nature.

*"Because the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of an archangel and with a trumpet of God, and the dead ones in Christ will rise first, then we the living ones, the ones remaining here on earth will be snatched together with them in clouds to a meeting with the Lord in the air, and in this way, we will always be with the Lord."* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). We won't be changed and stay here. We will be \_\_\_\_\_ to be with the

\_\_\_\_\_. In fact from that time on, we will \_\_\_\_\_ be with the Lord. On our way to heaven, Jesus will judge all our works. These "works" can not be our sins or bad things, because we saw in our second study that our sins were forgiven which means "sent away". These works are the things we do for God. They are our "good works". Jesus will judge the nature of those works. *"So that, you do not judge anything before that time, until whenever the Lord comes, who will both shed light on the hidden things of darkness and will make plainly visible the choices of the hearts. And then, there will be praise from God for each one."* (1 Corinthians 4:5). "Good works" which no one here ever saw, will be seen. Then \_\_\_\_\_ one will receive \_\_\_\_\_.

from God. That's pretty amazing. That's grace that God would give praise to any of us!

Then the Bible states that Jesus Christ is the One who is responsible for the Church being perfect. *"That He might present it [the church] to Himself a glorious church, not having a spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."* (Ephesians 5:27). Because of Christ, not because of you and I, the church will be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_. That again is grace! Let's read Philippians 1:6, *"being confident of this same thing, that the One having begun in you a good work, will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus."* Who will complete our salvation? \_\_\_\_\_. Do you see again how God works by grace? Salvation is God's work. God started it by sending His Son. God provided it freely by grace through faith. God is giving us a place in Christ by grace. God will finish our salvation.

You and I are more than a body. We read in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, *"Now, may the God of peace Himself sanctify [set apart] you completely and may you whole spirit, soul and body be guarded blamelessly in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* You and I have three key parts which make us a human being. We have a \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_.

The spirit is that part with which you think. The soul is that part with which you "feel", it is the center of your senses and emotions. You know what your body is. When you were saved by \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ as He is described in the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, one part of those three was saved. We already know that your body is waiting the finishing of your salvation. Read the following passages then determine what part was saved? John 3:6 *"... that being born from the Spirit is spirit";* Ephesians 4:23 *"to be renewed by the spirit of your mind";* 1 Corinthians 6:17 *"But the one being joined to the Lord is one spirit."* So what part is saved? \_\_\_\_\_.

That means that our souls are not yet saved. Our emotions are not dependable. Our senses can be deceived. 1 Peter 1:7, 9 *"In order that the approval of your faith, much more precious than gold which is perishing, though it is proved through fire, it might be found to the praise and honor and glory in the revelation of Jesus Christ. [i.e. 9] obtaining for yourselves the completion of your faith the salvation of your souls."* The "revelation" refers to Christ being unveiled or revealed to us. Remember John's words, "when we see Him as He is" that is about which Peter is

writing. So when our faith is completed when Christ is revealed, our \_\_\_\_\_ will be saved.

Now, we've implied that this it is grace that God finishes this salvation. But the Bible does specifically state this! We find in 1 Peter 1:13, *"Wherefore, binding up the loins consisting of our thoughts, being clear headed, hope completely on the grace being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."* Peter draws a word picture for us with *"binding up the loins..."* This is a picture of putting on a leather girdle. This girdle is not for vanity, to look nice. Romans soldiers wore girdles to maintain strength when they were under pressure. These Christians were under pressure and they needed a girdle but not a physical girdle but one for their thoughts. This girdle involved hoping upon the \_\_\_\_\_ that was being brought to them. These believers needed to remember that when our Savior comes, He will bring grace with Him. I don't deserve for Him to change by humble body like to His \_\_\_\_\_ body. I don't deserve to always be with \_\_\_\_\_.

I don't deserve that God should \_\_\_\_\_ me for my works and choices. I don't deserve that my Savior should present me as part of the glorious church \_\_\_\_\_ and without \_\_\_\_\_. I don't deserve that He should \_\_\_\_\_ the work which He began in me. I didn't deserve the work He began. I don't deserve the work He is doing. I won't deserve the work He will complete. That's why Peter can write to these Christians to \_\_\_\_\_ upon the \_\_\_\_\_ which is being brought to them.

