

“THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD”

1Pet.5:5-12

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Peter, in 1Pet. And 2Pet., writing to Christians, identified in 1Pet.1:1,2 as “the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,” or “the sojourners of the dispersion,” “elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,” and identified in 2Pet. as “them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ,” often spoke of the grace of God in writing to them.
 - a. 1Pet.1:2,10,13; 3:7; 4:10; 5:5,10,12.
 - b. 2Pet.1:2; 3:18.
2. In this study we focus our attention on his expression in 1Pet.5:12: “I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is *the true grace of God* wherein you stand.” Cf. Rom.5:1,2.
3. It is the expression “*the true grace of God*” we shall emphasize in this lesson.
4. When Peter says, “this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand,” does it possibly suggest there may be what we could call “a false grace” taught by men?
 - a. One thing for sure, there are many *false doctrines* taught and numerous *erroneous ideas* about grace that abound.
5. The grace of God, or God’s free mercy, or unmerited favor, toward mankind, is a vital topic and is of great importance. Therefore, in this study we are interested in what the true grace of God is, what it does for us, how it is manifested, and what it requires of us.

II. DISCUSSION

A. PETER’S MENTION OF THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD IN 1PET.5:12 HAS REFERENCE TO THE FAITH WHICH THEY POSSESSED.

1. His purpose in writing to them was to supply indisputable evidence of the soundness of the faith which they possessed, which was “*the true grace of God*” which was bestowed upon them, and in it they were to continue.
2. This true grace of God was theirs; they were experiencing and enjoying its blessings; hence, their obligation to “stand fast therein.”

3. The construction in the original Greek is significant, and is: “into which (having entered) stand!” See Rom.5:1,2 again.

B. THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD CAME BY JESUS CHRIST.

1. Jno.1:17.
2. Jesus brought plain, full, complete truth about God the Father and his saving grace; that is, their complete embodiment. Cf. 1Jno.1:14.
3. Namely, the fact, that in Christ, only in Christ, is there plain, full, complete truth about God’s scheme of human redemption, and absolute deliverance from the guilt, and power, and, eventually, the presence of sin, or the true meaning and possession of eternal life.

C. THE GRACE OF GOD CAN BE KNOWN IN TRUTH.

1. Col.1:6.
2. The saints at Colosse “...knew the grace of God in truth.”
 - a. They “knew (fully knew, knew once for all, or experienced) the grace of God in truth.”
 - b. Vv.3-6 reveal to us when and the means by which they came to know or experience the grace of God in truth.
 - c. It was through their “faith in Jesus Christ” as a result of their hearing “in the word of the truth of the gospel; which is come unto you...and bringeth forth fruit...in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth.”
3. If they knew the grace of God in truth in this manner (and they did), we, too, can know the grace of God in truth, and know it in the same way they came to know it.
 - a. Note V.6a: “which came unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you...”

D. THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD GAVE HIS “WORDED GRACE” TO TEACH ALL MEN.

1. Speaking to the Ephesian elders, the apostle Paul said: Ac.20:32. Cf. Tit.2:11,12.
2. Tit.2:11,12 declares that “the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **Teaching** us...”
 - a. God’s grace that brings salvation to men has appeared.
 - b. God’s grace that brings salvation **teaches** us.

- c. God's grace therefore has to do with words by which we are taught about this salvation which it brings to us.
- 3. Ac.20:32 speaks of "the word of his grace" ; that is, "his **worded grace**, which is able to build you up (edify you, teach you), and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."
- 4. This "worded grace" is, of course, the gospel of Christ by which one is saved. See Ac.20:24; 26:17,18; Rom.1:16,17; 1Cor.15:1,2; 6:11.
- 5. See Mk.16:15,16; Lk.24:47-51; Ac.1:1-8; 2:1-41; 1Pet.1:22-25.

E. THE GRACE OF GOD MUCH MORE ABOUNDS WHERE SIN ABOUNDS, AND REIGNS THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTO ETERNAL LIFE BY JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

- 1. Rom.5:20,21.
- 2. God did not give law for the purpose of making people any worse sinners, but rather to restrain them from wrong and guide them in the right way.
- 3. However, the law violated brought about sin. And by abundant violation of law sin abounded.
- 4. Therefore, where there was law sin abounded; also, it triumphed over the sinner; made him feel his helplessness under its dominion unto spiritual death!
- 5. On the other hand, where sin abounds, much more does the grace of God abound to reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 6. Grace, however, does not reign alone (or without righteousness). Cf. Rom.6:1-18.
- 7. By faith and the doing of (practicing or working) righteousness one enters into and continues in or stands fast in the grace of God as one who stands born of God. Cf. Ac.10:34,35; Rom.5:1,2; 1Pet.5:12; Jas.2:14-24; 1Jno.2:29; 3:7-10. See also Ac.13:43; 14:21,22; Jno.6:27-29.

F. THE GRACE OF GOD BRINGS SALVATION, REDEMPTION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

- 1. Eph.1:7; Col.1:14; Eph.2:8.
- 2. It is the blood or the death of Christ that made possible salvation, redemption, and forgiveness of sins. See Lk.19:10; Gal.1:4; 1Cr.15:3; Heb.2:9; 9:22,26 (cf. Heb.10:1-4); 1Tim.2:3-6.

3. It is in Christ that we have salvation, redemption and forgiveness of sins. Cf. 2Tim.2:10; Eph.1:3.
4. These spiritual blessings in Christ, through his death, are “according to the riches of his (God’s) grace.”
5. Without the grace of God through Christ by means of “the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation,” there could be no salvation for either the Ephesians (2:8) or for us today. Note Eph.3:3-14. See Tit.2:11-14; Ac.15:11.
6. God is to be praised for his wonderful grace!

G. THE GRACE OF GOD IS SUFFICIENT FOR AND IS WITH ALL THOSE WHO LOVE THE LORD IN SINCERITY.

1. Eph.6:24. But who is it that loves the Lord?
 - a. Answer: 1Jno.5:1-3; 2Jno.6; 1Jno.2:3-5; Jno.14:21,23,24.
2. 2Cor.9:8; Phil.4:19.
 - a. There is no lack in the supply of God’s grace to the faithful who work righteousness.
 - b. God’s grace is sufficient to enable us to accomplish everything he requires of us in our service unto him.
 - c. See 2Cor.12:9,10; Phil.4:13.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Any “grace” that does not reveal to us these things, or does not do or require those things is not “the true grace of God” where we should trust and stand.
2. It is rather a false grace being peddled by false teachers who “corrupt the word of God,” and some of whom “make merchandise of you,” and whose judgment is sure, and are to be compared with those of 2Cor.11:13-15.
3. If we, like those of 1 and 2 Pet., have the faith they possessed, then we have had “***true grace of God***” bestowed upon us; it is ours; we are experiencing and enjoying its blessings; hence, like them, have the obligation to “stand fast therein.”