

UNDERSTANDING THE GRACE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

A simple definition for "grace", as used in the New Testament, is "unearned favor." This means that God, out of unilateral love, bestowed many blessings upon mankind even though none of these were deserved. This grace brought both salvation and divine guidance for living the Christian life (Titus 2:11-12). God's grace is considered "undeserved" because it is freely given (Rom. 3:24) and has not been earned (Rom. 4:4-5). Let's look at a few of the Scripture passages about grace.

I. MAN ENTERS THE STATE OF "GRACE" AT CONVERSION...Romans 5:1-2

- A. Rom. 5:1-2. How does a person gain access to God's grace?
- B. Rom. 5:1-2. What three blessings does a person receive through God's grace?
- C. Through grace then, a person enters the family, fellowship and favor of God and remains in this state throughout his life of faithfulness.

II. GRACE WAS EXTENDED TO MAN WHILE STILL UNSAVED...Rom. 5:6-10

Rom. 5:6, 8, 10. What three words describe the condition of mankind when God bestowed His grace upon him?

III. BLESSINGS GOD PROVIDES THROUGH GRACE.

- A. Rom. 8:1. What assurance does God's grace provide?
- B. II Corinthians 9:8. How does God's grace affect our needs? In what will Christians abound because of God's grace?
- C. Hebrews 4:16. What does God's grace provide in our time of need?
- D. James 4:6-7. What does God's grace give us the power to do?
- E. II Timothy 2:1. What are Christians exhorted to "be" because of being in God's grace?

Other discussion questions

1. In view of the blessings of God's grace, should a Christian ever "feel" lost.
2. Is it possible to ever "fall" from this state of grace? Gal. 5:1-4. How could this happen?
3. Is it possible that a Christian could view his accomplishments as the result of his own power instead of by God's grace? I Corinthians 15:10