## **Grace for Finishing - 1 Peter 1:11 Study 4**

We have seen that we were saved by grace at the moment we believed in Jesus Christ through the gospel. We have also seen that our present way of life is by the grace from God. Now we will see that our salvation will be finished by grace.

Review -

"Gospel" means - \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the gospel about? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the gospel tell us that He did?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

What must a person do to be saved? \_\_\_\_\_

What must a person not do to be saved? \_\_\_\_\_

So, we are saved by \_\_\_\_\_

When a person believes the gospel, he is put into \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. God the Father \_\_\_\_\_ him  
in Christ "the One Who is loved." The believer can access this grace  
by \_\_\_\_\_. He receives

\_\_\_\_\_ by this grace which is in Christ. He receives  
this strength in the \_\_\_\_\_ which is his \_\_\_\_\_.

Our salvation is not finished. We all suffer aches and pains. There are things we simply can not do because we do not yet have all of our salvation which God has promised for us. We do have all spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in the heavenlies. But we are waiting for the time that those good words which God says about us become absolutely true. We are waiting for the day that God not only logically counts us to be in heaven but we truly are in heaven. Paul wrote in Philippians 3:20-21, "*For our citizenship exists in heavens out of which we are eagerly awaiting the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our humble body, that it will be conformed to His glorious body...*" Paul calls our present body \_\_\_\_\_

### **Grace not law**

When parents think about growth we often think about our children. Well, you and I are God's children. We read in 1 John 3:1, "*Behold, what unique*

*sort of love the Father has given to us, in order that we should be called the children of God, and we are.*" We are not only called God's children, we \_\_\_\_\_ God's children. Since we are God's children, God will raise us as His children. Grace is an important part of how God raises. Titus 2:11-13 "[11] *For the grace from God has appeared, saving to all men, [12] child training us [or raising us as children], in order that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we might live soberly, righteously and godly in this present age, [13] while eagerly expecting the happy hope even appearing of the glory of the great God even our Savior Jesus Christ*"

Let's look at this verse carefully.

2:11 - The grace has \_\_\_\_\_. What does Paul mean, "has appeared"? Only since the day of Pentecost, has God used His grace to govern the lives of His people. From the time Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the Law, God governed His people Israel, by the Law. Read John 1:17 "*Because the law was given through Moses, the grace and the truth came to be through Jesus Christ.*"

God \_\_\_\_\_ the Law through \_\_\_\_\_. The grace \_\_\_\_\_ through Jesus Christ. Note the difference. Moses didn't give the Law, it was given through him. But the grace, as we know it now, came into existence through Jesus Christ.

God didn't give the law through Moses until Moses was about 80 years old. It didn't come at his birth. Likewise, the grace didn't come into being when Christ was born, but after He had died on the cross, arose, and returned to heaven.

Everyone who has been saved in the history of the world, was saved by grace. Both John and Paul are writing about the grace by which we live our daily lives. This grace is in contrast to the law that was given through Moses.

2:11 - The grace is \_\_\_\_\_ to all men. God has extended His grace toward all men. Though all men may not believe the gospel, and therefore remain unsaved, God has provided for their salvation. If they remain judged, it's their fault, not God's. Grace has always been the basis of salvation. But Paul will now explain how that grace for salvation is also extended for our daily lives. This is the aspect of grace that has appeared.

