

Subject: *The God of All Grace*

Scripture: *1 Peter 5:10-14*

There is no sweeter theme in the Bible than the marvelous grace of God. D. L. Moody was in his study in Chicago one day, and after many hours of immersing himself in the study of God's grace, went out on the sidewalk to get a breath of fresh air. Someone was walking by and Moody asked, "Sir, what do you know about grace?" The man replied, "Grace who?" Like D. L. Moody, we need to think deeply and often about God's amazing grace. What is grace? It is God's undeserved favor. God's grace can be defined by the five letters of the word grace: God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

God is the God of all grace (vs. 10). He is the source of all grace, the fountain from which all grace flows. His throne is called "the throne of grace" (Heb. 4:16). His Word is called "the word of his grace" (Acts 20:32). Jesus reveals the nature of God in human form and He is "full of grace and truth" (John 1:17). God's grace is available to all, adequate for every need, abundant and greater than our sin, and amazing because God gives it to sinners who rebel against Him. What is so amazing about grace?

God's grace is one of the great themes in this letter we call First Peter. The letter begins with a greeting "grace and peace to you be multiplied" (1:2). Peter describes believers as those who have "tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Pet. 2:3). Believers know from personal experience just how gracious He is. Peter challenges to be "stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10). Finally in our text, Peter reminds us that God is "the God of all grace." There are two kinds of grace: common grace and saving grace. Here, Peter refers to God's saving grace. By grace God calls us to salvation that ends in glory. By grace God sanctifies us through suffering. By grace God causes us to stand firm to the end.

1. God's grace in our calling

This speaks of our privilege to be in God's family and our purpose in God's plan. We are called to salvation and our salvation will end in glory. Salvation begins in time and ends in eternity. It begins on earth and ends in heaven. Our salvation from start to finish is by the sheer grace of God. God's grace initiates our salvation and His grace consummates (completes) salvation. ***Romans 8:28-30***

To be saved is to be called. God calls us out of sin into His forgiveness, out of darkness into light, out of this world into His kingdom. In this letter Peter has referred to our calling (1:2, 15; 2:9, 21; 3:9; 5:13). On the human side of salvation, we call upon the Lord, and that calling means turning from our sins and turning to the Lord in faith and obedience.

Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

But on the divine side of salvation, we must be called. God calls us before we call on Him. By grace God calls us to salvation. God was under no obligation to save us. He would have been perfectly just to leave us in our sin and guilt. The New Testament word "church" is *ekklesia*, meaning "the called-out ones." God calls us to salvation, and He calls us to separation from the world.

2 Corinthians 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*

God calls us into His family, and ultimately to eternal glory. The promise of future glory means more to believers who suffer for the sake of Christ.

Romans 8:18 *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

The Lord calls all believers to a glorious future. We are going to have a glorified home.

Colossians 3:4 *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

Psalms 73:24 *Thou wilt guide me with thy counsel and afterward receive me to glory.*

We will receive a glorified body.

Philippians 3:20-21 ²⁰ *For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹ Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

We will forever bask in the glory of God.

Revelation 21:23 *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

2. God's grace in our suffering

God doesn't keep us *from* suffering; He keeps us *through* suffering. By God's grace, suffering has a good purpose. By grace, God refines our character and make us more like Jesus. Peter says that God's grace does four things in our suffering:

- A. **God perfects (restores) us** – The phrase “make you perfect” (Gk., *katartizo*) is the word that means restore what is lacking, to supply what is missing, or to mend what is broken. It was used of setting a broken bone and mending broken nets. It is the same word Jesus used in **Luke 6:40** *The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.* Peter not only wrote about it, he experienced it.
- B. **God establishes us** – This word (Gk., *sterizo*) means to make as firm like granite. It's like an athlete who goes through training and comes out with a new toughness and staying power. It's the same word Christ used when He spoke to Peter, **Luke 22:32** *But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*
- C. **God strengthens us** – This word (Gk., *stenoo*) means to fill with strength. Just as the wind will blow out a weak flame, but will fan a strong flame into a blazing fire, so it is with a believer in the trials of life. Weak, superficial faith is blown out, but true faith burns brighter and hotter by God's grace.
- D. **God settles us** – This word (Gk., *themelioo*) means to lay a foundation. When we go through trials we get down to the bedrock foundation of our faith. Then we realize there are some things that cannot be shaken. In trials and hard times we find out what's trivial and what's essential.

Puritan William Bridge illustrates the importance of being settled in Christ by observing that birds do not ordinarily sing till they are set; they usually do not sing while flying, but when they are fixed, then they begin to sing. And he says the same principle is at work in plants and trees. Though they may be good plants or trees, yet if they are not settled down in the earth, they bring forth no fruit.

All four of these words describe the strength of character God works in us by His grace. By grace God uses the fiery trials of life to purify us and strengthen us. Peter is saying is that by God's grace, suffering and trials aren't designed to make us bitter; they're designed to make us better. John Newton may have had this text in mind when he wrote the words: “Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.”

3. God's grace in our standing

This speaks of our permanent, secure position in Christ. We stand in the true grace of God. To stand in the true grace of God means this is how we live, this is now our spiritual position with God. We are saved by grace, we live by grace and we will die by grace. Standing in the true grace of God means we're right with God, in good standing with Him. The good old hymn says, "When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found, dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne."

Romans 5:1-2 ¹ *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:* ² *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.* Standing in the true grace of God is to stand in Christ.

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* We are in Christ if we are walking after the Spirit.

- God's grace in our calling
- God's grace in our suffering
- God's grace in our standing