
“Come, Let Us Reason Together” About the Bible
What Is Salvation?
Bible Study Series

“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18)

LESSON THREE -- Is Salvation By Grace?

Estimated Reading Time: 5 minutes

When you hear the word "**grace**", what comes to your mind?

For many people today, **grace** is a kindness that someone shows even when you don't deserve it. You might say a teacher gave a student "**grace**" by not giving them a zero when they turned in a late assignment. Or maybe a landlord gave **grace** by extending the rent deadline for someone going through a hard time. Sometimes you hear about a "**grace period**" on a bill or credit card payment. extra time to make things right without penalty.

Grace, in these everyday examples, is about **not getting the punishment or consequences you rightfully deserve**, and sometimes even **receiving something better than you earned**.

But what does the **Bible** mean when it talks about **grace**, especially **God's grace**?

The Biblical Definition of Grace

In the Bible, **grace** is far deeper than just being spared a penalty. It is **God's unearned, undeserved favor toward mankind**. It's His willingness to bless you, not because of who you are, but **despite who you are**.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word most often translated "grace" is *chen*, which speaks of **favor, kindness, or compassion**. In the New Testament, the Greek word is *charis*, which means **favor, goodwill, or lovingkindness**, especially that which comes **from God toward man**.

One of the clearest statements about grace is found in the New Testament:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9)

That's a powerful verse which will be discussed later, but it illustrates **salvation is not something you can earn, it is something God gives out of His grace**.

Grace in the Old Testament

Some people think grace is just a New Testament idea, but it's actually found all throughout the **Old Testament** too. Below are a few examples.

This was written about Noah:

“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” (Genesis 6:8)

God didn't owe Noah anything. The world was wicked, and yet God chose to show **favor** to Noah and spared him and his family from the flood. That was **grace**.

The psalmist David declared:

“For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.” (Psalm 84:11)

That shows that God **gives** grace, it's not earned, and He delights in blessing His people.

The wise man Solomon said:

“Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.” (Proverbs 3:34)

That same verse is actually quoted in the New Testament as well, in James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5. God's grace is extended to the **humble**, not to the proud or self-righteous.

Grace in Action: Examples from the Bible

There are many examples of God's grace in Scripture:

- **Abraham** was chosen by God, not because of his greatness, but because of God's promise and favor (Genesis 12). God showed grace by entering into a covenant with him and blessing his descendants.
- God assured **Moses** that He has shown him personal grace (favor), not because Moses earned it, but because of God's relationship with him.

“So the Lord said to Moses, ‘I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.’” (Exodus 33:17)

Israel was repeatedly shown grace. Despite their complaining, disobedience, and idolatry, God kept loving them, forgiving them, and restoring them. He didn't give up on them. He said to the Israelites:

“The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people... but because the Lord loves you.” (Deuteronomy 7:7–8)

- **David**, after his sin with Bathsheba and arranging Uriah's death, cried out for mercy. God forgave him, even though he didn't deserve it. That's grace.

Over and over again, you see that **grace is God giving people what they could never earn**, that is to say His love, His favor, His forgiveness.

Jesus Christ – The Fulfillment of God’s Grace

Now, look at what is the **heart** of grace: **Jesus Christ**.

All the grace mentioned in the Old Testament pointed forward to the **ultimate gift from** God by sending His Son to earth in order that mankind might be saved.

The Apostle John wrote:

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory... full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

Then just two verses later:

“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17)

Jesus didn’t come to give you what you deserved, He came to give what you **could never deserve**. He lived a perfect life and then **offered Himself on the cross**, dying in your place.

The Apostle Paul says it clearly:

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

That’s grace, **Christ died not for good people, but for sinners**. That includes all people. Through His **death, burial, and resurrection**, Jesus made it possible for you to be saved, not because you earned it, but because **God is gracious**.

Without Grace, There Is No Salvation

Plainly stated, **without grace, there would be no salvation**. All are sinners as Paul writes in Romans:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

It is because of sin that all deserve death:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

Did you catch that? **The gift of God**, that’s **grace**. You cannot earn eternal life, it is given freely by God because of what Jesus has done. Paul emphasizes this again in his letter to the young preacher, Titus:

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.” (Titus 2:11)

Notice: **God's grace** that brings salvation. It is **His unearned favor** that made salvation possible through Jesus.

Conclusion: Thank God for Grace

If it weren't for the **grace of God**, you would not have hope. You wouldn't have forgiveness of your sins. You could not be reconciled back to God. You wouldn't have peace.

But because of God's grace, because Jesus died and rose again, You can be saved.

Thank God for His grace, not just in words, but by trusting Him, obeying Him, and living for Him every day.

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Is salvation by Grace **only**? Read Lessons Four through Seven to find out.

