

## THE SOURCE OF GRACE (Titus 1:4)

### I. From where does grace come?

- A. When it comes to salvation, God is the source of grace.
- B. Our text points that out to us.
  - 1. Paul wrote at least 13 books of the New Testament.
  - 2. All of them, in the first few verses, generally the 2<sup>nd</sup>, point to God as the source of grace.
- C. Another passage that points to God as the source of grace is James 1:17.
  - 1. Grace is definitely good.
  - 2. Every good thing we have comes from God.
  - 3. Thus, grace comes from God.

### II. Why does God offer grace?

- A. This is where we really come to understand the source of grace.
- B. There are several reasons why God offers grace to us and all of them stem from What makes God, God.
- C. Grace is part of God (1 Peter 5:10).
  - 1. Grace is in His nature Peter tells us.
  - 2. All grace that saves comes from God.
- D. God is love (1 John 4:8).
  - 1. Grace is an expression of God's love for us.
  - 2. God expresses His love through His actions, not just His words, which is biblical love.
    - a. John 3:16 - His giving of Jesus shows His love.
    - b. We don't have to ask if God loves us, He shows us He does.
  - 3. God loves the whole world, not just Christians.
    - a. Romans 5:6-8.
    - b. John 3:16 again.
    - c. We do need to remember that this love is not unconditional.
      - (1) God can't and won't love evil.
      - (2) God loves that have done or do evil, but not their acts, thus He can't save those who remain evil.
- E. God is just (Isaiah 30:18).
  - 1. He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35).
  - 2. He judges according to our work (1 Peter 1:17).
  - 3. Death is the penalty for sin (Romans 6:23).
  - 4. However, His great love desires for all mankind to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).
- F. A great question then comes up: how can God's perfect love and perfect justice be satisfied when it comes to our sins?
  - 1. The only answer is that through Jesus God can be just as well as the Justifier of mankind.
  - 2. Jesus took our place (Romans 5:8).
  - 3. He became our sin-offering (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- G. God offers grace because He loves us deeply and it is a part of Who God

is and He can offer it while maintaining His justice by allowing Jesus to take our place.

### **III. Why do we need God's grace?**

- A. We need God's grace because we are guilty of sin.
  - 1. Romans 3:23.
  - 2. Sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).
  - 3. God's grace remedies our sin problem (Titus 3:7).
- B. Our sins cause us to become lost.
  - 1. We don't deserve salvation.
  - 2. God's grace, however, makes it possible.
  - 3. We all need God's grace and mercy, for without these, there would be no hope of salvation.
- C. We will always need God's grace, even after accepting it, because temptation is all around us.
  - 1. We continue to sin from time to time.
  - 2. God's grace allows us to repent and confess those sins and obtain forgiveness for them
- D. We will also need God's grace throughout life because of the difficulties we face.
  - 1. There are a lot of bad things that can happen in this life.
  - 2. When they do, we need grace and have access to it (Hebrews 4:16).

### **IV. How do we obtain God's grace?**

- A. Romans 5:1-2 gives us the answer to this question.
- B. Our active, obedient faith gives us access to grace.
  - 1. Faith is the key that unlocks the door to God's grace.
  - 2. When we obey the will of God concerning salvation, we are able to step into God's grace.
- C. Paul tells us something similar in Ephesians 2:8-9.
  - 1. God's grace combined with our faith leads to salvation.
  - 2. We don't earn it, not by our works or we would boast, but God gives His grace to us because He said He would if we are faithful.
- D. When we obey God's will, by doing all that He says, we step into God's grace.
- E. We must make sure that we don't fall out of God's grace (Galatians 5:4).
  - 1. When we turn from God and look to something else for salvation, we fall out of God's grace.
  - 2. A lot of people in the religious world refuse to teach this aspect of God's grace.
  - 3. The truth is, as faith grants access, unfaithfulness removes us from God's grace.
- F. God's grace must be obtained, and then it must be held onto, or stood in once it is obtained.

Some of the material in the sermon came from a lectureship manuscript by Jim Laws in "God's Amazing Grace" Spiritual Sword Lectureship book.