

## **UNMASKING BIBLE TRUTHS School**

### **LESSON 2 The True Grace of God**

**Charles Finney on GRACE:** The impression of many seems to be, that grace will pardon what it cannot prevent; in other words, that if the grace of the Gospel fails to save people from the commission of sin in this life; it will nevertheless pardon them and save them in sin, if it cannot save them from sin. Now, really, I understand the Gospel as teaching that men are saved from sin first, and as a consequence, from hell; and not that they are saved from hell while they are not saved from sin. Christ sanctifies when he saves. And this is the very first element or idea of salvation, saving from sin. "You shall call his name Jesus," said the angel, "for He shall save his people from their sins." "Having raised up his Son Jesus," says the apostle, "he has sent him to bless you in turning every one of you from his iniquities." Let no one expect to be saved from hell, unless the grace of the Gospel saves him first from sin.

**John Wesley on GRACE:** But let not any man infer from this longsuffering of God, that he has given anyone a license to sin. Neither let any dare to continue in sin, because of these extraordinary instances of divine mercy. This is the most desperate, the most irrational presumption, and leads to utter, irrevocable destruction. In all my experience, I have not known one who fortified himself in sin by a presumption that God would save him at the last, that was not miserably disappointed, and suffered to die in his sins. To turn the grace of God into an encouragement to sin is the sure way to the nethermost hell!

**CHEAP GRACE** is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting to-day for costly grace. Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks' wares. Repentance, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which it showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; grace without cost! The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing. Since the cost was infinite, the possibilities of using and spending it are infinite. What would grace be if it were not cheap?

When the subject of living a sin free life comes up in conversation, most professing Christians make every excuse under the sun to have at least "some sin". They say, "What about the grace of God?" Or "No one is perfect." The fact of the matter is, grace is every bit as much against sin as the law is, if not more so! Listen to this: "For sin will have no dominion over you, **since you are not under law but under grace.**" **Rom. 6:14**

"...**This is the true grace of God.** Stand firm in it" (1 Pet.5:12). Here at the end of Peter's first letter, he says that what he has written in his letter is the true grace of God. In these days when false grace is being preached so often, we must go back to the Bible and look at what the TRUE grace of God really is, and to stand firm in it.

#### **Peter's Summary of True "Grace"**

- Be holy in all you do (**1 Pet. 1:15**);
- Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind; crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up into salvation (**1 Pet. 2:1,2**);
- Trust in Jesus (**1 Pet. 2:6,7**);
- Abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. (**1 Pet. 2:11**);
- Called for the purpose of following in Christ's steps; the first of which is "who committed NO sin. (**1 Pet. 2:21-22**)
- Christ bore our sins in His body up to the cross so that we, having died to sin might live to righteousness. Spiritual and physical healing (**1 Pet. 2:24**)
- Maintain the purity and reverence of your lives (**1 Pet. 3:1,2**);

- Be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble (**1 Pet. 3:8**);
- Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing (**1 Pet. 3:9**);
- Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from deceitful speech; turn from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it (**1 Pet. 3:10,11**);
- Be eager to do good (**1 Pet. 3:13**);
- Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect (**1 Pet. 3:15**);
- Keep a clear conscience (**1 Pet. 3:16**);
- Mortification of the flesh (the sin life **Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 8:12-13; Col. 3:5-10**) thereby ceasing from sin; Live for the will of God (**1 Pet. 4:1-2**);
- Sharing in the sufferings of Christ. (**1 Pet. 4:12-16**)
- Judgement beginning at the house of God, the righteous barely being saved. (**1 Pet. 4:17-18**)
- Leaders overseeing the flock as examples. (**1 Pet. 5:1-4**)
- Younger men respect elders, all clothe yourselves with humility for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. (**1 Pet. 5:5**)
- and finally Be self-controlled and alert, resist the devil and standing firm in the faith (**1 Pet. 5:8,9**);

Again, **that is the true grace of God**. Stand fast in it (**1 Pet. 5:12**).

**1 Thessalonians 3:5** "For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I **sent to learn about** your faith, **for fear** that somehow the **tempter had tempted** you and our **labor would be in vain**." Why would His labor be in vain if there was no possibility of Satan tempting Christians, causing them to fall and be lost? Surely Paul understood the grace of God and its limitations to those who refuse to obey the gospel, for **he used the word 110 of the 156 times** the Greek: *charis* (GSN-[G5485](#)) (grace) is found in the New Testament.