2:12 - This grace is now \_\_\_\_\_.  
 us. It is raising us as \_\_\_\_\_. The remainder of  
 this passage will explain what the grace is teaching us.  
 2:12 - To deny [\_\_\_\_\_] ungodliness and worldly lusts.  
 Ungodliness is the kind of life that does not reflect God's kind of life  
 and therefore does not honor Him. Worldly lusts describe the misuse of  
 what God has provided for us. God has given us many things in salva-  
 tion, but He has also explained that there is a certain way to use the  
 benefits. When we misuse them, such as loving the world instead of  
 loving God and His family, we are \_\_\_\_\_ that love.  
 How does grace train us as children to say not to these things? Grace  
 points us to benefits which God has already given. Contrast this to law  
 for just a moment. Read Deuteronomy 4:1 & 8:1 - If you would  
 \_\_\_\_\_ you could \_\_\_\_\_. Deuteronomy 28:1-2 - If  
 you wanted the blessings, you had to \_\_\_\_\_ the law.  
 Deuteronomy 28:15ff - If you didn't \_\_\_\_\_ then the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ would come upon you. That's the way law works.  
 As a result, we find in Hebrews 7:19 that "the law made nothing  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [that is \_\_\_\_\_]"  
 Let's contrast this to how grace trains us. According to Ephesians 1:3,  
 we already have \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual blessings [\_\_\_\_\_] \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_] in the heavenlies. I don't have to \_\_\_\_\_ to get  
 them. But what grace then points me to is Ephesians 4:1 "Walk  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of the calling with which you have been called." Ephesi-  
 ans 4:32 "be kind to \_\_\_\_\_ ... as God in  
 \_\_\_\_\_ has been gracious with you." Ephesians 5:1-2 "Therefore,  
 be \_\_\_\_\_ of God as loved children; walk in \_\_\_\_\_ as  
 Christ has \_\_\_\_\_ you," Ephesians 5:7-8 "Therefore, do not be  
 partakers with them; for you \_\_\_\_\_ darkness but  
 you are light in the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ as children of light." Do you  
 see the difference. We aren't earning blessings or fearing curses. Rather,  
 God has already given us all blessings in Christ. Now, God is calling us  
 to a life which is consistent with that gracious position we have in  
 Christ. What is consistent? Let's look back in Titus 2 and see that grace  
 also trains us to live -

2:12 - \_\_\_\_\_ - This Greek word does not mean "not  
 drunk" but "to think about salvation" or to be sensible Grace teaches  
 us to live thinking about our salvation.  
 2:12 - \_\_\_\_\_ - This means to do what is right.  
 2:12 - \_\_\_\_\_ - This is a life which shows God's life and  
 therefore honors God.  
 2:13 - \_\_\_\_\_ the appearing of our Savior. This is His  
 coming to take His Church home to heaven. This agrees with 1 Peter  
 1:13, we look for His coming, we want to see Him. When He comes,  
 He will come bring more grace.

This is how grace trains us. It points us to God's work for us so that it posi-  
 tively encourages a way of life which is consistent with all God has already  
 given us. That's \_\_\_\_\_.

Do you see how God works in our lives by grace? He motivates us  
 to consider what He has already done for us, especially what He has  
 graced us with in Christ. God does not usually threaten us, or motivate us  
 by holding out additional blessings. God points us to what He has already  
 done. In this way, God's grace teaches us.

## **More Grace for living - Growing by Grace Study 5**

Now there is one last area that is closely related to this empowerment and that is growth. God wants us to grow spiritually. Spiritual growth involves discernment, being capable of facing greater challenges or adversity and ultimately of knowing how to depend upon God more consistently or regularly. In 2 Peter 3:18 we find "*Grow by the grace and experiential knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" How does a believer grow? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Peter wrote much about grace but much of it is hidden because of the way in which our English Bibles are translated. Let's look at 1 Peter and see what he has to say about grace. You will need a Bible

1:2 - Grace is \_\_\_\_\_.

1:10 - The \_\_\_\_\_ wrote about the grace for our future.

1:13 - Christ will bring grace to us at His \_\_\_\_\_.  
[the Rapture]. (We saw this last time).

2:19 - It is grace [thanks] when we wrongly endure \_\_\_\_\_ because of our \_\_\_\_\_.

2:20 - If you are suffering for \_\_\_\_\_ this is grace with God. Note that these last two are related to grace that empowers doing good and having patience.

3:7 - Believing spouses are \_\_\_\_\_ of grace consisting of \_\_\_\_\_. (This is spiritual life. All believers receive the same)

4:10 - We are to be good \_\_\_\_\_ of God's multi-faceted grace by using our gift for others. (A manager)

5:5 - God gives grace to the \_\_\_\_\_. The humble knows he needs God, always!

