

### Lesson #3

## **The Grace of God**

As we begin our **“Examination of the Lord”** we have to concede that it is by grace of God that we know anything of our Lord. Yet, even more so, that the Nature, Being, Attributes, Works and Doings of the Lord, pertaining to His people all funnel through the filter of His marvelous and matchless Grace!

### Grace Defined

It is important that we define our terms so that all of us are on the same page. **Genesis 6:8** —**“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD”**. Here the word **“grace”** may be rendered as “kindness, favor” (Strong's). So often we hear of **“grace”** as “the unmerited favor of God”. Certainly, that is so. For we find that Noah did not merit this kindness or favor. Observe, **Genesis 6:5**—**“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”** The word **“man”** includes Noah. Noah was greatly wicked. Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. God stated that it repented him that He had made man on the earth; that man grieved Him in His heart. This was to the extent that God was going to remove man from the face of the earth through destruction (**Genesis 6:5-7**). Noah was included in the wickedness. He deserved the very same adjudication (formal judgment on a disputed matter). Yet, by God's grace, by God's kindness, and favor, but God's unmerited favor, **“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord”**. Noah was saved. Not because he deserved it, but because of the kindness and favor of God.

I want you to take notice of **Genesis 6:8**. This is the first time in all of Scripture that **“grace”** is clearly mentioned. It has been insinuated already; but here it is clearly mentioned. In the study of the Scriptures, in Hermeneutics, is a law. It is called the law of first mention. The law of first mention is the concept that a word, or doctrine when first presented is the foundation of that word or doctrine, and that all other Scriptures are built upon that “first mention”. This being the case, **all aspects of grace will be built upon the truth revealed in Genesis 6:8**.

Abraham Booth defined God's Grace as, “...the eternal and absolute free favor of God, manifested in the vouchsafement of spiritual and eternal blessings to the guilty and the unworthy”<sup>1</sup>.

A.W. Pink stated, “...it [Grace] is the favor of God shown to those who not only have no positive deserts of their own, but who are thoroughly ill-deserving and hell-deserving. It is completely unmerited and unsought, and is altogether unattracted by anything in or from or by the objects upon which it is bestowed.”<sup>2</sup>

### Grace Different From Mercy

The Lord Himself differs the two. **Psalm 145:9**—**“The LORD is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works”**. God's mercy extends to all of His creation. A.W. Pink stated, “Grace is the sole source from which flows the goodwill, love, and salvation of God unto His chosen people.”<sup>3</sup>

Whereas the grace of God is solely assigned and exercised solely to the objects of His elect. The Scriptures plainly teach this great truth. It is seen clearly in that the Lord stated, **“I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious”** (Exodus 33:19).

### Everything God Does For His Own Starts With Grace

**Ephesians 1:5,6**—**“having predestinated us unto the adoption of sons by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, through which he hath made us accepted in the Beloved”**.

Without the grace of God, salvation and all aspects of salvation extends from God's favor.

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1 The Attributes of God, Pink, A.W.; Chapter 13.

2 Ibid

3 Ibid

Observe, Salvation (a general term referring to the whole of His work upon His own, redemption, justification, sanctification, glorification, etc.) is all based upon the grace of God (**Ephesians 2:8**—**“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God”**). Look there! “by grace”. The word “by” means “according to”<sup>4</sup>. So “according to grace ye are saved through faith”. “According to God's favor and kindness” we are saved. Justification, sanctification, glorification are all due unto His favor and kindness. **Romans 11:5**—**“Even so, then, at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace”**. Many are lauding the doctrine of election. Election has its place. But it must be noted that election is a work of God which is based upon His grace: **“...of grace”**. It is the Grace of God that enabled Him to choose the “chief of sinners” unto salvation. It is the Grace of God that enabled God to choose you and I unto eternal life. Let us do as God would have us to do: praise and glorify His grace (**Ephesians 1:6**).

### **The Grace and Being of God**

As we are studying the Being of God, His works and doings, the attributes of God, the nature of God—all of His person that we will note, we must understand that He uses it for His people because of Grace.

We are going to begin with **The Being of God**. By that we said that we mean His eyes, nose, mouth, hands, legs, feet, etc. When we examine the Being of God, we must first realize that we know anything about The Being of God because of His grace and secondly, that all of His Being has been put into work for our good, because of the grace of God. Observe, **Genesis 6:5-9; 7:1,9-19**. Look there in **Genesis 6:5**—**“God saw”**. God looked with His eyes upon the earth and what did He see but wickedness and only wickedness. As we stated earlier, this included every man. But, then we read in **Genesis 6:8**—**“But Noah found grace in the EYES OF THE LORD”**. Noah was wicked before God just as everyone else was. As it says in **Ephesians 2:3**—**“...even as others”**; **Romans 3:22,23**—**“...for there is no difference. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”** But we read of Noah! And it says here **“But Noah”** distinguishing Noah from all others. Beloved, I tell you that God's grace is the distinguishing quality and characteristic in my life. And what about Noah. We are told that he found something. **“found grace”**. He found kindness and favor. He found that which he did not deserve, that which he had not earned. Where did He find it? **“In the eyes of the Lord”**. When God looked at Noah, instead of seeing that wickedness and evil contents of Noah's heart, the Lord saw the obedience of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ the righteous.

### **Closing**

Have you found grace in the eyes of the Lord? Or does He see you without His favor? Without kindness? Does He see you in all of your sins, or does He see you by His grace in the perfect righteousness of His Son?

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4 Webster's Elementary Dictionary, copyright 1962.