

Series Philemon
Lesson 12

The study of God's Word is for the purpose of growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- If you have never placed your faith in Christ as your Savior, that is your present need.
- On the Cross, all sins were placed on the humanity of Christ and judged; full payment was made for the sins of mankind.
- Salvation is offered freely to each person by simple faith in the finished work of Christ.
- He did all the work to satisfy the Righteousness of God; ours is merely to receive it by faith.
- That one act of faith, directed toward the Person and Work of Christ, brings eternal life, a permanent relationship with God as His child.

John 3:16

John 1:12

Acts 16:31

Jn 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. NASB*

Jn 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. KJV*

Acts

16:31 *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved ... KJV*

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As a believer in Christ, it is imperative that the Word of God be approached with no unconfessed sin in one's life. This permits the filling of the Holy Spirit; thus He can fulfill His teaching ministry in us.

- The filling of the Spirit is a grace provision that restores a believer to *fellowship* that had been broken because of sin.
- Upon the confession of sin, the believer is now ready to study the Word of God and God the Holy Spirit can make it spiritually discernable.
- Scripture reveals, specifically, this grace provision that places us in a posture to learn the Word of God and then apply it.
- Only in the filling of the Spirit, is God able to work in us to His glory.

Psalm 32:5
1 John 1:9

Ps 32:5 *I acknowledged my sin to Thee, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin. Selah. NASB*

1 Jn 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. NASB*

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Benediction

Philemon 25

25 *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. KJV*

- Paul began his personal letter to Philemon mentioning grace in **verse 3** -- the grace that comes from God and the Lord Jesus Christ
- now at the conclusion of his letter, he again mentions grace -- God's way of dealing with us based on the finished work of Christ on the Cross
- how beautiful it is how the Apostle Paul frames this letter of encouragement and instruction
- it is framed in grace -- the way God thinks and acts toward believers
- this letter, purposefully set with grace as bookends, reminds us not only of God's grace but also, how we are to think and act in the Christian life regarding self and others
- grace is never based on the merits or value of others, but rather on the character of the individual who is to exhibit grace
- how one thinks is inherent grace, and it has its outward expression in the actions of the believer
- grace is putting into practice that character that is developed in the believer from spiritual growth as he orients to the Word of God

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- grace thinking never operates from that which is deserved or earned
- God the Father always thinks and acts in grace, whether it is to individuals or nations
- God thinks and acts in grace whether He is administering justice, love, longsuffering or wrath
- God gives in grace, with our merit nowhere in the picture
- the believer is to have the same attitude toward others, without regard to seeking a return, somehow, for what is offered under the pretense of “being gracious”
- thus, the Christian who is operating in grace, forgives as Christ forgave, loves unconditionally as Christ loved us
- the believer has no illusions concerning his abilities, talents, his spiritual gifts, or areas of service, recognizing that these are from God, neither earned nor deserved
- he demonstrates humility, not superiority; nor does he have a holier than thou attitude, or treat others in a condescending manner because of their race, color, nationality, or handicap
- ever in his thinking is that Christ died for that individual, just as He did for me

Vs 25 ...the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

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- Grace is not a characteristic of man's nature
- Grace is from God; He is the source of grace
- the example for grace living is given to us by our Lord
- Paul in writing to the Philippian churches admonished believers to have the same grace thinking that was evident at the condescension of Christ taking on flesh

Philippians 2:5

2:5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: KJV*

- His thinking -- is to be our thinking -- what a challenge, but one that is possible, for if Scripture so requires, then Scripture must instruct in order that the objective can be attained

Romans 12:2

I Corinthians 2:16

Rom 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. NASB*

I Cor

2:16 *For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ. NASB*

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- Scripture, speaking of itself, declares that it is the very thinking of Christ
- therefore, God, as always, gives in grace that which is necessary for us to fulfill that which He requires
- God's grace is evident before a person comes to the knowledge of Christ

Titus 2:11

2:11 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men* *KJV*

- that act on the part of God in revealing Christ, is a grace act
- this is seen in the first category of grace – common grace
- this is God's goodness demonstrated to mankind, such as rain, sunlight, the air we breathe, the food supply, the Divine Institutions of volition, marriage, family and nationalism
- through the provision of free will, man is able to make choices in life including spiritual matters
- through marriage and family, stability in the home and orderly preservation of the race are provided for mankind
- nationalism provides a framework for a society to function in freedom and morality within a structure of law

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- it is through these grace provisions that God reveals to mankind His Divine essence, that He is; man becomes conscious of God in his thinking
- God also reveals Himself in judgment, tempered by grace, for the purpose of getting man's attention to his spiritual need

Psalm 9:16

9:16 *The LORD is known by the judgment He executes; The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Meditation. Selah NKJV*

- in grace, God gives every person an opportunity to respond to the knowledge of God

Romans 1:18-20

1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,*

19 *because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.*

20 *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. NASB*

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- for those who respond to the grace knowledge of God at God consciousness, He is faithful to reveal to them the Person of Christ by means of the gospel
- for those who respond at gospel hearing to the message concerning Christ, a second category of grace is experienced – saving grace
- saving grace is directed to the individual who places their faith in the finished work of Christ on the Cross
- when a person believes in Christ as Savior, God grants eternal life on the sole basis of grace
- man does nothing to earn salvation, eternal life, the imputed Righteousness of God or any of the other grace provisions received at the moment of salvation -- faith alone in Christ alone provides relationship with God, eternal security and all spiritual blessings that are in Christ Jesus

