

THE “WHO TOLD YOU?” SERIES

A STUDY IN DISCERNING THE VOICES OF OUR DAY

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

Who Told You About The Grace Of God? – Part 4

discerning the voices of our day and knowing what to do about what you hear

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Grace, Doctrine, Maturity, Discipleship

Introduction and overview to the series / Luke 4:22

The doctrine that we are studying today appears no less than 155 times in the New Testament alone. Combined, there are countless verses, acts and accounts in the Bible of God’s grace being experienced.

We’re talking about the word grace, **Charis** in the Greek language which we have learned is part of the very nature and complexion of God Himself.

This **Charis** is defined as, being God’s sovereign bestowal of His abundant, extravagant, un-earnable, un-merited favor.
It is the bestowed, extended kindness

And throughout the scripture the context is;
Beginning with grace, we are saved, then transformed and in the end we are completed by His Charis.

“Who Told You About The Grace Of God ?”

Luke 4:22

So all bore witness to Him (of Him), and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth.

- (1) **What** Is The Grace of God?
- (2) **Why** is the grace of God important?
- (3) **How** is the grace of God experienced?
- (4) **When** is the grace of God at work?

The word “**When**” has built within it an implied time or timing.
It is a “Time-Stamp” to what surrounds it.

A never ending work of God until we awake in His likeness at which time, you
enter into His heaven !

**The grace of God is the nucleus of our Christian
existence, the fuel for our becoming more like Jesus. We are inseparably
anchored to and dependent upon the grace of God.**

Take note with me that;
God’s grace is the forerunner to all of God’s blessings.

Romans 1:7

To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:
Grace to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:3

To all who are in Corinth,
Grace to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:2

To all who are in Corinth,
Grace to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:3

To all who are in Galatia,
Grace to you and **peace** from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 1:2

To all who are in Ephesus,
Grace to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

To all who are in Philippi
Grace to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:2

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse:
Grace to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because the God of the Bible is Gracious,
He extends Mercy and His mercy allows us to have Peace with God.

1 Timothy 1:2

To Timothy, a true son in the faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:2

To Timothy, a beloved son:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Thessalonians 1:1

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon 1:3

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:10

Now may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

2 Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

“Who Told You About The Grace Of God ?”

4.) When is the grace of God at work?

4a.) Even when

**The consistency of God’s grace is at work
(God works on a completely different time-zone than we do)
In our lives we’re often defeated and discouraged by “Set Backs”
Even when we have failed and fallen short,
by His grace is how we get back up.**

Philippians 1:4-6

always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, **5** for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, **6** being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

In 2 Corinthians Chapters 10 thru 12
There is laid out Paul's most emotional, direct and unflinching
confession of the Christian servant.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn (stake) in (for) the flesh was given (ordered, prescribed) to me, a messenger (aggleeos = a personality, not a thing but a person) of Satan to buffet (to beat with bare-knuckles) me, lest I be exalted (famed, conceited) above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 11:22-28 NLT

Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. 23 Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. 24 Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. 26 I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. 27 I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. :28 Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches.

"But God, why is this Happening to me?"

Answer: God needs His children humble and fit for use.

James 4:6

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

In Phoenix Az. a Plummer had the following
business motto labeling his truck;

"There is no place too deep, too dark or too dirty for us to handle."

That makes for a wonderful description of the grace of God!

"Who Told You About The Grace Of God?"

When is the grace of God at work?

4b.) Every time

The dependability of God's grace is at work

Not just to mention every time as in all the time, but

Every time - When God's grace is at work

you and I will decide to **esteem** others.
you and I decide to **serve** others.
you and I decide to **restore** others.

There is a special grace that is present every time God's people gather together in what He calls "Church" the **Ecclesia**,

Ecclesia means both: a particular body of faithful people, and the whole body of the faithful at-large.

Every time - When God's grace is at work

you and I are talked to - to **heed** His **instruction**.
you and I are talked to - to **receive** His **forgiveness**.
you and I are talked to - to **get** back at it.

Romans 13:11-14

And do this, **knowing the time**, that now it is **high time** (not miller time) to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us **cast off** the works of darkness, and **let us put on** the armor of light. 13 **Let us walk properly**, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make **no provision** for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

God's free, un-earnable favor - His divine affection at work

In your life, is the only way you can live the Christian life with victory.

Humorist, Erma Bombeck.

Writes of a true story where two pastors were on their way to Atlanta, Ga. for a large Christian men's gathering. One of pastors had never been in the south before. After staying in a motel overnight, they stopped at a nearby restaurant for breakfast. When their breakfast was delivered, the pastor having never being in the south before saw this strange white, mushy looking stuff on his plate. When the waitress came by to check on their meal, he asked her "What is this? "Grits", she replied. "Ma'm I didn't order it and I'm not paying for it". "Sir, down here you don't order grits and you don't pay for grits, you just get grits."

How like the grace of God!

"Who Told You About The Grace Of God?"

When is the grace of God at work?

4c.) Ending right now

"Did I mean to say "Beginning right now" - - No I did not."

I mean "Ending right now" is the **world**, the **life**, the **life style** that has held you bound, confused and insecure for so long.

We cannot have a true “New Beginning” unless we have a final ending to the life that we once lived. Today is that day to make that distinction once and for all.

Today is That Day. This is The Kairos Moment for You

The world is caught today in an endless cycle of hopelessness.

Have you ever wondered why one generation to the next remains unchanged?

The alcoholic seems to reproduce alcoholics. Wife beaters seem to reproduce wife beaters, and adulterers seem to reproduce, pass from one DNA to the next.

Ending right now is you - that person who has lived life apart from Jesus.

Ending right now is you - the power of destructive ways having defeated you.

Ending right now is you - the poison of your past that taints everything you do.

**When our nation was being torn apart by division,
This is what a President did....**

Abraham Lincoln,

March 2, 1863 Presidential Call to Humiliation & Prayer

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

!!! Some Things Must Come to an End if We are Going to Survive !!!

John 1:12 KJV

But as many as received Him, to them gave He power (jurisdiction, realm, privilege, right) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name:

**Have you ever stopped to think about
where power comes from?**

Power can come in various forms but regardless of its form it can only come into existence because of an action. It is through fire or pressure or combustion, or reaction or explosion or heat that power is produced.

**In the fires and pressures and combustion and reactions
and explosions** In the **heat** of our lives, God’s grace converts that **violence**
into great power for our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Song of Solomon 8:6-7 ESV

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy is fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD. 7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised.

In the words of the great philosopher – “Sting”

Every breath you take - Every move you make - Every step you take
God says – “I’ll be watching you”

\\\\\\ Meditation on the Application /////

“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.” -- Psalm 91:14-16

**Charles Spurgeon, while battling one of his many bouts of depression,
had a thought flood his mind, an epiphany.**

**THIRSTY - A little fish in the River Thames // HUNGRY - a little mouse in the
granaries of Egypt.
// BREATHING a little man climbing a high mountain**

**To the little fish the River Thames said
drink to your fill my waters are sufficient for you.**

**To the little mouse the granaries of Egypt said.
eat to your fill my supply is sufficient for you.**

**To the little man climbing the a great mountain his Creator said;
Breath deep little man my atmosphere is sufficient for you.**

The Cross / The Christ / The Call

End of Study

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