

My Favorite Subject

There is no question, properly understood, EVERYTHING in the Christian life is a “branch” of grace –

- ✓ We are saved (past, present and future) by grace.
- ✓ Grace is the source of faith.
- ✓ Grace is the only word that is interchangeable with “Jesus” anywhere His name is found in the *Bible*. Jesus Christ is the manifestation of grace.
- ✓ Grace is vital, not an option.

Some grace is unconditional, but most is conditional. Grace is crucial, not just given one time in the past but, for every SUCCESSFUL day. The importance of grace cannot be overstated. Our understanding of Christianity is limited to our understanding of grace. The Bible even ends with grace:

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen. Rev 22:21

A simple picture will show the depth of grace – we typically think of “flashes” of grace rather than understanding AT ANY ONE POINT IN TIME grace is working in a multitude of different ways (at different levels) to bless us. It would take well more than 24 hours of prayer EVERY DAY, non-stop, to adequately thank God for the grace given in any single 24-hour day! The longer we live the more indebted to God we are for His grace. And the more we ignore and take it for granted the greater our sin of unthankfulness becomes. Oh, for eternity to come and provide ample opportunity to praise God for His grace!

We can lapse into a false “tithe mentality” thinking once we tithe (whether money, time, emotions, etc.) to God, everything else we have is ours – the *Bible* never says or implies this. Everything we have and use is either God’s or the devil’s.

We see this in Matthew’s story of the *Rich Young Man* (19:16 – 24) when Jesus told the young man, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” The young man needed to first understand everything he had was by grace and God could demand he dispose of it for a greater grace. In the book of *Jonah* we are told:

“Those who cling to worthless idols
forfeit the grace that could be theirs.” Jnh 2:8

Some graces?

God the Father who chooses
The LORD Jesus Christ who creates and saves
The Holy Spirit who protects, leads and provides for
Being made alive, given eyes to see, ears to hear, a feel for the truth, a change of urges, drives and desires
Food
Health
Home
Church
Fellow Christians
The Bible

Faith
Family
Love for/of God
Learning the blessing of giving
God making a way to forgive both myself and others
Resulting peace
That the “boundary lines” have fallen in delightful places
Job
“Sabbath-rest”
There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus
Those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified
It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy
God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are
For being God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do
Gifts and the guidance to use them
God’s disciplines that satisfy our desires with good things so that our youth is renewed like the eagle’s.
Increasing freedom from sins that previously bound
Hope!
Joy
Patience
Kindness
Goodness
Gentleness
Faithfulness
Self-Control
Other and innumerable Special and “Common” Graces

While these are some of the important graces, there are many, many more! We don’t know 1/10th, 1/100th, of what grace is doing for us NOW! And neglect and forgetfulness of grace (God’s goodness to us), is as deadly to us today as it was to Adam and Eve when they committed the “original sin.” Their failure to remember and “rehearse” God’s grace allowed them to, instead, focus and obsess on something small that they did not have – like we do today (usually about money).

There is a beginning to grace, but once “let loose” it never stops until we stop it – fail to accept what is offered and, in the process, lose the greater blessings.

Now, do you see why this is my favorite subject? How can it not be since it is the source of all past and present blessings and our ONLY hope for the future?

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2Pe 3:17 - 18