

“The Miracle of Grace,” *Ephesians 6:21-24*, page 1146

Introduction:

1. There are several attempts to define grace both in the Bible and the secular dictionary.
 - A. “A temporary immunity or exemption; a reprieve.”
 - B. “A favor rendered by one who need not do so; indulgence.”
 - C. “Divine love and protection bestowed freely on people.”
 - D. “The state of being protected or sanctified by the favor of God.”
 - E. “An excellence or a power granted by God.”
2. Many times the word “grace” is connected with the word “peace.”
 - A. *Romans 16:20*: “*And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*”
 - B. *I Corinthians 1:3*: “*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*”
 - C. *I Peter 1:2*: “*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*”
 - D. *Colossians 3:16*: “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*”
3. For our consideration today, I would like to give attention to three attributes of grace.

II. “Divine love and protection bestowed freely on people.”

- A. There is no question that God loves us with an unconditional love.
 1. God created a perfect world as recorded in the Bible.
 2. God created first humans and placed them in that perfect world as recorded in the Bible.
 3. God created humans with the freedom to make choices and give expression to emotions as recorded in the Bible.
 4. God asked just two things from the first humans He created: Love Me, obey Me.
- B. I believe they failed to fulfill these two requests.
- C. Even though God placed them in a perfect environment, they seemed to be dissatisfied and rejected God.
- D. Before we condemn Adam and Eve, I believe we should take a close look at our own lives.
 1. Many times we have failed to love God with an unconditional love.
 2. Many times we have failed to obey God.
 3. Many times we have failed in our attempt to be Christ-like in our daily living.
- E. In spite of our failures and weaknesses, God continues to love us with unconditional love.

II. “A temporary immunity or exemption; a reprieve.”

- A. God created this world and everything in the world.
- B. God also has the power and authority to destroy the entire world.
- C. Because of His divine love for mankind, He chose a different way to deal with disobedience and sin.
 - 1. *John 3:16: “God so loved...that He gave His only begotten Son....”*
 - 2. *Romans 5:8: “...while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*
 - 3. *John 14:6: “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”*
 - 4. *John 8:12: “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”*
- D. We deserved death, both spiritual and physical.
- E. Because of God’s amazing grace, He has given us a reprieve (time) to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and choose life.
 - 1. Spiritual life.
 - 2. Eternal life.

III. “The state of being protected or sanctified by the favor of God.”

- A. God’s amazing grace has protected us in ways many times unnoticed by us.
 - 1. Traveling.
 - 2. Illness.
 - 3. Accidents.
- B. Does God always protect us from disease, accidents, injuries? (No.)
- C. Sometimes God sanctifies us for a specific ministry or mission in life.
 - 1. Joni Erickson Tada (12 + books).
 - 2. Billy Graham.
 - 3. Each of us here today.
- D. The apostle Paul shares how grace worked in his life when he faced a negative physical issue, *II Corinthians 12:7-10*.

Conclusion:

- 1. Life is more than what we experience here on earth.
- 2. Life begins here and continues in eternity, according to the Bible.
- 3. God sees the total picture, and His amazing grace carries us through this life into eternity.
- 4. “Amazing Grace,” page 200.