5:10 - God is the God of ALL grace! Why does he say all? Because it provides power for hardship as in 2:19, 20, a spiritual gift in 4:10, and will come at the Rapture in 1:13. It is not for just "good" things!

5:12 - This kind of grace is the TRUE grace of God. We STAND in it! (Remember Romans 5:1-5)

## **Hidden Grace Study 6**

Our Bibles were not written in English but in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. We have English Bibles because people have translated copies of the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek into English. But whenever a person translates something from one language to another, he does so with his understanding of what he is translating. Sometimes a literal translation doesn't seem to make sense at first. **Grace** has been affected like this. Sometimes the simple translation "grace" is easy to understand. But at times the Greek word *charis* - grace, has been hidden from the English reader [probably not by intention] by an attempt to make sense of a passage with a word that seemed to the translator to be the intended meaning of the author.

Recall, **grace** is God's attitude by which He imparts to us that which we do not \_\_\_\_\_. In the following verses, the New Testament writers used the word *charis*, meaning grace as we have been studying it. This study will only consider "grace" as given from God to us. You will probably see that this word is commonly translated "thanks" or something similar. This is because the word "thanks" translates the Greek word *eucharistia* which is literally "good grace". When a person says, "thanks", he is expressing recognition of the good grace another has shown him. However, by translating *charis* thanks, it makes it more difficult to see the connection with God's grace intended by the writer.

In this study you will need a Bible. Following each Scripture reference is a literal rendering of the phrase with the word grace correctly translated. Find the phrase in your Bible. Then read the context of the phrase and in that context, identify the undeserved benefit of the grace.  
Romans 6:17 "But grace is by God,"  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 7:25 "Grace is by God through our Lord Jesus Christ ..."  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 15:57 "But grace is by God..."  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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2 Corinthians 2:14 "But grace is by God..."

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2 Corinthians 8:16 "But grace is by God..."

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2 Corinthians 9:15 "Grace is by God..."

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1 Timothy 1:12-14 "I have grace in the One empowering me Christ Jesus..."

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2 Timothy 1:3-5 "I have grace by God..."

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1 Peter 2:19 "For this is grace if on account of conscience..."

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1 Peter 2:20 "...this is grace with God."

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Now we want to look at some verb forms of the word grace which are hidden. [A verb is an action word or state of being]. There are two Greek verbs from *charis*. The first is *charitao* and the second is *charizomai*. The first is translated highly graced in Luke 1:28. It also occurs in Ephesians 1:6 "...from which He graced us in the Love One"

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The second word is most commonly translated by a variation of "forgive" or a variation of "give". This is part of the meaning does not do justice to the depth of this word. It literally means to deal with graciously, and therefore forgiveness may comprise some of that gracious dealing.

Romans 8:32 "and with Him graciously *give* us all things."

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1 Corinthians 2:12 "the things graciously *given* to us

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Ephesians 4:32 [This is an important text] "being gracious with yourselves, even as God also dealt graciously with you in Christ"

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Philippians 1:29 "For it has been graciously *given* to you..."

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Philippians 2:9 "and graciously *gave* Him ..."

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Colossians 2:13 "...dealt graciously with you, all your trespasses"

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Colossians 3:13 "...dealing graciously with yourselves..."

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Philemon 22 "that through your worship, I shall be dealt with graciously by you all"

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Does understanding these passages as referring to grace open them up and expand their depth? Can you see the additional benefits of God's grace for us? What a privilege to be the recipients of God's grace.

### **Are You A Son?**

You might think the answer to that question is based on your sex. However, the Bible has something different to say about being a son. 2,000 years separate us from the time the New Testament was written. The Jews graduated their male children to the status of sons, "Today, I am a man." in the bar mitzvah [bar - son and mitzvah - commandment]. The Romans held a similar ceremony for their boys known as the toga ceremony in which the young removed their clothes of childhood and were given a toga, the clothing of sonship or adulthood. In both cultures this

happened at about age 13, though the exact age was decided by the youth's father.

