**“The True Grace Of God”**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday April 26th, 2020

Text: I Peter 5:12

Intro

1. Titus 2:11-12: “Grace appeared, bringing salvation to all men” *(“By grace you have been saved” – Ephesians 2:4-5, 8)*
	1. Grace is favor granted to someone who does not deserve it (or has not earned it).
	2. God’s grace to man is shown in the death of Jesus, and was given freely, unconditionally *(like the Promised Land given to the Israelites for nothing they did to earn it, but from God’s promise to Abraham – Genesis 15:18-21).*
		1. Heb. 2:9: Christ, by God’s grace*,* died for all (He loved mankind – Jn. 3:16)
		2. Christ’s death and His blood open the door for all to come into His kingdom.
	3. God’s grace is revealed in the word of God
		1. Acts 20:32: The word of God is the “word of His grace*.*” (He loved mankind)
		2. God has given the guide to life so that we will know by what we will be judged, and know the consequences to our actions.
2. To obtain the grace of God is conditional!
	1. *Like the Israelites maintaining and keeping their Promised Land, they had to be obedient to God or lose it! – Deut. 28; 30:15-20*
	2. Like a wrapped gift, one must accept it and then open it to receive the gift.
	3. Like contents in a glass you must use a straw or drink from it to gain the contents.
	4. Heb. 5:9: Jesus is the “source of eternal salvation” to those who obey Him!
	5. Titus 2:12: Deny ungodliness and worldliness …live sensibly, righteously, and godly!
3. I Peter 5:12: To fully obtain the “true grace of God” one must stand firm in it!
4. Let us keep the commands of God to stand firm in the true grace of God!

#### Understanding The True Grace Of God

* 1. The Scriptures teach “the true grace of God” includes the commands of God (Acts 20:32: The word of God is the “word of His grace”)!
		1. I Peter 5:12: “Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!”
		2. I John 5:2-4: We show our love for God in loving the brethren and keeping the commands of God, and in keeping the commands of God we overcome the world with our faith!
		3. Faith and obedience to the commands of God go together! (I John 5:3)
	2. Peter confirmed his brief letter to the saints (I Peter) gave exhortation and testimony of “the true grace of God.”
	3. By observing what the apostle wrote, we too can understand “the true grace of God!”

#### Living In The Grace Of God

* 1. In his first letter, Peter indicates living in the grace of God includes the following:
		1. Obedience in holy living – I Pet. 1:13-16
		2. Abstaining from fleshly lusts – I Pet. 2:11-12
		3. Submitting to civil government – I Pet. 2:13-17
		4. Marital responsibilities – I Pet. 3:1-7
		5. Putting away worldliness (including sexual immorality, drinking alcoholic beverages socially and to excess, along with associated riotous behavior) – I Pet. 4:1-3
		6. Putting away idolatry – I Pet. 4:3
		7. Hospitality – I Pet. 4:9
		8. The work of elders – I Pet. 5:1-3
		9. Submitting to one another – I Pet. 5:5-7
		10. Sober, watchful living (being alert) – I Pet. 5:8-9
	2. These are only some of the instructions the grace of God gives us so that we may stand firm in “the true grace of God” *(Titus 2:11-12; I Pet. 5:12)!*
	3. We don’t establish our own righteousness when we obey Jesus in faith (Rom. 10:3: Jews established their own righteousness; I John 5:2-4: Faith and obedience go together!).
	4. We are not meriting (earning) God's grace when we live in it & stand firm in it!
		1. God revealed His grace to Noah by commanding Him to build an ark (Gen. 6:13-14).
			1. Noah did not earn God's grace when he obeyed Him by building the ark (Heb. 11:7).
		2. Abraham acted in faith when he prepared to offer Isaac as God commanded (Gen. 22).
			1. He did not earn God's grace in doing so (Heb. 11:17; James 2:22-24).
		3. God revealed His grace to Naaman the Leper by telling him a cure to his disease by dipping in the Jordan River 7 times (II Kings 5:10; Luke 4:27)
			1. He did not earn God’s grace when he obeyed Him (II Kings 5:14)
		4. These men obtained (not earned) God's grace when they faithfully obeyed God's word!
		5. God's grace is received today by faithful obedience, like it was in times past!
	5. By living in the grace of God’s word, we can stand firm in “the true grace of God!”

