

God Is Gracious



Psalm 145:8-9

- The Study of the Attributes of God
 - The Attributes of God – the inherent characteristics of God.
 - The purpose: is to draw us closer to God.
 - The goal: To make us aware of God's great love for us.
 - Spiritual Principle: Authority, Unconditional love, Agreement, Faith, Grace
- Lessons Taught:
1. God is Faithful - Deuteronomy 7:1-9
 - Faithfulness points directly to God's divine nature and character. God is not trying to be faithful – He is faithful.
 2. Good is Good – Luke 18:19
 - God never has to add anything to Himself to make Him better or good. (Psalms 34:8, 33:5, 145:9, 119:68)
 3. God is Love - 1 John 4:7-8
 - When God says He is love, He is revealing to us that love is an essential part of His nature and character.
 4. God is Holy - Isaiah 6:1-3, Psalm 99:9
 - His Word is holy. His name is holy. His nature is holy. His Son and His Spirit are Holy. Everything about God as it relates to His nature and character is Holy.
 5. God Is Judge - Hebrews 10:30
 - God's wrath against sin arises, by necessity, out of His nature.
 6. God Is Sovereign - Isaiah 45:5-12
 - The Sovereignty of God is a theological term that refers to the unlimited power of God who has sovereign control over everything.

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A. Today's lesson that we will be sharing with you is, "God is Gracious." Again, all these attributes are integral to who God is. They are all part of God's nature and character. God by His very nature is gracious toward all mankind.

1. God is Gracious toward mankind from the very beginning. (Genesis 1:1-3)

- God spoke everything into existence before He brought man forth. God chose not to bring man into a world that was dark, empty, chaotic, void of purpose and completely out of order.
- God chose to create man in His image and according to His likeness. (Genesis 1:26)
- God chose to give man dominion (stewardship, manager, administrator) (vs. 26).
- God blessed man with the responsibility to steward over the works of His hand, to reflect God's glory in the earth, and to replenish the earth. (vs. 28)
- God chose mankind to have an intimate and personal relationship with Him when He formed man and breathed the breath of life into him. (Genesis 2:7)

B. God Is Gracious toward mankind through His Redemption Plan after the fall of man. (Genesis 3:14-15)

- God could have chosen to destroy man and everything He created on behalf of man because of sin – But He didn't.
- Instead God put a plan in effect to restore God and man back into relationship through His Son Jesus Christ.
- God chose grace and mercy. Apart from God's grace, mankind can only expect His righteous judgment and wrath on sin and disobedience.
- God chose to redeem mankind out of everything He created both visible and invisible. (Psalm 8:1-9)

- God has supplied mankind with everything necessary for living.
- God holds everything together in the earth, and universe by power of His Word. (Hebrews 11:3)

C. When we talk about the subject of God's grace many times the focus is His unmerited favor and mercy.

- The other aspect of God's grace is His divine presence and power flowing in the life of every true believer.
1. God's grace is the kind of grace we need as believers to function and operate in our calling and assignment.
 2. God's grace is the unmerited favor, mercy, compassion. The gift of God expressed in His actions of extending mercy, lovingkindness and salvation to people.
 3. God's grace is the empowering presence of God enabling me to be what He's created me to be and enabling me to do what He's created me to do.

D. God's grace is different from man's grace.

1. No other word expresses the depth and richness of the heart and mind of God.
- There is a distinct difference between what God considers grace and what man considers grace to be.
- a. Man, sometimes does a favor for someone and thereby can be said to be gracious.
 - b. God however, has done a thing unheard of among men.

E. God's grace leads to salvation. God's grace is the free gift of God; God extends His grace toward man. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

- God's saving grace can only be received by faith in Jesus Christ. The true believer has eternal life because of their faith in Jesus Christ.
- (Arthur W. Pink) – "Grace can neither be bought, earned or won by the creature. If it could be, it would cease to be grace."
- We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, we have absolutely no part in this wonderful free gift called salvation.

1. God's saving grace is key to our salvation and redemption.
Regardless of our fallen nature and sinful state, through Christ Jesus we have access to God's grace and promise of eternal life. (Romans 5:1-2)
 - There is no other way God's grace can be received but through Jesus Christ. (John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5)
2. God's grace is that grace brings salvation to man through Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:11-15)
3. God's grace teaches us how to live. (Titus 2:12-13)
 - a. God's grace through Jesus Christ teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts or passions.
 - The grace of God, through Jesus Christ, teaches us to deny ungodliness, to give up and turn away from everything that is ungodly and does not honor and praise Him. (Romans 6:1-2)
 - The grace of God doesn't give any believer the license to sin (practice sinful behavior).
 - b. God's grace through Jesus Christ teaches us to deny worldly lusts and to give up and turn away from everything that we cannot take with us and present to God when we meet Him face to face. (Matthew 16:25-26)
 - c. God's grace, through Jesus Christ teaches us to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age.
 - d. God's grace through Jesus Christ teaches us to look for the return of the Lord. (Titus 2:13)
 - The blessed hope and appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will appear in all glory and majesty.
 - The word "blessed" means to be filled with happiness, prosperity, richness, benefits, the highest good – all the great and glorious benefits imaginable and more.
 - The return of Jesus Christ will mean a glorious transformation of body. (1 Corinthians 15:42-44, Philippians 3:20-21)
 - The return of Jesus Christ will mean a glorious life in the presence of God forever. (Revelation 21:5)
 - The return of Jesus Christ will mean a glorious reward. (2 Timothy 4:8, 1 Peter 5:4, 1 Peter 1:3-4)

- The return of Jesus Christ will mean an eternity of ruling and reigning. (Revelation 22:12)
- e. The Grace of God is revealed in the death of Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:14)
- Jesus Christ gave Himself for us, He died for us. In other words, He died on our behalf, for our sake, in our place, as our substitute.
 - It means Jesus Christ took our sins upon Himself and paid the penalty for them. (Romans 6:23)
 - Jesus Christ gave Himself for us – to redeem us. His death was our ransom. His death set us free from sin. (Mark 10:45)
 - When a person repents and believes in Jesus Christ – they are set free from sin and its penalty of death. (Mark 1:15, Romans 10:9-10)
- f. The person that receives Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will receive:
- Redemption and forgiveness of their sin. (Ephesians 1:7-8)
 - Eternal life. (John 3:16, 10:28, Ephesians 2:4-7)
 - Sealed until day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)
 - Sanctified (Set-apart for God’s special use) (Hebrews 10:10, 1 Corinthians 6:11)
 - Made righteous in the sight of God. (Romans 5:18-21)
- F. God’s grace empowers the life of the believer.
1. The Holy Spirit is the most important person in the life of every believer.
 2. The Holy Spirit must be our personal navigator through life if we are going to fulfill God’s plan and purpose for our lives. (John 16:13)
 3. God’s way for every believer is to be empowered and led by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)
 - “And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33)