

The Paradigm Shift



Grace for Grace

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Introduction

All Christians have heard the expression that we are saved by grace. We have also seen the scriptures which proclaim that there is no new thing under the sun, and grace is surely no new thing inasmuch as that it has been in existence since the beginning of the world.

Scriptures tell us that Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Gen 6:8) and within this verse we see the word grace used for the first time in the bible.

By definition, in the Hebrew, grace (חֵן – *chên* – *khane*) *literally means graciousness*, that is, subjectively (*kindness, favor*) or objectively (*beauty*): - favour, grace (-ious), pleasant, precious, [well-] favored, and albeit Noah is the first man in the bible to be described as one having the favor of the Lord it is plain to see that Adam was truly the first to truly have the favor of God upon him.

In the Greek we see the word grace used for the first time in the gospel of Luke (2:40) and this word (χάρις – *charis* – *khar'-ece*) *likewise carries with it the idea of graciousness, kindness and favor, but it also adds the idea of “especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude” (Strong's)*

The reason that this distinction is important to understand within the context of this study of God's word is because there is a marked difference between the grace of the old covenant and the grace of the new covenant.

Now this precept about grace is not widely accepted by many Christian believers, but, be that as it may, it is none the less true and we will provide the scriptural evidence to support this claim. We will also demonstrate why it is vitally important for the born again believer to come to terms with this truth and see the profound impact receiving it can have on their lives.

As always it is our prayer that the Holy Spirit teach us all things and guide us unto all truth as we fervently and wholeheartedly seek the truth of God's word. Amen and Amen!

Footnote: scriptures taken from the King James Version (KJV) and the Concordant Literal Translation Version (CLT).

Old Testament Grace

When God created man He created him in His image and likeness (*Gen 1:27*), male and female He created them, and the Lord God walked with them, and spoke with them, before they were formed (Adam) and made (Eve) and provided for all of their needs even after they became manifest in the natural realm.

Surely this is God giving His gift of unmerited favor unto the man.

Here is the proverbial rub, if you will:

This grace was conditional insomuch as keeping it was performance based!

Adam and Eve had to obtain from eating of the fruit of The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil. This was, for lack of a better term, God's first commandment to man and when man transgressed curses came unto mankind.

God cursed the Serpent, the man, the woman and the ground.

Therefore albeit the initial gift of God's grace (favor) was unmerited keeping it was merited. This pattern continues throughout old testament scriptures right up to the earthen ministry of Jesus.

The Paradigm Shift

What many people fail to take into consideration when studying scriptures is that the gospels of the apostles of Christ are old testament books and that the reason they were included within the new testament scriptures is because they were written many years after the resurrection and ascension of our Lord, under the new covenant, and during the disposition of grace.

This however does not change the fact that the earthen ministry of our Lord took place under the old covenant and under the dispensation of the law.

You see the earthen ministry of Christ had to take place under the old covenant because in order for Him to fulfill the law He had to live under the law for one can not fulfill that which is done away with!

This truth explains why the apostle Paul instructs Timothy to:

[\(2Ti 2:15\)](#) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

This is an important truth to receive because when we read that which Jesus had spoken we must look at His words within the context in which they were spoken.

We must rightly divide the word of truth!

For example: Jesus uses the expressions “little faith” and “great faith” within His earthen ministry yet, when we look at the epistles and the Book of Revelation we do not see these expressions use at all. Not one single time. And we do not see these ideas of little faith or great faith even being implied within new testament scriptures.

Why?

Because faith had not yet come!

Think about this for a moment. Were any of the apostles saved, were any of them born again, did any of Jesus disciples receive the indwelling Holy Spirit before Jesus had died and resurrected, had faith come?

No! Of course not.

[\(Gal 3:23\)](#) But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

[\(CLV\) Gal 3:23](#) *Now before the coming of faith we were garrisoned under law, being locked up together for the faith about to be revealed.*

What we tend to forget that much of the earthen ministry of our Lord was prophetic. He spoke about His passion, death and resurrection which were to come. He often spoke of the kingdom of heaven that was to come, the promise of the Father that was to come, the Comforter and the Spirit of Truth who were to come. He spoke about false prophets, the last days, the fulfillment of old testament prophecy concerning Him, and He spoke about the fulfillment of the law which was to come.

Jesus entire ministry took place under the dispensation of the law, the grace available at that time was conditional, and Jesus was blessed above all men because He was the only man to keep the whole law perfectly!

Jesus was the only man with whom the Father was “well pleased” and the only man who had His grace upon Him:

(Luk 2:40) And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

(Joh 1:14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

(Joh 1:16) **And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.**

(Joh 1:17) **For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

Grace for grace (charin anti charitos). The point is in anti, a preposition disappearing in the Koiné and here only in John. It is in the locative case of anta (end), “at the end,” and was used of exchange in sale. The preposition αντί (for) originally means over against; opposite; before (in a local sense). Through the idea of placing one thing over against another is developed that of exchange. This idea is at the root of the peculiar sense in which the preposition is used here.

We received, not New Testament grace instead of Old Testament grace; nor simply, grace added to grace; but new grace imparted as the former measure of grace has been received and improved. “To have realized and used one measure of grace, was to have gained a larger measure (as it were) in exchange for it.” Consequently, continuous, unintermitted grace. (Vincent's Word Studies)

Under this new testament grace, which became available to us under the new covenant under the new dispensation of the law, the flow of God's favor is unintermitted because it is not based on our performance under the law!

As a matter of fact the only way that one can loose this grace is to fall from it:

(Gal 5:4) Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

When the hope (confidence) of your salvation is in Christ you are under new covenant grace but if you turn back and place the hope of your salvation in your doing the law, you fall from this unintermitted grace.