What is true grace? If grace was unmerited favor, then everyone would get saving grace, which is surely not true for the proud and unbelieving. It takes humility to get God's grace, while the proud are opposed by God (**1 Pet. 5:5**). It also takes faith in Jesus Christ to get in grace (**Rom. 5:2**), but that same faith can afterwards cease to exist (**Lk. 8:13; 1 Tim. 1:19; 2 Tim. 2:18; Rom. 11:20-23**). It is true that grace cannot be withheld from man because of demerit, lessened by demerit, or be mixed with the law of works; but this does not prove that there are no conditions men must meet in order to get the benefits of grace. Not one scripture teaches unconditional grace, or that God gives grace to men who disobey the gospel. If so, then God is under obligation to save all, even sinners who disobey if He saves even one (**Rom. 2:11**). So again, if grace was unmerited favor, than God would have to save the whole world with no decision, no faith, no repentance from anyone. God is under obligation to saints only when they walk in the light and remain true to the gospel (**1 Jn. 1:7**). He is not under obligation to sinners until they come to full obedience of the gospel. Grace teaches men to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously, and godly here and now (**Tit. 2:11-12**). If people do not obey its teaching grace can go no further.

**Anyone may:**

1. Receive grace in vain (**2 Cor. 6:1**).
2. Frustrate it in his life (**Galatians 2:21**).
3. Fall from it (**Galatians 1:6-8; Galatians 5:4**).
4. Fail of the grace of God (**Hebrews 12:15**).
5. Turn it into a license for immorality (**Jude 1:4**).
6. Sin in spite of it (**Romans 6:1**).
7. Continue or discontinue in it (**Acts 13:43**).
8. Minister it to others (**1 Peter 4:10**).
9. Grow or not grow in it (**2 Peter 3:18**).
10. Receive or reject it (**John 3:16; Rev. 22:17; Hebrews 12:15; James 4:6**).

"As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the **manifold grace of God.**" **1Pet. 4:10 (Manifold – varied, diversified, various in character)** Manifold is a pipe or chamber branching into several openings. God's grace is multifaceted! We sing the song "Amazing Grace". It reaches to places we may think it cannot reach.

"After you have suffered for a little while, the **God of all grace**, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you." **1 Pet.5:10** Here God is called the **God of ALL GRACE**. He is also the **God of all comfort** – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the **God of all comfort.**" **1 Corinthians 1:3** He is also the God of hope – "Now may the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **Rom. 15:13**

### **Thirty Things that Grace Can Do:**

1. Grace can save the world (Genesis 6:8; Ephes. 2:8-9).
2. Grace can give one all good things (Psalm 84:11).
3. Grace can bring men to repentance (Zech. 12:10).
4. Grace can impart great blessings (Acts 4:33).
5. Grace can bring salvation (Titus 2:11-12; Ephes. 2).
6. Grace can impart faith (Acts 18:27).
7. Grace can justify (Romans 3:24-25; Titus 3:7).
8. Grace can overcome sin (Romans 5:20).
9. Grace can reign in life if permitted (Romans 5:21).
10. Grace can make one God's elect (Romans 11:5-6).
11. Grace can give boldness (Romans 15:15).
12. Grace can make partaker of Christ (1 Cor. 10:30).
13. Grace can give power (1 Cor. 15:10).
14. Grace can inspire liberality (2 Cor. 8:1-2,6-9; 2 Cor. 9:8).
15. Grace can give endurance (2 Cor. 12:9).
16. Grace can call people to the ministry (Galatians 1:15).
17. Grace can impart riches (Ephes. 2:7).
18. Grace can inspire singing (Col. 3:16).
19. Grace can give seasoning to speech (Col. 4:6).
20. Grace can give strength (2 Tim. 2:1).
21. Grace can teach (Titus 2:11-12).
22. Grace can give aid in suffering (Hebrews 2:9).
23. Grace can help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).
24. Grace can give stability (Hebrews 13:9).
25. Grace can give life (1 Peter 3:7).
26. Grace can help render true service (Hebrews 12:28).
27. Grace can become abundant (1 Tim. 1:14).
28. Grace can bring hope (2 Thes. 2:16).
29. Grace can give the ability to preach (Ephes. 3:8).
30. Grace can change lives (1 Cor. 15:10).

