

From Pastor's Desk...

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

The term 'Grace' is a very favorite word for the New Testament authors. The Greek word for grace, 'Charis', occurs 154 times in the New Testament of which 89 of these occur in the letters of Paul. It can have meanings such as graciousness, favor, goodwill, gracious deed or gifts, and thanks or gratitude. The simple definition of the term 'Grace' is unmerited favor. In an acrostic fashion we define the word 'Grace' as follows:

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The terms 'Grace' and 'Mercy' are like sisters. While the terms have similar meaning, grace and mercy are not the same. Grace is what we get, which we do not deserve. But mercy is what we do not get, which we do deserve. For example, the wrath of God, we deserve it, but we do not get it because of God's mercy.

Paul combines 'Grace' and 'Peace' to construct a distinctive Christian greeting to the churches. Even though both terms are combined in his greeting, one thing is to be noticed: the term 'Peace' always follows the term 'Grace', not vice versa. It brings us a message: where there is grace, there is peace.

One of the most important passages concerning the Grace of God is in Titus 2:11-14, "For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."

Few important points about the Grace of God can be traced from this passage:

- Grace is a part of the character of God
- The Grace of God has appeared to us in Jesus Christ
- The Grace of God has brought salvation to all men
- The Grace of God teaches us to live upright and godly lives in the present age

An old hymn fittingly describes God's grace:

*"...It streams the whole creation reach,
So plenteous is its store,
Enough for all, enough for each,
Enough for evermore..."*

God Bless You.

Rev. K. M. Varughese

Answers (Crossword- HOPE):

ACROSS

3: SAVED 6: GLORY 7: SCRIPTURE 8: HOPE

DOWN

1: CHRIST 2: PATIENT 4: DELIVER 5: ABRAHAM

Grace: Personalize It

Ben Cherian

Grace came flowing to us, it still flows! Unearned! Ever could one have purchased it, yet freely flows to us every single minute. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." We never deserved and will be ever worth deserving His abundant salvation through any of our deeds except through His pure grace.

At times, we seem ignorant to the grace we receive and live as though we solely own such a thing by our deeds. Also, do we think we are special and refrain from being graceful to others. John 13:14-15 says, "Since I, the Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each others feet. Do as I have done to you." Look at our feet, they are wet, immersed in grace. Not washed by the ocean tide salt water nor the running water in the shower. Your feet was washed gently by Jesus, to the minutest dirt.

As Christians, we are obliged to give what we have freely received. Be merciful to the needy, compassionate to the helpless, kind to the angry, blessings to those who curse. To accept forgiveness from God means to forgive others, to accept blessings from God means to freely bless other with what you have received.

Let us therefore humbly personalize the Grace we have freely received to the furtherance of God's kingdom through us and for the beautification of our lives that will strongly empower our church in the city of Los Angeles.

Let Grace continue and be personalized in us!

Kid's Corner!

Directions: Find the the capitalized words and then memorize these verses from Psalm 100!

SHOUT for JOY to the LORD, ALL the EARTH. WORSHIP the Lord with GLADNESS; COME before him with JOYFUL SONGS....ENTER his GATES with THANKSGIVING and his COURTS with PRAISE; GIVE THANKS to HIM and praise his NAME. Psalm 100: 1, 4

C	D	R	O	L	U	S	O	N	G	S	R
O	M	H	N	M	R	E	Y	N	V	B	E
U	P	T	I	J	Z	T	M	J	O	Y	V
R	T	R	Y	M	P	A	R	L	P	R	I
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
S	Y	E	H	A	Q	D	E	M	H	D	L
U	L	P	T	G	M	H	N	U	S	Y	A
O	U	R	E	T	N	E	W	L	R	H	D
L	F	A	X	N	L	T	E	M	O	C	N
W	Y	I	W	C	L	K	U	D	W	I	E
G	O	S	K	N	A	H	T	Y	F	D	S
E	J	E	T	R	I	E	T	U	O	H	S