

Vocabulary of Victory - Grace

I. Introduction

A. Review...

1. Salvation...the Language of the Military
2. Propitiation...the Language of the Ark of the Covenant
3. Mercy...the Language of Affliction

B. Grace...

1. Belongs to all three persons of the "God-head" (1 Pet. 5:10; Heb. 10:29; Acts 15:11)
2. Is so **central** to the Gospel, that Paul opened and closed his letters with it.
3. Comes through Jesus Christ (John 1:17)

C. Important Passages on Grace: Romans 3-11; Colossians 1-3; Ephesians 1-3

D. The concept of grace found in Genesis 33:8

II. Grace

A. Defining Grace

1. Popular Definition – "Grace is unmerited favor"

2. Original Languages

(ἔλεος, *chesed*; "grace, mercy, steadfast love, compassion"; ἵκε, *chen*; "grace, graciousness, kindness"; χάρις, *charis*; "grace, favor, graciousness, goodwill")¹

3. Old Testament

- a. Genesis 6:8; Exodus 33,34 – Noah & Moses found favor in the eyes of the Lord
- b. Genesis 33:8, 10; 39:4 – Jacob found favor with Esau; Joseph with Potiphar
- c. Esther 2:17 – Esther finds "grace and favor" (both Hebrew words)

4. New Testament

- a. 1 Peter 5:10 – The Father is called "the God of all Grace"
- b. Ephesians 1:7 – Paul exhorts Christians to consider the "riches of God's grace"
- c. Ephesians 2:8-9 – we are saved by grace. Grace bestows the gift of salvation.

5. Two Components of Grace:

- a. Favor – an inner feeling toward something/someone else (**mercy & love**)
- b. Favours – an extended gift (1 Cor. 16:3) in response to that feeling (**kindness**)
charis (Gk. for favor, grace) → *charisma* (Gk. for gift, ability) → *charisma* (Eng. for talent, ability, charm)

B. Delighting in the Beauty of God's Grace

God's Grace in Ephesians 2:1-22

1. The Necessity of Grace (2:1-3)

- a. Grace exists because guilt exists.
- b. "you were dead" vs 1
- c. "you walked according to the course of this world" vs 2
- d. "you were by nature children of wrath" vs 3

2. The Identity of Grace (2:4,7); see also Tit. 3:4-5,7

- a. **Mercy** (vs 4); God feeling *with* me
- b. **Love** (vs 4); God feeling *for* me
- c. **Kindness** (vs 7); God feeling *toward* me

3. The Amenities of Grace (2:5-10)

- a. "made us alive" vs 5
- b. "raised us up" vs 6

¹ Luter, A. B. (2016). [Grace](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, ... W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

- c. “made us to sit in heavenly places” vs 6
- d. We are God’s proof of the “exceeding riches of his grace” vs 7
- e. We are his workmanship (vs 10)
- 4. The Community of Grace (2:11-22)
 - a. Part of God’s family despite our heritage (vs 11)
 - b. No longer aliens and strangers (vs 12)
 - c. We are brought close by the blood of Christ (vs 13)
 - d. The middle wall of partition is broken down (vs 14)
 - e. We are at peace; the Old Law having been abolished (vs 15)
 - f. We are one body (vs 16-18)
 - g. We are fellow citizens (vs 19)
 - h. We are part of the same holy temple (vs 20-22)

God’s Grace Personified in the Person of Jesus Christ (John 1:17)

1. Matthew 8 – the healing of a leper
2. Mark 8 – the healing of a blind man
3. Luke 8 – the healing of a demoniac
4. John 8 – the adulterous woman

C. Dissecting Questions About God’s Grace

Is God’s grace irresistible? Unconditional?

Let’s answer these questions by examining 2 Corinthians 6:1:

“Receive”- God’s grace is *conditional*. It is extended to everyone. But not everyone receives it.

“in vain – God’s grace is *ignorable*. One may receive it, but forsake it, thus it was in vain.

How is God’s grace accessible? Is it merit-able?

Grace is accessible “through faith” (Eph. 2:8a; Gen. 6:8; Heb. 11:6-7; Js. 2:20-24)

But God’s grace/salvation is NOT merit-able (Eph. 2:8b-9)

D. Deciphering the Relationship Between Grace and Law

What about “mercy and not sacrifice?” (Matthew 9:13; 12:7)

Are we under law or grace? (John 1:17; Romans 6:14)

1. The function of the law of Moses:
 - a. Showed that sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:1-2)
 - b. Showed that written law defines sin (Romans 7:7)
 - c. Showed that justice requires a penalty be paid for law-breaking (Rom. 3:26)
2. The reality of the law of Moses and grace
 - a. God’s grace existed before it (Genesis 6:8)
 - b. God’s grace was present at the giving of the Mosaic Law (Exodus 33:13)
 - c. God’s grace was present during the keeping of the Law of Moses (Deut. 7:12)
3. Should no law exist today, sin would not exist today (1 John 3:4)
4. Instead...
 - a. There is a new law that went forth from Zion (Isaiah 2:2-4)
 - b. Christ stands as the supreme authority as king (Mt. 2:2; Lk 19:14; Heb. 5:9)
 - c. We are now under the law of Christ (1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2)
5. BUT....how should we respond to the law of Christ?

E. Devoting Our Lives to God’s Grace

1. Titus 2:11ff
2. 2 Peter 3:18

Final Thought: Ephesians 1:8