

**From Grace To Grace**  
**“The Truth As We Know It”**  
**11/15/15**

This week as I want to follow up on the power of Grace. It is truly Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me, I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see. Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved, how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed. Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come, Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. That precious old and beautiful song is sung world wide and is probably the most familiar song in the world.

Thank God for grace! None of us could ever attain to the sinless state that God requires for the righteous were it not for God's great gift of Grace. Grace is the love of God shown to the unlovely; the peace of God given to the restless; It is the unmerited favor of God. J. Gresham Machen says, “The very center and core of the whole Bible is the doctrine of the grace of God.”

The doctrine of “Grace” is the most important concept in the Bible, Christianity, and the world. It is most clearly expressed in the promises of God revealed in Scripture and embodied in Jesus Christ.

B.B. Warfield says, “Grace is the free sovereign favor to the ill-deserving.”

John Stott says, “Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues.”

Jerry Bridges says, “[Grace] is God reaching downward to people who are in rebellion against Him.”

Paul Zahl says, “Grace is unconditional love toward a person who does not deserve it.”

Grace is most needed and best understood in the midst of sin, suffering, and brokenness. Judgment kills. Only grace makes alive.

Grace is God giving us something we do not deserve. Mercy is God withholding something we do deserve. The two go hand in hand. Law requires judgment, mercy and grace offers forgiveness. James 2:13 tells us that, "He shall have judgment without mercy, that has showed no mercy; and mercy rejoices against judgment."

We are to grow in Grace as is told in 2Peter 3:18 where we read,

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever." And in Psalms 92:12 we read, "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon." And in Mal 4:2 we read, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."

Paul tells us the work of the ministry of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers was to help the general laymen develop and grow in their personal ministry as we read in Eph 4:11-15, "Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church."

The only way to grow properly is to get the proper nutrients and exercise. The same is true in the spiritual. When believers receive only milk and not a healthy diet of vegetables and meats, or biblical truth and not fables, they will be unprepared to face the serious issues that we will all face. In Hebrews 5:12-14 the writer tells us, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

We, at The Church of God, make every effort to stay away from practices that cannot be supported by the Bible. That is why we celebrate Sabbath (Saturday) instead of Sunday, Passover instead of

Easter, The Day of Pentecost and The Feast of Tabernacles instead of Halloween and Christmas. Those biblical days serve as a calendar of the great events of biblical history. They are called eternal feasts to be kept throughout all time. We do not observe them because they make us more righteous, we observe them because they honor God and we want to honor God in all things.

It is only by the grace of God that any of us are saved, not by keeping the law, but because we are saved we should want to do the things that please God. Rom 3:19-22 tells us, "Now we know that what things so ever the law says, it says to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Notice he tells us that no flesh shall justified by keeping the law, but by the law is the knowledge of sin. The law is there to teach us what God likes and dislikes, or what is right and wrong. The law is our schoolmaster intended to bring us to Christ because no-one is able to keep the law to perfection. We need God's grace, God's mercy, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Once we are saved, we need a sincere hunger for the next step, always the next step in our growth in Christ Jesus! In Php 3:7-14 Paul tells us he is still growing in Christ and we read, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the Excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but rubbish, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I

follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

We should never be satisfied! We should always hunger and thirst after righteousness. We are to grow in grace through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Listen again next week.

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true, Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin, Without Jesus we are eternally lost. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we might be saved. Atheism is a temporary condition, for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Jesus stands ready to save you now, Will you call on Him today?

Until next week, God bless.