#### Growing In The Grace Of God

* 1. Peter said to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord (II Pet. 3:18).
		1. Christians stand in “the true grace of God” when we trust and obey God (Acts 20:32; Rom. 5:1-2).
		2. To trust and obey does not mean God saves us because we have earned salvation.
			1. Doing that would demand sinlessness (Rom. 3:10, 19, 23) – only Jesus was sinless (Heb. 4:15)
			2. We are unprofitable servants, only doing our duty to our Master (Lk. 17:10).
			3. Like Abraham, we are sinners saved by grace through faith, not merit (Rom. 4:1-5).
	2. Because of the commands of God, some live in fear – they live in fear that they will “mess up” and no longer be deserving of God’s grace.
		1. We were never deserving of God’s grace in the first place!
		2. We don’t have to live in fear ***because*** of God’s grace!
		3. II Tim. 1:7: “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline” (discipline = NET: “self-control;” NKJ: “sound mind”)
		4. Having self-control or a sound mind helps us avoid temptation and sin, but we will still “mess up” from time to time (Rom. 3:23) – We are not perfect!
		5. God’s grace is greater than our sin!
			1. Heb. 4:15-16: We can have confidence to draw near to the “throne of grace” for mercy and help – no need to fear because of Jesus, our High Priest!
		6. God’s grace grants forgiveness when we mess up and then repent! (I John 1:9)
	3. Some, because of the grace of God, think they can continue to sin and be accepted by God!
		1. Romans 6:1-2: “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”
		2. God's grace does not mean He accepts us and saves us despite continuing to sin.
			1. He saves us so that we will no longer be ruled over by sin (Rom. 6:4-18).
			2. Grace will not save you if you continue to practice sin (Rom. 6:1-2; Titus 2:11-12).
			3. Do not continue to practice sin instead of repenting of it, thinking God's grace will save you.
			4. Do not “receive the grace of God in vain” (II Cor. 6:1-2).
			5. God's grace calls us out of sin, not to continue living it in.
			6. Grace does not overlook our sin to save us anyway, if we continue in it (Heb. 10:26-31)
		3. The people in Matthew 7:21-23 pleaded for salvation despite their “lawlessness,” but they did not receive it.
			1. Neither will we be saved if we practice lawlessness.
			2. When we sin, we must repent, confess it and forsake it (Acts 8:22; I John 1:9).
		4. Since God commands us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” we must not deceive ourselves into thinking God's grace saves us regardless of what we know, believe, and do (I Pet. 5:12; II Pet. 3:18; Rom. 6:1-2, 14-16; Titus 2:11-12) – Faith and obedience go together!
	4. Growing in the grace of God helps us to not live in fear, and not to live in sin!
	5. By growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus our Lord, we can stand firm in “the true grace of God!”

Conclusion

1. The grace of God is the free gift of God found in Jesus and the result is eternal life for those who obey Him! (Rom. 6:23; Heb. 5:9)
2. By reading & studying the “word of His grace” (Acts 20:32; I Peter 5:12) we can understand “the true grace of God!”
3. By keeping the commands of God (I John 5:2-4) we can live in “the true grace of God!”
4. By growing in the grace and knowledge of Lord Jesus we no longer live in fear or sin, but stand firm in “the true grace of God!”
5. Come to Jesus, the source of eternal life, and obey His word!
	1. Mark 16:16: Must obey the words of Jesus to be saved! “Believe and be baptized!” *(Acts 20:32: “Word of His grace;” Gal. 1:6: “Called you by the grace of Christ.”)*
6. God is rich in mercy, grace and love, and He has more than enough to give to you!
7. You can accept the grace of God, the free gift of eternal life, in obedience to His word today!
8. If you are not a Christian, you are outside the grace of God. Repent and be baptized! Join the family of God and have the promise of eternal life!
9. If a Christian in error, remember Christ shed His blood for you to be an heir of the promise of eternal life. Repent & be renewed!