

The Grace of God

Joseph Carty / General

Communion / Grace / John 3:16

Fear of God

During the late 1800s English evangelist Henry Moorhouse made several trips to America to preach. On one of these occasions, he was taking a walk through a poor section of the city when he noticed a small boy coming out of a store with a pitcher of milk. Just then, the boy slipped and fell, breaking the pitcher and spilling the milk all over the sidewalk. Moorhouse rushed to the youngster's side and found him unhurt but terrified. "My mamma'll whip me!" he cried. The preacher suggested that they try to put the pitcher back together, but the pieces of glass would not stay together. The boy kept crying. Finally Moorhouse picked up the youngster and carried him to a nearby store where the preacher purchased a new pitcher. Then he returned to the dairy store and had the pitcher washed and filled with milk. With that done, he carried both the boy and the pitcher home. Putting the youngster down on his front porch, Moorhouse handed him the pitcher and asked, "Now will your mama whip you?"

A wide smile spread upon his tear-stained face, "Aw, no sir, 'cause it's lot better pitcher than we had before."

- That's how God is.
- He is not looking
- to whip you!

- Takes you in your mess
- cleans you up
- give you an upgrade.

John 3:16 ESV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- Christianity Takes Faith!
- For many Christians
  - the hard part is not
  - faith in Higher Power.
- See our weaknesses
  - its easy to believe
  - something greater
    - in the universe.

- For most,
- faith issue comes
- in believing
  - saving grace!!!

#### Appeasing an Angry God

- We can't believe
- a being in universe
- with that kind of love
  - for a sinner!
- Remember God's word:

Romans 5:8 ESV  
 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners,  
 Christ died for us.

- So often,
- we feel we have to
- get life right,
  - then come to God.
- God is clear!
- He loved us.
- He pursued us.
- He died for us.
- He saved us.
- In our filth!
- That takes faith
- to believe
- that love like that
  - exists in the universe!

## Self-Hatred

- Why is it hard to believe?
- because we don't
- value ourselves!

## Desire of Ages Chapter 73—"Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled"

The Lord is disappointed when His people place a low estimate upon themselves. He desires His chosen heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them. God wanted them, else He would not have sent His Son on such an expensive errand to redeem them.

- The sin problem
  - has our head
  - all messed up.
- 
- This world is filled:
    - resentment
    - animosity

- and grudges
- We rarely see
  - true love
  - selfless services
  - complete forgiveness.

I heard the story of two friends who were talking to each other. One remarked to his friend and said, "Man, you look so depressed. Whatever could you be thinking about to depress you so?" His friend quickly replied, "My future." "Your future?" his friend said. Whatever in the world would make it so hopeless?" to which his miserable friend sighed and unhappily said "My past." (Source unknown).

- In this world
  - peace
  - grace
  - forgiveness
  - and love
  - is elusive

## True Peace

- That is where
- God comes in:

### Romans 5:1–2 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

- Today,
  - we celebrate
    - grace
    - hope
    - justification.
- God offers peace
  - in a world without peace!

- The cleansing of God's grace
- is overwhelming
- and mysteriously joyful.

## Justification

- › Many tell me
  - › "I can't be forgiven."
  - › "I've gone too far."
- 
- We often feel
  - we have gone too far
  - we cannot be forgiven...
- 
- Remember the passage:

Romans 5:20 (NIV)

... where sin increased, grace increased all the more,



- You can't compete
- with God's grace.
- The load of our sin,
- is small compared
- mountain of grace!

In a certain city it was noticed that the people spent time by a favorite well in one of the parks. A visitor asked: "Does the well never run dry?"

The man was drinking of the water out of the well; and as he stopped drinking, he smacked his lips, and said: "They have never been able to pump it dry yet. They tried it a few years ago. They put the fire-engines to work, and tried all they could to pump the well dry; but they found there was a river flowing right under the city."

- So it is
- with the well of
- God's grace!

- It never runs dry.
- There is only
  - one condition
    - Repentance
    - Sincerity
      - in seeking forgiveness.
- We should not fear
  - to come to God's
    - throne of grace.

## The Conditions

### Desire of Ages (Chapter 62—The Feast at Simon's House)

Jesus knows the circumstances of every soul. You may say, I am sinful, very sinful. You may be; but the worse you are, the more you need Jesus.

--

He turns no weeping, contrite one away. He does not tell to any all that He might reveal, but He bids every trembling soul take courage. Freely will He pardon all who come to Him for forgiveness and restoration.

- Grace is simple:
  - If we are sorry
  - if we are regretful
  - if we want a new life
    - we will not be
    - turned away!
- Those seeking
  - mercy
  - grace
  - forgiveness
  - contrite
  - repentant

- sincere
  - Always forgiven!!!

James 4:6 NIV

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud  
but shows favor to the humble.”

- Humility
  - is all that is asked.
- So long as,
  - not make mockery
  - of God’s grace
    - it is freely given.

Desire of Ages Chapter 31–The Sermon on the Mount

The proud heart strives to earn salvation; but both our title to heaven and our fitness for it are found in the righteousness of Christ. The Lord can do nothing toward the recovery of man until, convinced of his own weakness, and stripped of all self-sufficiency,

he yields himself to the control of God.

- I don't know what
  - it is but many Americans,
  - taught as young kids,
    - don't take handouts.
- Must earn it!
- Doesn't work with God.
  - Why?
    - Can never earn it!!!!
- Never be:
  - good enough
  - righteous enough
  - nice enough

- you can't buy God!

### The Invitation

- The irony
- once you are humbled
- you can come boldly!

### Hebrews 4:16 ESV

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- Do you believe
- God loves you?
- Then don't fear
- to come to Him!

### Desire of Ages Chapter 31—The Sermon on the Mount

From the soul that feels his need, nothing is withheld. He has

unrestricted access to Him in whom all fullness dwells.

- Come
- Come to God's
- fountain of grace
- have a drink.

Sir Edwin Landseer was one of the most famous painters of the Victorian era. His talent developed early, and he had the first showing of his work at the Royal Academy when he was just thirteen years old. He was commissioned to do a number of official portraits of the royal family, and even gave private drawing lessons to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. But he was best known for his depictions of the natural settings and life in the Scottish highlands.

One day as he was visiting a family in an old mansion in Scotland, one of the servants spilled a pitcher of soda water, leaving a large stain on the wall. While the family was out for the day, Landseer remained behind. Using charcoal, he incorporated the stain into a beautiful drawing. When the family returned they found a picture of a waterfall surrounded by trees and animals. He used his skill to make something beautiful out of what had been an unsightly mess.

God works in much the same way in our lives. The things that we think of as weaknesses and handicaps can, through His grace, become our greatest strengths—and the very things He uses the most to bring glory to Himself. God's grace provides the strength to meet every challenge and overcome every weakness.

Appeal

- Trust God's Grace.
- Believe His Love.
- Receive His Forgiveness!

Exported from Logos Bible Software, 8:20 AM January 6, 2024.