

From Pastor's Desk...

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound

John Newton (1725-1807) penned the words to the song 'Amazing grace' in response to the saving act of God while he got engaged in slave trading and was going through a horrible storm at sea in which his life was threatened. According to the Dictionary of American hymnology, it is John Newton's spiritual biography in verse. Christians everywhere recognize and meditate this truth, Grace: more than we deserve, greater than we imagine.

God's grace is the free unmerited favor upon a sinner who deserves the judgement in life. It is foundational for us to experience a closer relationship with God. Paul tells us that God has manifested His grace towards us through sending His Son who gave Himself for our sins. While we were yet sinners Christ died for us that is the grace of God. God's grace brings salvation to all. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace (Titus 2:11).

Max Lucado asks a deeper question, have you been changed by grace? Shaped by grace? Softened by grace? Snatched by the nape of your neck and shaken to your senses by grace. The prayer of thanks giving transforms our daily life. "Lord thank you for not dealing with me according to my sins. I am indebted to you for the love and grace that you demonstrated on the cross to purchase my pardon and forgiveness- far beyond what I deserve". None of our blessings are upon our merits but by His grace.

Grace enables us for Salvation- Eph. 2:8
Grace trains us for holy life- Titus 2:11-13
Grace empowers us for witness- Acts 4: 33
Grace equips us for service- Rom. 12:6
Grace sustains us for sufficiency- 2 Cor. 12:9

Paul used the Greek greeting word Charis (Grace) and Jewish greeting word Shalom (peace) 17 times in the New Testament in order, "grace and peace". It is designed in such a way for us to understand that we never know the peace of God until we experience the grace of God. Chuck Smith writes, "The grace of God will lead us through the darkest nights, and help us smile through our disappointments. It's grace that will sustain us when everything else fails. It's this grace that turns your cross into crown."

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

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GRACE: The Unmerited Favor

Kevin Mathew, Sunday school Student

Grace--the word that is most spoken or come across in the day-to-day Christian life. What is Grace? Grace may be defined as the unearned or an unmerited favor of God to those who are under condemnation. Grace of God means getting forgiveness from God's wrath without working for it. Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary to give His Grace and forgive our sins.

Why did God sacrifice His own son? Why didn't God just demolish us? Why did God offer us Grace? This narrows down to one answer; Love. God gave us grace because He loved us. It is written, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son and whoever believes in me will not perish but will have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Also, God's grace is sufficient enough to carry through in any situation, that His power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9.)

Now comparing grace to everyday life--sometimes our parents give us some gifts for no reason. This is our parent's grace towards us. We got it unearned. We read in the Bible about the parable of the Prodigal son, who got his share of the property, lived a life the way he wanted, lost everything and finally decided to go back to his father with a guilty and reconciled mind though not sure what the outcome will be. His loving father, instead of rejecting, not only did he accept him back but also set a big feast mentioning that his Son was once lost, and found again. It is the same love of our God in the form of Grace through the death of His only Son Jesus Christ that we once being sinners were allowed to become His children and heirs and co-heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17).

Let us strive to live each day by trusting in the abundant provision of God's Grace to lead a victorious Christian life.

