

**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
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**EPHESIANS - 0290-027
DOCTRINE OF GRACE, 3.
EPH 1:1-2.**

We begin with EPH 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:

EPH 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This brings us to our next word in verse 2 which is grace.

And therefore, we have begun.

The Doctrine of Grace, Part 3.

Our first word is grace and in the Greek noun charis correctly translated grace.

Point 1. Introduction.

There are seven propositions or conclusions we can draw with regard to the subject of grace.

1. First, God exists.

Therefore, God does not act in grace when forgiving and cleansing the believer.

Therefore, God does not act in grace when forgiving and cleansing the believer.

He acts in strict faithfulness to His covenant and promise concerning forgiveness of sins.

Forgiveness of sin is based upon the righteousness and justice of God not the grace of God.

The believer does not depend upon the mercy and grace of God when he is restored to fellowship, but he depends on the character and nature of God for his forgiveness.

Therefore, grace does not appear in the forgiving and cleansing of sins.

So, It can be concluded that the word grace represents the uncompromised, unrestricted, unrecompensed loving favor of God toward sinners.

It is blessing unearned!

Grace is the limitless, unrestrained love of God acting on behalf of the lost.

God saves sinners by grace; Eph 2:8.

God keeps us saved by grace, a passage you should all be familiar with; 2Pe 1:2-4.

Turn to 2Pe 1:2-4.

2PE 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2PE 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

2PE 1:4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

By the way, I don't know where the word familiar came from but.

It does have two words in it = family and liars and perhaps that is where we get the phrase *“you're too familiar with the situation.”*

Sometimes we lie to our family members because we don't want to hurt them.

Turn to Pro 27.

PRO 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

Look at PRO 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

And If there is one principle that we have emphasized throughout the years, it is Divine Institution # 3 the family.

God also teaches us by grace; Turn to JOH 14:25.

By God remember I'm referring to the entire Trinity and here specifically it is God the Holy Spirit who teaches us.

JOH 14:25 "These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you.

JOH 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Grace depends upon who and what God is and never who and what man is.

And therefore, God gets the credit!

Grace always gives credit to God!

Legalism or religion means man does the work and man gets the credit.

And again, we are right back to the Angelic Conflict.

Still under Point 2. Dealing with the Definition and Description of Grace.

Grace is also undeserved blessing and suffering from God to mankind.

Believe it or not, Undeserved suffering is a manifestation of the grace of God because it makes us stronger as individuals.

Turn to 2CO 12:7.

2CO 12:7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!

2CO 12:8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

2CO 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2CO 12:10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Grace is free and unmerited love and favor toward us.

In grace, God works and mankind benefits.

In grace, God provides for mankind and mankind receives.

It is not "*God benefits when we work*" as is suggested by so many pastors and Christian organizations.

They give the impression that God cannot get along without you; and that is evil.

ISA 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

ISA 5:21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And clever in their own sight!

Now into Rev 1:4.

REV 1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne.

REV 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood,

REV 1:6 and He has made us {to be} a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him {be} the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Notice that He is the first witness, but He also gave us the opportunity to be witnesses ourselves.

For in the Word of God we have three witnesses:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The Church-age believer
3. Christian marriage with the right-man-right woman analogy.

For the second and third witnesses.

Grace means that God knows best.

That is why we have so many divine commands that run counter to our desires in life.

In ROM 11:5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.

ROM 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Grace is the policy of God in establishing a relationship with mankind.

Relationship with God must precede fellowship with God.

Grace is the policy of God in providing and maintaining fellowship with God.

In grace, God provides everything necessary to bring us into a relationship with Himself.

Grace is the policy of God in providing both relationship and fellowship with all three persons of the Trinity.

Relationship with God is the grace policy for eternal salvation of the unbeliever because we are spiritually dead.

Fellowship with God is the grace policy for all Church Age believers to execute the PPOG.

Therefore, the grace policy of God covers three categories.

- (1) Grace is extended to mankind in spiritual death.
- (2) Grace is extended to mankind at the point of salvation.
- (3) Grace is extended to mankind as a believer in Christ under the grace policy of God under the PPOG.

Grace is the policy of God in providing everything necessary for the believer to execute God's plan, purpose, and will.

God is the aggressor in establishing a relationship with man.

When man is the aggressor, that is works.

God provides the means for eternal relationship with Himself.

Turn to ROM 9:15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

ROM 9:16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

Remember once again we call mercy

Now, This means that grace is the policy of God in blessing mankind totally apart from any creature merit or ability.

The grace policy of God provides blessings for believers and provided these blessings in eternity past before man was created.