### **Thirty Things that Grace Cannot Do:**

1. Set aside forever all condemnation for future sins (John 5:14; John 8:34; Romans 6:1-23; Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:21; 2 Cor. 5:10)
2. Set aside failure of saved men to meet the many conditions of salvation (1 John 1:7; Romans 6:1-23; Romans 8:1-13; James 5:19-20; Galatians 5:19-21; Col. 1:23; Col. 2:6-7)
3. Cancel free moral agency (Col. 1:23; 1 John 1:7; Romans 6:16-23; Rev. 22:17)
4. Keep men saved when they sin (Romans 8:12-13; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Galatians 6:7-8; James 5:19-20; Hebrews 6:4-6; Hebrews 10:26-29; 2 Peter 2:20-21)
5. Cancel the death penalty when saved men break the law (Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:12-13; Hebrews 10:26-29; James 5:19-20; Ezekiel 18:4,20-24; Ezekiel 33:12-13,18)

6. Make God a liar who said every man that sins must die (Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:19-21; Galatians 6:7-8; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rev. 21:8)
7. Cancel the law of confession of sins before they are forgiven (1 John 1:7,9; Rev. 2:5,16; Rev. 3:19; Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38)
8. Forgive future sins, for transgression and confession are necessary before forgiveness (1 John 1:9; Rev. 2:5,16,22; Rev. 3:19; Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; Mark 6:12; Romans 2:4-6; 2 Cor. 7:10)
9. Cancel responsibility of saved men concerning sin (Romans 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; Galatians 5:19-21; Galatians 6:7-8; Romans 14:12)
10. Be responsible should saved men backslide (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Rev. 2:5; Rev. 3:2; James 5:19-20; Galatians 5:19-21)
11. Free saved men from condemnation for future sins unless confessed (1 John 1:7,9; Rev. 2:5,22; Rev. 3:2; James 5:19-20)
12. Permit God to forgive unconfessed sin (2 Chron. 7:14; 2 Cor. 7:9-10; 1 John 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:25; Rev. 2:5; Rev. 3:2)
13. Bind men so that they cannot sin if they choose to do so (Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:1-13; 1 John 1:7; Hebrews 6:4-9; Hebrews 10:26-29)
14. Guarantee any man eternal life if he refuses to obey (James 5:19-20; 2 Cor. 3:16-17; Ezekiel 33:12-20)
15. Force obedience (Rev. 22:17; John 3:16-20; Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:1-13; Galatians 1:6-8; Galatians 5:4; Galatians 6:7-8; 1 John 1:7)
16. Make any man a child of God in the sense Jesus was (John 1:14,18; John 3:16)
17. Force God to continue blessing any man who sins (Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:1-13; Galatians 5:19-21; James 5:19-20)
18. Make the sins of the saved different from the sins of the unsaved (Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:12-13; 2 Cor. 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Col. 1:5-10; 2 Peter 2:20-22)
19. Condemn sinners and excuse saints who commit the same sins (Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:12-13; Romans 14:10-12; Galatians 5:19-21; Galatians 6:7-8; Ezekiel 18:4,24-28; Ezekiel 33:12-16; Rev. 2:5,16,22; Rev. 3:2)
20. Operate in the life of a free moral agent without his consent (John 3:16-20; John 7:17; John 8:34; 2 Peter 3:9; Rev. 22:17)
21. Impart eternal life to men who serve sin and Satan (Matthew 6:24; Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:1-13; Galatians 5:19-21; Galatians 6:7-8; 1 John 3:8)
22. Keep man from moral falls if they willfully sin (Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:1-13; Hebrews 6:4-9; Hebrews 10:26-29; Ezekiel 33:12-20)
23. Force God to go contrary to His own program of grace (Romans 1:16; 1 John 1:7; Hebrews 3:6,12-14; Hebrews 10:26-29)
24. Cancel the law of sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:7-8; Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:12-13; Ezekiel 18:4,24-28; Ezekiel 33:12-16; Rev. 2:5-22)
25. Guarantee unconditional favor to anyone (2 Cor. 6:1; Galatians 1:6-8; Galatians 2:21; Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 12:15; James 5:19-20)
26. Guarantee un-forfeitable life without conditions being met (Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:19-21; Galatians 6:7-8; James 5:19-20; Hebrews 10:26-29; note, John 6:27)
27. Guarantee sinlessness to men unless conditions are met (1 Cor. 3:16-17; Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-26; Galatians 6:7-8; Hebrews 6:1-9; Hebrews 10:26-29; Hebrews 12:14-15)
28. Encourage anarchy in God's government (Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:12-13; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Galatians 6:7-8)
29. Force God to be lenient with rebels (Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 6:7-8)
30. Give any man a pardon that guarantees him salvation and eternal life regardless of how he lives in sin and rebellion (Exodus 32:32-33; Ezekiel 18:4; Ezekiel 33:10-20; Romans 6:16-23; Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:19-21; Galatians 6:7-8)