

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOSHIP

TRUE RICHES OF GRACE (Part 2)

SCRIPTURE READING:

“⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: ⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph 2:4-9).

INTRODUCTION:

A. Grace is defined as the Free and Unmerited Favor of God, as clearly revealed in the Salvation of Sinners and the bestowal of Blessings.

B. Grace cannot be earned; It is something that God freely gives to mankind. We can count on God’s Grace and the bridge that He built in our relationship with Him.

C. Quotes on Grace:

1. “Grace means undeserved kindness. It is the gift of God to men the moment he sees he is unworthy of God’s favor.” – Dwight L. Moody
2. “For Grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them.” – St. Augustine
3. “As Grace is first from God, so it is continually from Him, as much as light is all day long from the sun, as well as at first dawn or at sun-rising.” – Jonathon Edwards

D. In True Riches of Grace (Part 1), we studied:

1. Christians are **Chosen** (2 Thess 2:13) – God has chosen Believers before the world was created, “chosen you to Salvation.”
2. Christians are **Redeemed** (1 Peter 1:18-19) – We are no longer slaves to sin because Jesus paid the penalty – He paid our sin debt in full. Jesus took us off the slave market. Believers belong to Jesus.
3. Christians are **Justified** (Rom 3:23, 28) – To justify means Not Guilty, the same as acquittal – No longer guilty as a sinner and made acceptable to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

PROPOSITION:

In this lesson, we will study three additional benefits of The Riches of Grace: (1) Christians are Reconciled, (2) Christians are Forgiven, and (3) Christians are Freed from Condemnation.

I. **CHRISTIANS ARE RECONCILED** (2 Cor 5:18)

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor 5:18).

- **“Reconciled”** means to change thoroughly, to exchange; to change from one condition to another to bring together, to restore.

A. **The Necessity of Reconciliation**

1. It is sin that broke the relationship between God and man. The Bible teaches that men are the enemies of God (Rom 5:10), which denotes that men had become sinners and ungodly (Rom 5:6, 8).

2. Every person is an enemy of God as every person is a Sinner and Ungodly.

3. The Sinner is not a friend of God. The Sinner opposes God. The opposition to God started with the Fall of Adam and Eve (Gen 2 – 3). Every person born after Adam and Eve, with the exception of Christ, opposes or sins against God.

- “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Rom 5:12).

- “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous” (Rom 5:19).

4. **Ways in which Man opposes God:**

- Disobeying God - Cursing God
- Denying God - Rebelling against God
- Rejecting God - Refusing to Live for God

5. Sin separates a person from God. Sin offends God – His Justice, Holiness and righteousness are directed against the transgressors of His Law.

- “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isa 59:2).

B. **The Nature of Reconciliation**

1. God is the One who reconciles us. “... all things are of God” (v. 18). A person must come to God to receive the New Birth and become a New Creature (2 Cor 5:17).

2. God reconciles us to Himself by the death of His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. When a person believes: “³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how 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**,” he is reconciled to God (1 Cor 15:3-4).

3. Reconciliation frees a person from his Sins and the punishment he deserves for his sins. Christ bore the sins and punishment for the person. A True Believer in Christ becomes acceptable to God and is reconciled forever and ever. Our relationship with God is restored through Jesus Christ – The One Mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5).
 - “he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21).
 - “And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby” (Eph 2:16).
 - “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven” (Col 1:20).

II. CHRISTIANS ARE FORGIVEN (Heb 10:17)

“And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” (Heb 10:17).

- **“Forgiven”** means the act of pardoning an offender. It is “to let go” as when a person does not demand payment for a debt. It is not holding something against another person despite what he has done to you.
- A. According to the Bible, Forgiveness is a Release or a Dismissal of Something**
 Forgiveness by Christ is a Sinner being released from God’s just punishment and the complete dismissal of all charges against Him.
- B. Forgiveness is the Cancellation of Sins’ Penalty**
 - “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” (Eph 4:32).
 - “In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” (Col 1:14).
 - “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye” (Col 3:13).
- C. For the Believer, God has Forgiven all our Past, Present and Future Sins**
 - “¹¹ For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. ¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us” (Ps 103:11-12).
 - “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (Isa 43:25).
 - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

D. WHEN GOD FORGIVES, HE FORGETS

How different God's pardon is from ours! So often we forgive as did the mother of the little girl who had been good a whole week, and asked mother for a favor. "I know," was the answer, "that you have been good all this week, but you know you were bad last week."

In a passionate burst of feeling, the little one exclaimed: "Oh, Mother, you are not one bit like God. When He forgives, He doesn't keep throwing it up afterward." – Bill Butsko

III. CHRISTIANS ARE FREED FROM CONDEMNATION (Rom 8:1-2)

“¹There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death” (Rom 8:1-2).