This is why we read in EPH 1:3-4.

EPH 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who *has blessed us* with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

EPH 1:4 just as He chose us in Him *before the foundation of the world*, that we should be

What God provided for man in grace in eternity past cannot be earned, merited, or deserved.

Man was not around when God provided blessings for him.

That includes our portfolio of invisible assets, our escrow blessings for time and eternity

It also includes the 10 PSD for each believer in the Church-age, the blessings of dying grace, the blessings of resurrection, and the blessings of the eternal state.

Now, under the grace policy of God, every believer has equal privilege and equal opportunity to execute the PPOG.

As Peter said in ACT 10:34, God is not one to show partiality.

Therefore, in GAL 3:26 we read for you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

GAL 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

GAL 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all equal in Christ Jesus.

Now, Grace is also the divine policy in creating a new spiritual species for the utilization of divine power; 2CO 5:17.

2CO 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Just think about what a relief it is for us that we don't have to make ourselves presentable to God.

God has given us a *new nature* and has crucified the old.

Let's take the blessings which include.

Our portfolio of invisible assets, our escrow blessings for time and eternity, the 10 PSD for each believer in the Church-age, the blessings of dying grace, the blessings of resurrection, and the blessings of the eternal state.

Let's look at them individually.

The portfolio of invisible assets and our escrow blessings refers to those blessings that were deposited in your name that God blessed you with before the foundation of the world.

The ten problem solving devices refer to the solutions to all of your problems which is deposited in your portfolio of invisible assets before the foundation of the world.

Then there is dying grace, which is gain, Phi 1:20-21.

PHI 1:20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

PHI 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Speaking of that I would like to tell you a story that is very personal to me if you don't mind and I want to tell it to you.

Turn to ISA 57:1

ISA 57:1 The righteous man perishes, and no man takes it to heart; And devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from evil that is to come.

Notice that in this verse the righteous man and woman perishes, and no one takes it to heart.

Then we are told that devout men and woman are taken away which means, while no one understands that the righteous man or woman are taken away from the evil that was about to come their way.

It other words, as a part of the Divine Decrees.

God looked down the corridors of time and knew the evil that was about to come upon the individual and took him or her away from the evil that was about to come upon them.

Now, here's where it gets personal.

As many of you know, one of our own Royal Family, Tom Cotroneo, who I ordained went home to be with the Lord this past week.

And I mentioned it on Wednesday evening and told those who heard that Tom was a believer who had PVTD and served in this ministry until he started an on-line church.

Now, here's where it gets great.

When I said that Tommy C had died, a certain pastor was apparently listening like a lot of individuals do, they listen but you don't we don't know who they are because they never contact us at all.

However, what a blessing Tom's life still went on because it brought me, John Farley and Rory Clark to talk again with and we all were in tears and wept all because Tommy C, fell asleep and then when he woke up, he found himself in heaven face-to-face with our Lord Jesus Christ.?

What a precious story and Tom knows that his life mattered as all of us do because when we die, we are said to be absent from the body and face to face with our Lord; 2CO 5:1-8

2CO 5:1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2CO 5:2 For indeed in this {house} we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven.

2CO 5:3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, shall not be found naked.

2CO 5:4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

2CO 5:5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

2CO 5:6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord

2CO 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight

2CO 5:8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

So, back to one of the main principles of letting your motivation in all these blessings to be fulfilled.

All you have to do is.

PSA 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

The word for delight is the Hebrew word “anag” meaning to make love with the Lord, and the promise is that if we do that with PVTD, the Lord will give us the desires of our heart.

For the greatness of any individual, man or woman, is not determined by how successful their ministry was when they were alive but does his and her message go on after the died.

Of course, I’m referring to myself as a pastor and not my daughter but I’m referring to Samantha McLaughlin Medeiros.

I have heard many great women teachers throughout the years, but in my opinion shes’ the best.... but I can’t say that because I’m her dad, etc.

But What a great principle that describes Colonel Thieme who many are still listening to today, including myself.

So, back to our question, do we get offended because people don't respond or they have a false evil motivation, Paul said in:

PHI 1:15 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will.

PHI 1:16 the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

PHI 1:17 the former proclaims Christ out of selfish ambition, rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.

Here's the issue of why it should not matter if the word is preached with the wrong motives.

Here's the verse I wanted you all to see!

PHI 1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.

PHI 1:19 For I know that this shall turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

PHI 1:20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

PHI 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

PHI 1:22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.

God delivers the believer from violent death, Job 5:20; Psa 33:19, 56:13, 116:8. Dying grace is the greatest blessing in living.

