

1st of July 2018

## God's grace – Pt 3 The conveyance of God's grace within the body of Christ.

This is our third study on the topic of God's grace. In our previous teaching we established that – (1) the lost person accesses God's abundance of grace by faith, (2) when they receive His gift of grace they live under grace, and (3) only use not this grace to sin. In this study we establish that – (1) God's grace is conveyed between brethren by words, and (2) God gives grace to each believer according to the measure of the gift of Christ, and (3) churches are given the grace of God to give gifts to those in the body of Christ, and in doing so convey God's grace within the body of Christ.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. God's grace is conveyed between brethren by words.

"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen" (Rom.16: 20).

See also – Rom.16: 24, Phil.4: 23, 1Thes.5: 28.

### 2. God gives grace to each believer according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

"But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" (Eph.4: 7).

The gifts we have are "according to the grace that is given to us" (Rom.12: 6) and include prophecy, ministering, teaching, exhortation and ruling (verses 6 – 8). The purpose of these gifts is to build up (edify) the body (Eph.4: 11 & 12), and in doing so individuals convey God's grace to their brethren by actions.

### 3. Churches are given the grace of God to give gifts to those in the body.

"Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia...And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord" (2Cor.8: 1 & 19).

"Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and [take upon us] the fellowship of the ministering to the saints" (2Cor. 8: 4). The gift that was given by the church bestowed God's grace to brethren in need – by actions.

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

I know a brother who spent hours of this time, driving to a site, loading his truck by hand with firewood and then driving 80 kilometres to deliver the load of firewood to the house of his brethren. The brother endured much pain and cost to himself that his brethren would receive a rich gift.

Question to think about.

How does giving a gift to our brethren bestow God's grace?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

God's grace in Christ is shown by Christ's action of giving up His riches and becoming poor, that we through His poverty might be rich. Therefore, when a member of the body of Christ suffers affliction (2Cor.8: 2), such that they make themselves poor and give liberally to their brethren in need (2Cor.8: 4), then by their willingness to incur affliction at the expense of their brethren to bring a gift, they bestow the grace of Christ to their brethren. Hence, their actions convey God's grace.

Let each one of us not only convey God's grace in words from the scriptures to our brethren but also in our actions, such that we do something for our brethren at a cost to ourselves, to meet the needs of our brethren that they might be rich. In doing so we convey God's grace within the body of Christ. Amen!