

GOD'S GRACE

The Hebrew noun for grace is (chen). It can be translated grace, favor, or acceptance.

The Greek word is (charis). It can be translated by same words in English.

“There has often been occasions to observe the manner in which Greek words taken up into Christian use are glorified and transformed, seeming to have waited for this adoption of them, to come to their full rights, and to reveal all the depth and the riches of meaning which they contained or might be made to contain. Charis is one of these Greek words.” (Syn. of OT, pg.166)

“The idea of grace more than any other idea binds the two testaments together into a complete work, for the Bible is the story of the saving work of God, that is, of the grace of God.” (Theology Word Book of Bible, pg.101)

Grace is “an act done with any expectation of a return from the object on which it is wrought or one on which is meted out as a matter of justice recompense, or reward, is not an act of grace.” (Synonyms of OT, pg.108)

Therefore the biblical meaning of grace is “favor freely given without claim or expectation of return.”

This lesson will study FOUR aspects of the CA doctrine of GRACE.

1. The biblical concept and doctrinal definition of God's grace is important.

The **biblical concept of grace** is that it depends completely upon the character and plan of God and never upon man – “the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ.” (1 Pet.5:10)

Grace is not conditioned by anything in the object (man) and always glorifies the subject (God) – “But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.” (Rom.11:6)

The **doctrinal definition of grace** is that God is free to be gracious towards sinful mankind without jeopardizing His character because of the propitious work of Jesus Christ – “Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.” (2 Tim.1:9)

“Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.” (Rom.3:24)

“Grace proceeds entirely from within God and is no way conditional by anything in object of His favor.” (I.S.B.E, pg.129)

2. There are five categories of grace to the CA believer.

- Saving grace – Eph.2:8-9.
- Logistical grace – Phil.4:19
- Growth grace – 2 Pet.3:18
- Dying grace – Phil.1:20-23
- Surpassing grace – Eph.2:5-7

God gives grace in order that the believer may have virtue without self-effort – “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” (Rom.4:16-21) [Abraham]

3. Every member of the human race is saved by grace through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:24; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

“But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they are.” (Acts 15:11)

“If God’s grace is identical with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and it is, then its absoluteness is established. It is the totality of salvation.” (T.D of N.T, pg.394)

“But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.” (Rom.5:15)

Every believer is the total product of God’s grace – “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace towards me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.” (1 Cor.15:10)

4. God’s grace opposes all forms of human effort to achieve salvation or spirituality apart from it (Rom.4:14-16; Gal.2:16).

Unbeliever is unable to work or merit himself out of the slave market of Adam’s original sin (AOS) (Rom.3:20-28).

Therefore work and grace are theology antithetical – “But if it is by grace, it no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.” (Rom.11:6)

“Grace rules out all human merit. Grace perfects forever the saved one in the sight of God because of the saved one’s position in Christ.” (Unger, pg.430)

God provides 50 things in grace salvation that can never be lost in time or eternity.

“My grace is sufficient for you.” (2 Cor.12:9)