Look at the first reference in Job 5, so turn there.

JOB 5:19 "From six troubles He will deliver you, even in seven evil will not touch you.

JOB 5:20 "In famine He will redeem you from death, And in war from the power of the sword.

Turn forward to the next book, the book of Psalms is Psa 33:18-21.

PSA 33:18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, or those who hope for His lovingkindness,

PSA 33:19 To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine.

PSA 33:20 Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

PSA 33:21 For our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

The second passage is found in the next book, the book of Psalms chapter 33.

PSA 33:18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His lovingkindness,

PSA 33:19 To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

PSA 33:20 Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

PSA 33:21 For our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name.

Death is a matter of the sovereignty of God based upon His omniscience of all the facts, Psa 68:19-20.

PSA 68:19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, The God who is our salvation. Selah. (Rest on that!)

PSA 68:20 God is to us a God of deliverances; And to God the Lord belong escapes from death.

Because of His perfect sovereignty, God is able to pick the right time, place, and conditions of your death.

God predestined all this in eternity past.

Love (personal love between right man and right woman) is stronger than death, SOS 8:7.

SOL 8:7 "Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised.

Love is a motivation and is stronger than any fear of death.

Love is stronger than pride. (Song by Sade).

This is also true of category one love for God the Father and occupation with Christ.

However, It is also true in the right-man-right woman relationship, especially when it comes to the third witness in the Angelic Conflict.

Remember there are three witnesses in the Angelic Conflict. |

1. The first witness = The Lord Jesus Christ.

The second witness = The Church Age believer.

The third witness = Christian marriage or the “right man-right woman” relationship.

So, in the Angelic Conflict we have three Church-age witnesses.

One is the Lord Jesus Christ is called the faithful witness.

The second is the believer who fulfills the plan of God for his or her life.

A third witness is not necessarily needed in a Jewish trial but there is a third witness in the Angelic Conflict (i.e., the witness of Christian marriage).

And if you think you have one, congratulations if you do, but that doesn't mean your marriage is not going to have a lot of trouble.

Turn to 1CO 7:17 where the apostle Paul talks about the fact that the Lord picks your mate,

In 1CO 7:17 Only, as the Lord *has assigned* to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And thus, I direct in all the churches.

Notice the word for assigned is the Greek word “*meros*” which means to be assigned, appointed, chosen, arranged,

Then in 1Co 7:28.

1CO 7:28 But if you should marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin should marry, she has not sinned. *Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.*

I dedicated that verse to those who don't believe in right man or right woman.

This principle of love and then the three witnesses in Christian marriage definitely needs some concentration and requires an understanding of the importance of comparing scripture with scripture.

The Bible states that only two witnesses are needed concerning a legal dispute or proof for evidence.

“On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death.” Deu 17:6.

DEU 17:1 "You shall not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or a sheep which has a blemish or any defect, for that is a detestable thing to the Lord your God.

DEU 17:2 "If there is found in your midst, in any of your towns, which the Lord your God is giving you, a man or a woman who does what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, by transgressing His covenant,

DEU 17:3 and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the heavenly host, which I have not commanded,

DEU 17:4 and if it is told you and you have heard of it, then you shall inquire thoroughly. And behold, if it is true and the thing certain that this detestable thing has been done in Israel,

DEU 17:5 then you shall bring out that man or that woman who has done this evil deed, to your gates, that is, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them to death.

And then here it is.

DEU 17:6 "On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.

A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed.

Next since we are in the book of Deuteronomy there is the evidence of two or three witnesses where a matter shall be confirmed; Deu 19:15.

Here is another gem I found.

DEU 19:15 "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.

Just as the Lord Jesus Christ and the winner believer are tested and interrogated separately, so too will Christian marriage be tested and interrogated separately.

You must go it alone, but you're never alone because He is with you forever.

Turn to Mat 28:19-20.

MAT 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

MAT 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. "

The individual witness or invisible hero is of great importance as the second witness, but a good Christian marriage carries a strong message to Satan and the fallen angels as well.

Why?

Because in the Christian marriage Christ loves the Church as husbands are to love their wives.

EPH 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

EPH 5:26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

EPH 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

EPH 5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

EPH 5:29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also {does} the church,

EPH 5:30 because we are members of His body.

EPH 5:31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.

“shall cleave” has to do with both the spiritual and the sexual, the spiritual is the husband thinking with the mind of Christ and loving his wife as Christ loves the church.

And then, with the idea that the Lord gave me concerning Christian marriage being called a mystery, I asked the Colonel what the mystery was concerning marriage?

And he said, well come back and I’ll tell you!