(Luk 9:62) And Jesus said unto him, **No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

(Rom 4:4) Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

(CLV) Ro 4:4

Now to the worker, the wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as a debt.

(Rom 4:5) But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

(CLV) Ro 4:5

Yet to him who is not working, yet is believing on Him Who is justifying the irreverent, his faith is reckoned for righteousness.

Now it is important to note here that I am in no way saying that the laws of God have been abolished.

God Forbid!

What I am saying however is that on one side of the cross the law and grace operated in one fashion and on the other side of the cross that way had changed. There was a paradigm shift.

On one side of the cross it was about what man had to do to merit God's grace and on the other side of the cross it's about what Jesus did for God's new unmerited and unintermitted grace to be imputed unto us!

New Testament Grace

(Eph 2:1) And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins:

(Eph 2:2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

(Eph 2:3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

(Eph 2:4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

(Eph 2:5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, **(by grace ye are saved:)**

(Eph 2:6) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

(Eph 2:7) **That in the ages to come** he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

(Eph 2:8) For **by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**

(Eph 2:9) **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

The age of the dispensation of the law changed to the age of the dispensation of grace after Jesus had ascended to be seated at the right hand of the Father and the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, came into the world to live within men and it was at this time that new testament grace came into force!

While Adam was righteous he was in a state of grace. When Moses walked with God he was in a state of grace. When David obeyed God he was in a state of grace. But when these men transgressed, when they were out of the will of God, even momentarily, fell from God's favor.

Adam was cursed and lost eternal life, Moses did not enter into the promised land, and David's son, born of Bathsheba, died after birth. This is the pattern of old testament grace!

Under new testament grace the favor of our Father God is imputed unto us because of the finished work of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, not by our own works, and because this grace is not merited it is unintermitted.

Therefore if we have been quickened (made alive) (present tense) together with Christ, if we have been (past tense) raised up together with Christ, and we sit (present tense) together "in" Him in heavenly places, that in the ages to come (future/present) God will show us the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us THROUGH Jesus Christ.

The praise "in the ages to come" literally means the ages which are coming on which are successively arriving until Christ's second coming.

(CLV) Eph 2:7

that, in the oncoming eons (ages), He should be displaying the transcendent riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Therefore the exceeding riches of God's favor are available to us in this present age because of the kindness He is showing towards Jesus Christ, through Jesus Christ and not because of our works!

New Testament Grace and The Law

Now if you remember, back in the beginning of this study, we touched on the literal definitions of grace both in the Hebrew and in the Greek and we noted that in the Greek there was something added to the idea of graciousness.

That addition was “ *especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life*”!

What do you think that the divine influence of God's unmerited unintermitted graciousness upon our hearts might be?

A changed heart? A heart of repentance? A heart of gratitude? A heart of worship and praise? A heart which desires to please our Father?

You see what many do not understand about this paradigm shift, this change from old testament grace to new testament grace, the change from the old covenant to the new covenant, is that we do not do the will of God to receive the favor of God we do the will of God because we have already received His favor!

We love Him because He first loved us!

You see the opponants of this new testament grace proclaim that we who believe and receive it use it as some kind of “get out of jail free card”. The reality of the situation is that it was under the old covenant that man created a pay to play system, which is something that was NEVER within the will of God.

(Mat 9:11) And when the Pharisees saw *it*, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

(Mat 9:12) But when Jesus heard *that*, he said unto them, **They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.**

(Mat 9:13) **But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

(Hos 6:4) O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

(Hos 6:5) Therefore have I hewed *them* by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments *are as* the light *that* goeth forth.

(Hos 6:6) **For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.**

(Hos 6:7) But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.

(Hos 6:8) Gilead *is* a city of them that work iniquity, *and is* polluted with blood.

You see it was ALWAYS the will of God that His people repent from their sins not revel in them. It was always His will, His good pleasure, that they would come to understand that He desired mercy (kindness) from them not burnt offerings.

The chosen people of God, even after He delivered them from 400 years of Egyptian captivity, even after leading them into the promised land, even after doing battle for them against their enemies, were never grateful or gracious towards their God. They NEVER showed kindness towards Him.

Instead they murmured, and moaned, and complained against Him.

So God gave them the moral laws (engraved in stone) so that they had a point of reference, so that they could focus on His will, so that they could see them and keep them on their minds, and do the things which pleased Him (thou shalt) and not do that which displeased Him (thou shalt not), and because they did not do them He gave them laws for atonement (amidst the ceremonial laws). Yet when the people transgressed the law they did not repent, they did not mourn over their sins, they just made the proper sin offering and then they boasted of their self righteousness that they were blameless under the law.

They just didn't get it!

Nor do they understand it today and there are MANY Christian believers who do not get it either.

These people ask and never receive, they seek and never find, they knock and the door is never opened to them?

Why?

Because they are asking and seeking in the wrong places and they are knocking on the wrong door!

They are asking within the realm of self-righteousness, seeking in the realm of works, and knocking on the door of the law when they should be asking in the realm of faith, seeking within the realm of grace and knocking on the door that is Jesus Christ (*Joh 10:9*).

We ask of our Father in faith because we believe His word, we seek that which God has promised (the exceeding riches of His grace) because He is a gracious God, and we knock on the door that is Jesus Christ because we know that the grace of God flows unto us because He favors His Son and because His Son favors us!

Why are we so blessed? Why are we so favored? Why does God's grace continuously flow unto us?

Because His new grace has so influenced our hearts, it has so changed our lives, that it has become our hearts desire, even our very nature to show Him kindness (mercy) in return. That is to say that we truly desire to do His will, and this not to achieve rather because we have already received.

Glory to God! Thank You Jesus!

Amen & Amen!

Be Blessed!