
Romans 11:33

INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Ashland Church of Christ 2008



Grace — What's So Amazing About It?

What is Grace?

Text: Ephesians 2:8

Key Text: Ephesians 2:8, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...”*

Introduction:

1. The Bible proposes grace, faith, and works together (Ephesians 2:8; James 2:20, 26).
 2. Some try to separate them (grace only and faith only) (see James 2:24).
 3. The components actually work together nicely and do not stand in opposition to one another.
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- I. **A definition of grace.**
 - A. ‘Unmerited favor’ or just plain ‘favor’ (Vine).
 - B. Grace and mercy are close but not quite the same:
 1. Grace – getting something you do not deserve.

2. **Mercy** – not getting something you do deserve.
 3. God provides both (Ephesians 2:4, 6; 2John 3).
- C. The Bible proposes that Christians are indeed saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8-10).

II. A defense of grace.

- A. Works cannot save us (Ephesians 2:9) but works are demanded (James 2:24 and Ephesians 2:10).
- B. What works are there that can merit the blessings of Heaven?
- C. The new covenant is aimed at the human heart (Hebrews 8:10; Galatians 2:20). This is not to say that the law does not have purpose:
1. It has a civil purpose.
 2. It has a regulatory purpose (1Timothy 1:8-9).
 3. It has an educational purpose (Galatians 3:24).
 4. It has a redemptive purpose.

III. A demand of grace.

- A. Matthew 18:21-35.
- B. Matthew 6:14-15.
- C. 1John 4:11.
1. The imitation of God is demanded (Philippians 2:5).
 2. Human altruism is one of the greatest proofs of God's existence.
 3. God has blessed us. We must pattern our lives after Him.