

# “To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace”

## **Pulling it all Together – The Importance of Grace**

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### **Implications of the Doctrines of Grace**

#### **1. Grace guarantees that God receives all the glory He so richly deserves.** (Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14)

The giver gets the glory. We cannot enrich God (Acts 17:24-25). Therefore His glory shines most brightly not when we try to meet His needs but when we are satisfied in Him as the essence of our deeds. "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:36).

#### **2. Grace rightly humbles man.** (1 Cor. 1:26-31; 4:7)

Learn that you were saved entirely by the grace of God and be humbled. You were dead in sin, blind, and rebellious. It was by grace alone, you were awakened to the beauty of Christ crucified for sinners. And, by grace alone, you believed.

When you stand before God at the last day and give an account for why you are there and others not - why you believed and they didn't - you will not say, "I guess I was wiser, more spiritual, smarter, and better than others." Rather, you will bow before the throne, with tears streaming down your face, and with trembling in your voice, you will say, "Thank you. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to You forever and ever. Amen. Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!" (Romans 6:17; Rev. 5:11-14; 7:9-12; 1 Cor. 15:9-10).

“Would it not be a beautiful church where everyone's pride was broken and we all knew that we deserve nothing good, so that every trouble would be received without grumbling and every pleasure would be received with amazed gratitude for grace? Believe me, if you take this theology of grace and cultivate any other atmosphere, you do not yet know God as you ought.” [John Piper]

#### **3. Grace causes us to stand in awe of God and leads us into the depth of true God-centered worship** (Psalm 65:1-4; Eph. 1:6; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

Exult in the Lord of grace! Worship the Lord of grace. Love the Lord of grace. Be happy in the Lord of grace. The fact that salvation is all of grace means your joy and His glory. Let your heart overflow with praise and thanks to him. Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:31; 2 Corinthians 10:17).

These truths make me marvel at my own salvation, and to cry out with the saints in Rev. 7:10, “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” This Jesus, whom having not seen, I love and rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory; having my hope resting fully upon the grace that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (1 Peter 1:8-13; 2 Thess. 2:16; Titus 3:4-7).

After laying out the great truths of a God-exalting, God-wrought salvation, Paul prays, in the last part of Ephesians chapter one, that the effect of that theology would be the enlightenment of our hearts and minds so that we would marvel at our hope, and at the riches of the glory of our inheritance, and at the power of God at work in us – that is, the power to raise the dead, as he goes on to expound in chapter 2 (see Eph. Chapters 1 and 2).

Every ground of boasting is removed. Brokenhearted joy and gratitude abound in the heart of one who worships God in spirit and in truth. Blessed are the poor in spirit.

**4. Grace gives us confidence that the work which God planned and began, He will finish – both globally and personally.** (1 Thess. 5:23-24; Rom. 8:28-39)

This is the point of Romans 8:28-39. These truths make me sure that God will triumph in the end. Thus we are encouraged to press on in the race of faith. Isaiah 46:9-10, "*I am God and there is no other. I am God and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand and I will do all my pleasure.'*"

**5. Grace gives us perspective and causes us to see everything in the light of God's sovereign purposes – that of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.** (Rom. 11:36; Col. 1:16)

All of life relates to God. There's no compartment where He is not all-important and the One who gives meaning to everything (1 Corinthians 10:31; Col. 3:17-23).

Seeing God's sovereign purpose worked out in Scripture, and hearing Paul say that "*He works all things according to the counsel of His will,*" (Ephesians 1:11) makes me see the world this way. This gives me peace and comfort even when I may not understand, for I am able to rest in the knowledge that the all-wise God has a plan and purpose, and no one can thwart His hand (Dan. 4:34-35).

**6. Grace motivates us to pray for hardened unbelievers.** (1 Tim. 1:14-17)

Sovereign grace is a great incentive to pray with hope for hardened people. If God must wait for the initiative of the lost - if God must wait for the blind to see and the deaf to hear and spiritual corpses to raise themselves the dead - then you may as well hang up the prayer phone to heaven.

But if God is able to raise the dead, give sight to the blind, cause the deaf to hear, and grant repentance to those taken captive by the devil (2 Timothy 2:24-26), then you may ask Him and believe that He is able work the wonders of salvation. God has the right and the power to answer prayer that people be changed. The warrant for prayer is that God may break in and change things – including the human heart. He can turn the will around. Thus we can pray things like ...

"God, take out of his flesh the heart of stone and give him a new heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 11:19).

"Lord, circumcise their hearts so that they love you" (Deuteronomy 30:6).

"Father, put your spirit within them and cause them to walk in Your statutes" (Ezekiel 36:27).

"Lord, grant them repentance and the knowledge of the truth that they may escape from the snare of the devil" (2 Timothy 2:25-26).

"Father, open their hearts so that they believe the gospel" (Acts 16:14).

**7. Grace motivates us to share the gospel with everyone.** (Isa. 59:1; Acts 18:10; John 6:37;10:27-28)

These truths remind me that evangelism is absolutely essential for people to come to Christ and be saved, and that there is great hope for success in leading people to faith. It is great encouragement to evangelism that conversion is not finally dependent on me or limited by the hardness of the unbeliever. So it gives hope to evangelism, especially in the hard places and among the hard peoples.

John 10:16, *"I have other sheep that are not of this fold, I must bring them also. They will heed my voice."*

It is God's work. Throw yourself into it with abandon.

**8. Grace gives hope to sinners.** (John 6:37, 51; 7:37-38; Rom. 10:12-13)

Finally, a word to you who are not yet believing - not yet saved. Listen carefully and may God speak this word into your own soul: Do not say, "I may not be chosen." Rather say, "Since all God's choosing is by grace, there is absolutely no reason in me to think I am excluded."

It is grace that gives me confidence to come to Christ to find acceptance. Unworthy as I am, He calls me to come to Him for grace (Rom. 5:20). I will not be turned away. Grace, grace; marvelous grace!

May you hear the Lord Jesus calling: *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"* (Matthew 11:28-30).

**Putting them altogether: God gets the glory and we get the joy.  
This is what makes His amazing grace so amazing!  
Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

(Much thanks to John Piper for his seminar on the Doctrines of Grace, from which some of these points were taken)

*"sola gratia – soli Deo gloria!"*