

# “Grace & Peace to You”

## A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia  
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### ROMANS, LESSON 30 Part 1: “THE KINGDOM OF GRACE”

**ROMANS 5:1-5** *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

Tonight, we will continue our series from **PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS** by enlarging on ONE phrase from **ROM 5:2** “...we have obtained access into this grace in which we stand.” Few people consider the depths of God's grace that are extended to us who believe beyond the “*grace by which we are saved.*” But “*grace*” doesn't stop with salvation. I like to think of it as “**THE KINGDOM OF GRACE**” with dimensions that extend into every facet of the believer's life.

In fact, grace is SO GREAT that only in Eternity will we be able to comprehend ALL that it means for us, as Paul states in **EPH 2:7** “...so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

#### **GRACE IS:**

Like many Biblical terms, “grace” is difficult to define in a simple compact manner. The word itself has a history of over 300 years before it was brought to the New Testament era.

#### ➤ **ANCIENT GREEK:**

Coming from the same root as the word for “*joy/rejoice,*” **Charis** was the basis for the realized joy. From that it developed into the idea of *being granted favor from someone who was of sufficient ability to remove the burden upon one's life.* It always was considered as unearned / unmerited, and totally at the will of the grantor.

#### ➤ **OLD TESTAMENT:**

When the **OT HEBREW** was translated into Greek about 100 years before Christ, it commonly was applied to the Hebrew word “**Hanan.**” What was in view was the process whereby one who has something turns graciously to another who is in need.

#### ➤ **NEW TESTAMENT:**

The **NT**, especially in **PAUL'S LETTERS**, develops this basic idea into a “**Doctrine – Teaching.**” **Grace** becomes a “**synonym**” for the basis of our salvation through Jesus Christ.

- **God has done FOR us what we were NOT able to do: To restore ourselves to a right-standing with God, and thereby receive Eternal Life.**

- OUR sin and separation from God made us powerless to remove the sin by paying its penalty, and gain access to God's blessings of Life.
- Because of this application, "grace" has come to be seen as "God's unmerited favor, as a result of Jesus' death." Often paraphrased, "GOD'S RICHES AT CHRIST'S EXPENSE."

Although that is the subject of much of the NT use of "Charis" it far from adequate in presenting the full picture of "grace" as revealed in the New Testament.

➤ JESUS' DEFINITION:

2 COR 12:9 But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for (my) power is perfected in weakness.

- Sufficient... – NOT "just enough" – BUT "an overwhelming surplus" -
- My "grace" ... My "power" – His grace is the provision of the ability needed to overwhelm the weakness... ANY weakness...
- Perfected... – "brought to its intended end" – The purpose of His grace is NOT realized until it has overwhelmed our weakness... – Sin... Death... Fear... Sickness... Lack... Strength... Turmoil...

## ROMANS, LESSON 30 Part 2: "THE KINGDOM OF GRACE"

5:2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand...

- Through HIM we have obtained access... – Just as our "peace with God" is a result of the justification we have through FAITH in Jesus Christ...  
SO ALSO this "access" is ONLY by His work... WE CANNOT obtain it "on our own."
  - Have [Obtained]... – Lit: "Have had..." – PerfAct – this is something granted to us that ONCE received the results continue... – It is an ongoing REALITY...
  - Access... – "Prosagōge" – Entrance into a personal audience with royalty or to a new realm dwelling by the action of one who has power to grant it -
- By Faith... Into THIS grace... – The subject of our access is NOT a person BUT a "realm of grace" – Like a vast Kingdom spread out before us He has brought us to ALL the dimensions of what grace can bring to the believer...
- IN WHICH we stand... – NOT temporary... – again it is PerfAct...

### Makes Salvation Available to ALL Mankind...

TITUS 2:11 For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.

### Saves us...

EPHESIANS 2:8-10 God saved you by his GRACE when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9)</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can

boast about it. <sup>10)</sup> For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

### Grants us stability in the present age

ROMANS 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this GRACE in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

<sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

### Teaches us to live for God in a righteous and Holy lifestyle

TITUS 2:12-14 For the GRACE of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.

<sup>12)</sup> Instructing us to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures, but to live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, <sup>13)</sup> while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. <sup>14)</sup> He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

### Empowers us to live a new life free from the dominion of sin

ROMANS 6:12-14 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. <sup>13)</sup> And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.

<sup>14)</sup> For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under law but under GRACE.

### Provides the ability to stand under pressure by overcoming our weaknesses

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 But He said to me, "My GRACE is sufficient for you, for [my] power is perfected in weakness." Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me.

### Empowers us to endure all manner of trials in this life

2 TIMOTHY 2:1 [But as for] You, therefore, my son, be strong in the GRACE that is in Christ Jesus.

## Helps us find the resources to give unto God's work in times of great need

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-2 We want you to know, brothers, about the GRACE of God granted to the Churches of Macedonia: <sup>2)</sup> During a severe testing by affliction, their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed into the wealth of their generosity.

## Furnishes us with the abundant financial provision to fulfil God's purpose

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8-11 And God is able to make all GRACE abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

<sup>9)</sup> As it is written...

*"He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

<sup>10)</sup> [Now] He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11)</sup> You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

## Is the source of our "gifting" to serve in the Body

EPH 4:7; ROM 12:6; 1 PET 4:10-11

1 PETER 4:10-11 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied [multi-faceted] GRACE: <sup>11)</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## Provides us with stability in the Word against false teaching

HEBREWS 13:9 Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by GRACE, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

## Gives us the Grace to overcome the "self-centeredness" in our lives

JAMES 4:6-8 But [God] gives more GRACE. Therefore, it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives GRACE to the humble."

PROVERBS 3:34 Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.

<sup>35</sup> The wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace.

<sup>7)</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8)</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you...