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul used this familiar tradition to explain the believer's present status and his relationship to the Mosaic Law. In Galatians 3:26 we find that all who are believers are \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. The Galatians were Gentiles. Their tradition of graduating a male child to the status of son took place in the \_\_\_\_\_ ceremony. The believer who had been placed into Christ has \_\_\_\_\_ Christ (Galatians 3:27). Christ Himself functions as our toga of maturity. Because we are in Him God counts us to be wearing Him as our adult clothes. Paul was a Jew before he personally believed in Jesus Christ. In chapter four he explained what God had to do for the Jewish believers so that they might also be sons in Christ. He illustrated this from the both the Jewish and Roman traditions.

Galatians 4:1 The \_\_\_\_\_, while he was a child, didn't differ from a \_\_\_\_\_ even if he was \_\_\_\_\_.

4:2 - He remained under the authority of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ until the time which his father decided.

4:3 - The "we" was the Jews, which Paul uses to illustrate this. When they were babes, they were under the basic elementary rules of the \_\_\_\_\_ and were \_\_\_\_\_.

4:4 - God sent the Son to born under the \_\_\_\_\_ [the Mosaic \_\_\_\_\_, of which the Ten \_\_\_\_\_ were a summary].

4:5 - The Son \_\_\_\_\_ the Jewish believers from being under the Law. The idea of redeeming meant to pay a price in order to remove. Christ paid to remove the Jewish believer from living under the \_\_\_\_\_. He did this so they could be placed as \_\_\_\_\_. The Greek word "adoption" was not strictly used in the same manner which we use it in English. In English, adoption is legal process of making another's biological child one's own legal child. However, the Romans also used this word to describe the act of graduating one's own child to the status of son and the Greek word meant literally "son placement." By God the Son paying the price, He was able to remove the Jewish believers so that they could be sons in Christ.

4:6 - The Holy Spirit has been sent into the hearts of believers crying "\_\_\_\_\_." an Aramaic word like our "daddy."

Therefore, it doesn't make any difference whether you are a male or female. Every one who believes in Jesus Christ as His Savior Who died for his sins, was buried and rose again, he is in Christ. Everyone who is in Christ is a son.

4:7 - Since one is a son, he is no longer a \_\_\_\_\_.

4:8 - In the past we didn't \_\_\_\_\_. At that time we also were \_\_\_\_\_ to those things which were not really \_\_\_\_\_.

4:9 - Then we came to \_\_\_\_\_ God [or rather to be \_\_\_\_\_ by God]. Paul wanted to know how they could turn back to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul used the same word for "basic elements" as in verse 3.

4:10 - How were they living like slaves? They were keeping \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. These were special religious holidays of both the Jewish Law and Roman religion.

#### **How can one live like a son?**

Everyone who is in Christ is a son. Nothing can change that. One may be a son in Christ, however, and not live like a son. It is possible for the believer to live like a son.

Children need rules. Look back at Galatians 4:1-3. When one is a child he is under the authority of other people. When one is a child, he lives under the basic elements of the world (v. 3).

Believers are not little children any more but are sons.

A son is one who is mature in the family. He doesn't live by the rules by which a child lives. How is this possible. Does he simply do whatever he wishes? No. God has a better way for him to live his life.

Romans 8:14 - Those who are being \_\_\_\_\_ are sons. Rather than a set of rules, the Spirit leads these kind of people. How can one be led by the Spirit? Romans 8:4-6 - He is to \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit. Paul did not use "walk" literally of taking footsteps. He used walk to describe how one lives his life. In verse 5 Paul explained that walking involves how one thinks. The word "mind" or "thinks" describes how one places certain facts in his mind to adjust his attitude so that he can think and act properly. "Flesh" is the fallen, perverted nature inside of every human that does not want to do God's will. The believer can choose to put facts in his mind which

the Spirit has for him or facts from the \_\_\_\_\_. When one has an attitude which comes from the flesh, it is \_\_\_\_\_. Paul meant that the individual is still living like he did before he believed the gospel. On the other hand, the attitude which comes from the Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore, one can live like a son by \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul uses this same language of being led back in his letter to the Galatians. In 5:18 he wrote that those who are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit, they are under \_\_\_\_\_ law. They don't need a law. What law could be given to them. Read verses 22-23. Note the final words over verse 23. The fruit comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ and there are no \_\_\_\_\_ against the fruit.