

Series: Communion With The Triune God #1613

Title: 2 Corinthians 13.14; Various Scriptures
Jesus Is Grace

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world. Our focus last time and this time is Jesus Christ who is our *grace*. Speaking of enjoying communion with the Triune God we have seen that God the Father is love. God the Son is grace. God the Holy Spirit is comfort. Knowing this about God invites us into a deeply personal prayer life with Him. This we seek. This we desire. So, I want to pick up on Christ our grace by reminding you of the texts we looked at last time and then I want to add to those, demonstrating how the Bible speaks of Jesus being our grace. After that I want to draw us to one other insight that I think will help us understand the amazing grace of our Lord. I am happy to have you with us as we proceed.

Hopefully you will recall we find Jesus being grace in John's Gospel chapter 1, verses 14 and 16. **"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."** Verse 16, **"For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace."** Oh we hear it there: Jesus is grace. He is grace upon grace! And Jesus invites us into communion with Him. Revelation chapter 3, verse 20, **"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."** When we want to experience the grace of God in our lives, we dine with our Lord.

As Joel Beeke and Mark Jones write, reflecting on the theology of John Owen, quote, "To sit at the table with Christ, Christ enjoying His graces in the saints, and the saints feasting on Christ's glory – this for Owen was the height of spiritual delight...Fellowship with Christ feeds the soul with sweetness, delight, safety, and comfort (*A Puritan Theology: Doctrine for Life*, 108)." I love that. Talk about communion, this is it. To sit with Jesus, to fellowship with Him, there is a sweetness to this we experience no other way. This is a delight. And therein is safety and comfort. We live in a world where there is little safety – where are we truly safe? – and we often feel *uncomforted*. But when we huddle with Christ in prayer our souls are fed with sweetness, delight, safety, and comfort. Is this your experience?

Let me now add to these Scriptures a few more. My goal here is not to overwhelm you with Bible passages, but rather to support the truth that Jesus is our grace, and so you can sit down with your copy of God's Word and read these as part of your own supping with Jesus. Ephesians is full of Christ's grace. Ephesians 1, verse 7 reads, **"In [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace..."** Ephesians 1.7, the riches of His *grace*. And again in Ephesians 2, verse 7, which says, **"So that in the ages to come [God] might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."** In the future we will see the surpassing riches of Christ's what? Of Christ's *grace*, this kindness shown towards us in our Lord. Ephesians 2.7.

And then, of course, *the text* that proves we are saved from our sin by God's grace. Listen to Ephesians chapter 2, verse 8, **"For by grace you have been saved through faith..."** Who is our Savior? Jesus is. And it is by His *grace* that we are saved. No wonder that all throughout the New Testament believers are constantly greeting each other with this phrase: "Grace to you." And, finally, there is Hebrews chapter 4, verse 16. Let me read this verse and then I will comment. Hebrews 4.16 says, **"Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."**

In a beautiful and richly theological section on the compassion of Christ our High Priest, the author of Hebrews says that the throne of God in heaven is a throne of...*grace*! As Christians, forgiven and cleansed of our sin by Jesus – our Great High Priest – we now have access to the very throne of God. And we can draw near to His throne in confidence, because of what Jesus has done for us. And when we are there, we receive mercy and we find *grace* to help us in our times of need! Are you in a time of need? According to your faith in the Lord Jesus, *you* have access to the throne of grace. Go there, friend, and find mercy, grace, and help!

In these days together we are talking about communion with the Triune God. And by communion we mean prayer, biblical meditation, and fellowship with God. Well, this verse certainly speaks to this. I want to encourage you even as I encourage myself: go someplace quiet, get your Bible open and read and re-read these passages, meditate on them and pray to Jesus Christ who is your grace. Don't you need His ongoing grace in your life? I know I sure do. Let us find grace when we commune with Christ.

And now here is this other insight I mentioned at the beginning. It is interesting to me, even odd, strange, weird, and certainly unexpected that Jesus Himself never (to our knowledge) used the word "grace." We do not read, in the Bible, in the Gospels of Jesus saying that He is God's grace. Nor does He say, "Grace to you." Wouldn't we think that since we are saved by God's grace through His Son Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2, verse 8) that God the Son would talk about grace? I would think so. Yet, our Lord did not talk about grace, He *showed grace*. His life is a life of grace. He exudes it in His many encounters with men and women in desperate need of the unmerited favor of God.

Think of the example of the woman, caught in adultery, who was about to be condemned and stoned before the scribes and Pharisees in John chapter 8. What does Jesus say to her? **"I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on and sin no more."** That's grace! Or, before that, in John chapter 4 to the woman at the well. This woman who had five husbands and the man she now shared her bed with was not her husband. Jesus presents Himself to her as **"the gift of God"** (verse 10). That's grace! And then there is the story of Jesus' interaction with the chief tax collector named Zaccheus. He had been ripping people off, stealing from them by keeping some of the supposed tax money for himself and his associates. Zaccheus was a sinner through and through. In fact, in Luke 19, he is accurately called **"a sinner."** But Jesus shows Zaccheus great grace. And these are just some examples of the grace of Christ on full display by how He lived and in His interactions with other people.

And, here is the other way that the grace of Christ shows up in our Bibles. Grace permeates His parables. Jesus is the greatest story teller to ever live. He spoke in parables. These were stories that clarified and highlighted deep spiritual meaning. By my count there are 39 of them, and some of those appear in more than one Gospel. Those who love and serve Jesus cherish these parables and one theme that runs hard and fast through so many of them is *grace*. We do not have time today to cover these, but let me recommend a few of them to you for your reading.

The parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son (otherwise known as the Prodigal Son) in Luke chapter 15 are all stories of grace. Certainly the story of the unforgiving servant in Matthew chapter 18 is a parable of grace. And, of course, this classic: the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke chapter 10. And in Luke 7 we have the parable of the creditor and the two debtors. Jesus said this to Simon the Pharisee, **"A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered and said, 'I suppose the one whom he forgave more.' And [Jesus] said to him, 'You have judged correctly.'" (Luke 7.41-43.)**

Well, yes, there Jesus used the word "graciously." The creditor graciously forgave them both. That is a story about *grace*. And again these are just some examples. My invitation for a profitable time of prayer for us today persists. Let's read these parables and therein find the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we know, oftentimes a well told story captures truth for us in a way didactic teaching does not. The God-Man knew this and so this is how He communicated His grace so that we could easily understand and apply these parables to our lives by how we live in a grace-less society.

In communion with the Triune God Jesus is our grace. Next time we learn who the Holy Spirit is to us. Join us then because God Is.

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