

18 June 2018

Grace – Pt 1 God's grace in Christ is good news

Reading – 2Cor.8: 1– 9 and Phil.2: 1–9.

The Oxford dictionary identifies divine grace as – “the unmerited favour of God”. In this our first study on grace we establish that there is so much more depth to divine grace. We will establish that – the grace of God is in Christ, the grace of Christ is where He who was rich became poor that we through His poverty might be rich, and God's grace is available to man through the gospel of grace.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The grace of God is in Christ.

“But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many” (Rom.5: 15).

See also – 1Cor.1: 4.

2. The grace of Christ – He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor that we through His poverty might be rich.

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich”) 2Cor.8: 9).

3. The grace of God is available to man through “the gospel of the grace of God”.

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20: 24).

See also Gal.1: 6 & Phil.1: 7.

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

Roman Catholics. Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses all preach the gospel of the kingdom, they all include God's grace as part of their doctrine.

Question to think about.

Does the kingdom gospel – how Christ will physically reign in Jerusalem – impart the abundance of God's grace and the gift of righteousness to a lost person?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

NO!

The good news message – “how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1Cor 15:3 & 4) is the grace of God – how that Christ who was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we might through his poverty be rich (when a person believes this message). Hence why it is ONLY the gospel that the risen Lord Jesus gave to Paul (Gal.1: 12) that is known as the gospel of the grace of God, and it is the only good news message in the scriptures that impart God's grace.

Therefore for those that reject the gospel message – they reject the grace of God. How would Christ feel – having been rich – “in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil.2: 6 – 8)?

He takes vengeance on them that “obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”, and they are punished with “everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (2Thes.1: 8 & 9), because they reject the grace of God, where He (Christ) gave up all for them, that they might be rich.