



FOUNTAIN OF HOSANNA CHURCH OF CHRIST

BIBLE STUDY SERIES: WASTED GRACE – Part 1

Tuesday, 09 April 2019

Key Scripture - 1 Peter 4:10

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. KJV

Introduction

Grace can be explained as the most unexpected and undeserved goodness or kindness of God shown to man. It is demonstrated without any consideration of our status, position or definition – Colossians 1:21. Grace is the spiritual strength of the believer. It is **free** (Romans 3:24) to all men Titus 2:11, but we must ask for it and increase therein – 2 Peter 3:18.

What makes 'gold' gold starts from its discovery. This is the work of redemption that finds us by grace.

The death and resurrection of Jesus make room for the manifestation of the grace of God – Ephesians 1:7; Romans 8:32. This redemptive provision is bundled with Grace to do exploits – John 1:16-17 – and given to as many who receive and believe in Jesus – read John 1:12 and **Ephesians 2:8** – *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God* – NKJV. The work of grace in a believer makes him become a productive and fruitful vine, else it becomes a wasted measure of grace!

Grace untapped, ignored, not valued or under-utilized is an abuse of grace! This is the same regret God has over some believers today! Grace wasters. Very irreverent and callous to the gift of God. Such creatures are not different from Esau - **Hebrews 12:16** - *Watch out that no one becomes involved in sexual sin or becomes careless about God as Esau did: he traded his rights as the oldest son for a single meal.* TLB

It is possible to be careless with what you did not labour for. It is also natural to have little or no appreciation for a gift that is given especially at the time of 'plenty'. What appears as pleasure or personal possession before God are a mere waste when compared to the excellency of the grace of God – **Philippians 3:7-8** ⁷*But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for ...⁸ ...the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...* NKJV

Some Basic Definitions and Comparisons

- **Ability** – the natural performances, deliverables or propensities through our gifts and talents, that define our being. This ability could be in single or multiple measures – Matthew 25:15 cf. 2 Corinthians 8:12. Same is true of the gifts of the Spirit – Ephesians 4:7 – so that God will take all the glory - verse 12.
- **Grace** – the measure of potential received to do. It is dynamic and works with our abilities for the extra manifestation – Philippians 2:13. It is in varying degrees and measures – Romans 12:6. It usually describes our glories and, it confirms our calling or ministry (a testimony) – 1 Corinthians 15:10.



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- **Mercy** – a show of pardon, relief and tenderness towards a condemned, convicted and captured-death-worthy man – Isaiah 49:24-25. This is worthiness shown to the unworthy and qualifying the unqualified. It is irrespective of our composition and status. It is not natural for man to show mercy – **James 2:13** - *There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.* It repositions a man for **Favour**.
- **Favour** – work and proof of mercy received called ‘grace to help’. The cry (voice) of mercy calls for the attention of favour. A man who is favoured has at first received mercy from the giver. **Hebrews 4:16** - *Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the **throne of grace** (the throne of God's unmerited favour to us sinners), that we may **receive mercy** [for our failures] and find **grace to help** in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]. AMP*

If our daily engagements to earn a living or support others, that is, ‘**work**’ does not include ‘**grace**’, it will end in hard work. A work powered by grace will enjoy mercy with evident favour. This is the difference between working and labouring – Matthew 11:28-30

If you work hard without grace, you will be toiling.

Dimensions of Grace – ‘Grace-abilities’ or ‘Grace-attitudes’

Grace has the following sides and possible manifestations or dimensions. The unmerited benevolence of God can do the following and much more -

- i. It can spread evangelically among men – 2 Corinthians 2:14.
- ii. It can influence and inspire others – 1 Chronicles 29:3-6; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
- iii. It can be ignored or frustrated – Galatians 2:21
- iv. It can be abused when rebuilding the ‘old system’ – Galatians 2:18
- v. It can be wasted when grossly unutilised – 2 Corinthians 6:1
- vi. It is accountable – Colossians 4:17; 1 Corinthians 4:2 and Romans 14:12

Next Week

We shall consider the Work of Grace in the Church and some instances of wasted Grace. Let us pray.