Questions to Confirm Understanding

Estimated time to answer the questions: 4 – 5 minutes. With scripture lookup: 22 – 30 minutes.

Read and answer the following set of questions about this lesson, and circle your answer, or look up the scriptures provided to confirm your answers. Then compare your answers with the Answer Key provided after these questions.

1. **True | False** Grace always results in a lack of consequences for sin.
2. **True | False** Grace means receiving favor or kindness even when you don't deserve it. (Romans 5:8)
3. **True | False** God showed grace to Noah by sparing him from the flood. (Genesis 6:8)
4. **True | False** In both the Old and New Testaments, grace is only shown to perfect people. (Proverbs 3:34; James 4:6)
5. **True | False** Grace is a concept found only in the New Testament. (Psalm 84:11; Genesis 6:8)
6. **True | False** The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. (Titus 2:11)
7. **True | False** Abraham was chosen by God because of his personal greatness and achievements. (Genesis 12)
8. **True | False** Jesus Christ is the ultimate expression of God's grace. (John 1:14; John 1:17)
9. **True | False** David's forgiveness after his sin with Bathsheba is an example of God's grace. (Implied from 2 Samuel 12)

10. **True | False** According to the Bible, all people have sinned and fall short of God's glory. (Romans 3:23)
11. **True | False** The wages of sin is life, and you earn eternal life through our good deeds. (Romans 6:23)
12. **True | False** God's grace is tied to His love, not our righteousness. (Deuteronomy 7:7–8)
13. **True | False** Without grace, there would be no salvation. (Ephesians 2:8–9; Titus 2:11)
14. **True | False** Jesus came to give you what you rightfully deserved under the law. (John 1:17; Romans 5:8)
15. **True | False** A proper response to God's grace includes trusting, obeying, and living for Him daily. (Implied from lesson conclusion)

Answer Key

Estimated time to read the answers: 7 - 11 minutes. With reflection and contemplation: 30 – 45 minutes.

1. Grace always results in a lack of consequences for sin. **False**
(Implied from David's story and various scriptures)
God's grace includes forgiveness, but not necessarily the removal of earthly consequences (e.g., David still faced judgment despite being forgiven).
2. Grace means receiving favor or kindness even when you don't deserve it. **True**
"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
Grace is shown in that Christ died for us **while we were still sinners**, meaning it was undeserved kindness.
3. God showed grace to Noah by sparing him from the flood. **True**
"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." (Genesis 6:8)
Noah didn't earn salvation from the flood; it was God's favor that spared him and his family.
4. In both the Old and New Testaments, grace is only shown to perfect people. **False**
"Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble." (Proverbs 3:34)
"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)
God gives grace to the **humble**, not the perfect; perfection is not a prerequisite.
5. Grace is a concept found only in the New Testament. **False**
"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." (Genesis 6:8)
"The Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly." (Psalm 84:11)
Grace is clearly present in both the **Old and New Testaments**.
6. The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. **True**
"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men." (Titus 2:11)

This verse states plainly that God's saving grace has appeared **to all men**, showing its universal availability.

7. Abraham was chosen by God because of his personal greatness and achievements. **False**
"The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you... but because the Lord loves you."
(Deuteronomy 7:7–8)
Abraham's calling, like Israel's, was based on God's **love and promise**, not Abraham's merit.
8. Jesus Christ is the ultimate expression of God's grace. **True**
"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us... full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)
"Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (John 1:17)
Jesus is described as being **full of grace**, and grace is explicitly said to come through Him.
9. David's forgiveness after his sin with Bathsheba is an example of God's grace. **True**
(Implied from 2 Samuel 12)
David's forgiveness, despite severe sin, shows God's grace in **withholding the punishment** David fully deserved.
10. According to the Bible, all people have sinned and fall short of God's glory. **True**
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
This verse teaches the **universal need for grace**, as all have sinned.
11. The wages of sin is life, and you earn eternal life through our good deeds. **False**
"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
(Romans 6:23)
Eternal life is described as a **gift**, not wages; sin earns death, but God gives life by grace.
12. God's grace is tied to His love, not our righteousness. **True**
"The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you... but because the Lord loves you."
(Deuteronomy 7:7–8)
God's choice was not due to Israel's greatness or goodness but simply His **loving grace**.
13. Without grace, there would be no salvation. **True**
"For by grace you have been saved through faith..." (Ephesians 2:8)
"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men." (Titus 2:11)
Salvation is only made possible through **God's grace**, not through human achievement.
14. Jesus came to give you what you rightfully deserved under the law. **False**
"Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (John 1:17)
"Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
Jesus gave us **mercy and grace**, not what we deserved, which would be punishment.
15. A proper response to God's grace includes trusting, obeying, and living for Him daily. **True**
(Implied from lesson conclusion)
While grace is a gift, the appropriate response is **obedience, trust, and transformed living** as gratitude.

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