

THE DOCTRINE OF THE FIVE STAGES OF GRACE (#1)

Saving Grace

Today we will introduce our final doctrine in our Nepiology series. It is the doctrine of the five stages of God's grace in Christian Way of Life (CWL).

We will study each of the five stages of God's Grace by:

- **Saving Grace**
- Logistical Grace
- Growth Maturity Grace
- Dying Grace
- Surpassing Grace.

These five stages of God's Grace cover the entire CWL from salvation to eternity in heaven (2 Cor.5:6-8).

God's grace is one of the most important doctrines to the CWL. When the Church Age Believer (CAB) reaches spiritual maturity, God's grace impacts lives in ways that only God could orchestrate.

The **Macedonian believers** illustrated this principle:

(2Cor.8:1-6) "out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity."

(2Cor.8:2) (NIV) "And this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God."

The Grace standard for the CWL:

(2 Cor.8:9) "For you know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, that though He became poor, **so that you** through His poverty might become rich." [Grace not Law]

This lesson will study FOUR aspects of Saving Grace. Charis is the unmerited favor of God.

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following three points of Saving Grace.

- (Eph.2:4-5) Saving Grace is based on God's rich mercy and great love.
- (Eph.2:6-7) Saving Grace results in the surpassing riches of God's kindness,
- (Eph.2:8-10) Saving Grace is a gift of God through faith.

(Rom.3:24) "Being **justified** as a gift by His grace through redemption which is in Christ Jesus."

"To justify was a legal term meaning to secure a favorable verdict, to acquit, to vindicate, to declare righteous."
(NAS) (Rom.3:24) (Rom.5:1-2)

(Rom.4:4) "But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who **justifies** the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness." [faith not works]

2. Saving Grace is 100% God and 0% man!

(Eph.2:8-10) “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that **not** of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that **no one** may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16)

“Works cannot save (v.9), but good works will always accompany salvation. (v.10; James2:17).” (NAS, Eph.2:8) (2 Tim.1:9)

If you add any human merit to the work of Christ on the cross, you nullify grace salvation!

(Gal.2:16) “Nevertheless **knowing** that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, so that we may be **justified by faith** in Christ and **not by works** of the Law; since by **the works** of the Law no flesh will be justified.” (Acts 15:1, 11)

(Gal.2:21) “I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.”

(Rom.11:6) “But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace.”

3. God’s Grace is never conditioned by anything in the object of God’s saving favor.

“Grace is an attitude on God’s part that proceeds entirely from within Himself, and that is conditioned in no way by anything in the object of His favor.” (ISBE, vol.2, pg.1291)

God’s grace is not making up for something lacking in one’s life (Luke 15:19, 29). Saving Grace offers a completely new life in Christ.

(2 Cor.5:17) “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” [SEE the **50 Things Free** at www.doctrinalstudies.com]

(2 Cor.5:17) “Old things passed away (**aorist tense** indicating the decisive change salvation brings); behold, new things have come (**perfect tense** indicating abiding results of the new life in Christ). The grace of God not only justifies but also makes a new creation, with results in a changed style of life (v.15).” (NAS)

4. God’s Grace treats all mankind alike regarding salvation through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2; 1 Tim.1:15).

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

- Philippian jailor (Acts 16:20-23, 30-34) “What must I do to be saved?”
- Nicodemus (John 3:1-8) “How can this be?”
- Samaritans (John 4:16-17, 39-42) We know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

(Acts 15:11) “But we (Jews) believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they (Gentiles) also are.” (Gal.3:28-29)

(Heb.2:9) “But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that for by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.”

Bob Thieme said, “Grace is all that God is free to do for man on the basis of the gospel of Jesus Christ.”