- **“Condemnation”** means to condemn, judgment against, the verdict or sentence pronounced, penalty.
- A. **“No Condemnation”** means that the Believer is not doomed – in danger of the eternal punishment of Hell – but is freed from the penalty and condemnation of sin. A Believer will not be judged as a sinner, but is delivered from the condemnation of death and hell.
- B. **The Believer** – The person **“In Christ Jesus”** is safe and secure from condemnation now and forevermore.
- C. **The Believer Shall Never be Condemned for Sin**
The Believer shall never be separated from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus Our Lord (Rom 8:31-39).

POINTS TO PONDER:

- The Believer will be judged for his faithfulness to God, his responsibility and service for Christ as a Christian, and for how well he uses his Spiritual Gifts for Christ.
- The Judgment Seat of Christ does not determine a person's Salvation, that matter was settled by Christ's sacrifice in our place and on our behalf (1 John 2:2), and our faith in Him (John 3:16-18; 5:24).
- **According to the Apostle Paul in Romans 6:1-2, a Christian does not have a “license” to continue sinning because he is saved and all of his sins are forgiven.**
The Believer is a New Creature (2 Cor 5:17). The Holy Spirit changes the Believer from producing “the works of the flesh” (Gal 5:19-21) to producing “the fruit of the Spirit” (Gal 5:22-23). The Christian life is a changed life because the Christian is changed – He is living for Christ.

MEMORY VERSE:

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36).

CONCLUSION:

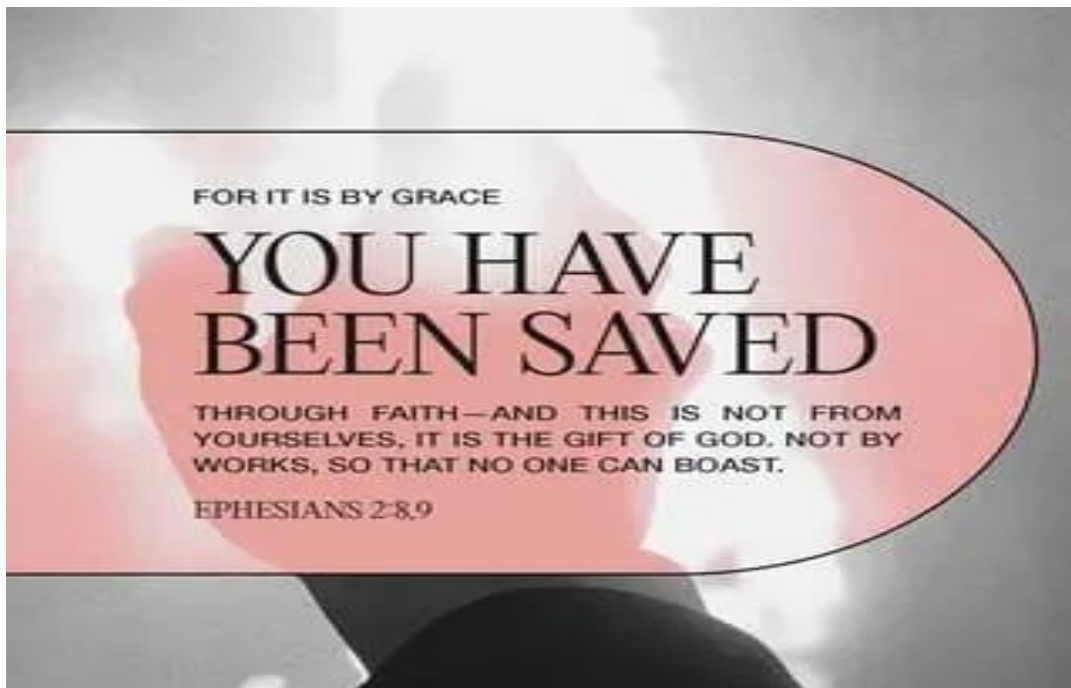
A. “He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities” (Ps 103:10). God’s Grace is demonstrated in that he does not give us what we deserve. The penalty for our sins was paid for by Christ Jesus at Calvary. When we trust the Savior, God can righteously pardon us. Christ paid our sin debt in full, once for all and as such, we will never be required to pay it.

B. One Day When Heaven Was Filled With His Praises

One day they led Him up Calvary’s mountain, One day they nailed Him to die on the tree;
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected; Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He.

Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me; Buried, He carried my sins far away;
Rising, He justified freely forever: One day He’s coming—O glorious day!

C. Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)



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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).