Hebrews 7:25

7:25 *Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. NASB*

- the Apostle Paul reminds believers that salvation is by faith, the gift of God, lest any person boast **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**

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- in his letter to the Ephesians, Paul, writing in the Greek language, pens the longest sentence in all literature (**Ephesians 1: 3-21**)
- he begins to list some of the spiritual blessings that are ours upon salvation

Ephesians 1:3-21

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- 1:3** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*
- 4** *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love*
- 5** *He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,*
- 6** *to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*
- 7** *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,*
- 8** *which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight*

Ephesians 1:3-21 continued

- 1:9** *He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him*
- 10** *with a view to an administration suitable to the fulness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. In Him*
- 11** *also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,*
- 12** *to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.*
- 13** *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,*
- 14** *who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.*
- 15** *For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints,*
- 16** *do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;*
- 17** *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.*

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Ephesians 1:3-21 continued

- 1:18** *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*
- 19** *and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might*
- 20** *which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*
- 21** *far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. NASB*

- note some of the blessings that he mentions
 - grace to you and peace **(vs 1-2)**
 - all spiritual blessings **(vs 3)**
 - we are chosen in Him **(vs 4)**
 - our position is that of without blame before Him **(vs 4)**

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- we are adopted by Christ **(vs 5)**
- we are to the praise of the glory of His grace **(vs 6)**
- we are accepted in the Beloved **(vs 6)**
- we are redeemed, bought out of sin and set free in Christ from the bondage of the sin nature **(vs 7)**
- we have the forgiveness of sins **(vs 7)**
- we have wisdom and insight /prudence **(vs 8)**
- God has made known His will to us **(vs 9)**
- we have an eternal inheritance **(vs 11)**
- we are designed and purposed for His glory **(vs 12)**
- we are sealed in Him to eternal life, guaranteed by God the Holy Spirit **(vs 13)**
- we are God's glorious inheritance **(vs 18)**
- we are recipients of the surpassing greatness of God's power; the same power that raised Christ from the grave and seated Him at the right hand of the Majesty on high -- that is our eternal position and status in Christ -- a resurrection body and reigning with Christ **(vs 19)**

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- a third category of grace is seen for living the Christ centered life
- it includes the physical provisions for the Christian to live the rest of his days on earth
- God also has to provide all spiritual blessings by which the individual can fulfill the mandate to “*grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ*” **(II Peter 3:18)**
- that includes the indwelling presence of the Godhead
- the filling of the Spirit and the Word of God become the two power sources by which Christ can be glorified in the individuals’ lives
- in the Word are the promises and principles which when applied, bring rest to the soul, regardless of external circumstances

Isaiah 30:18

30:18 *Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him. NASB*

- God provides the instruction manual, the Bible, and the pastor-teacher to instruct within the context of a local church so that the teaching can go forth objectively without interfering with the privacy and volition of the hearer

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- God's grace is sufficient for every circumstance and He has provided a solution for every problem in life
 - in grace God has provided the means of restoration to broken fellowship through confession of sin (**I John 1:9**)
 - the Word of God learned, in the filling of the Spirit and applied in life, enables the individual to have an invisible impact on others in time and even after physical death (**Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16**)
 - God the Holy Spirit gives a spiritual gift so that the believer can function properly in the Body; thus the local church becomes a school room for learning God's Word; and the outside world becomes an arena for evangelizing and application of Truth (**I Corinthians 12:11; James 1:22**)
 - the Word of God given in grace to us, instructs us to approach life and others with an attitude of grace; thus Christ is seen in the believer (**I Peter 4:10**)
 - an understanding of Truth enables the believer to properly discern the real issues and establish proper priorities based on Divine viewpoint and Divine rationales (**Philippians 2:5**)
 - secure in Christ and inner stability from Biblical principles and promises, the Christian has an understanding of self, of the purpose of the Christian life and confidence of an eternity with God (**Philippians 1:21**)

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- as the Word of God is learned, our love for God increases; we can reciprocate love to Him because He first loved us (**Luke 10:27; I John 4:19**)
- a true love for God transcends into unconditional love for others based on God's character in you, not their loveliness or lack thereof (**Leviticus 19:18; James 2:8**)
- a walk by faith, resting in the principles and promises of God, possessing that inner peace that only comes from God, results in God sharing His happiness with the believer (**John 15:11**)
- focusing on Him instead of self, prohibits the problems of life from entering the soul; therefore, there is no stress; problems yes, stress no (**Hebrews 12:3; I Peter 1:8**)
- thus, God's grace provisions for dealing with problems enables the believer to prove that God's grace is greater than any adversity or suffering in life
- God's grace and power are greater than Satan's -- *"greater is He that is in you, than he who is in the world"* (**I John 4:4**)
- there is another category of grace, in the life of the spiritually advancing believer, as he enters the phase of dying
- God provides dying grace for that believer
- such believers have grown in grace, having lived a life that glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ

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- their homegoing is not part of Divine judgment, but rather, one of demonstrating the grace of God to others
- in dying grace, the individual experiences an inner peace and joy, though the circumstances which are causing death may not be pleasant
- such a person is free from fear, anticipating seeing His Lord face to face

Psalm 23:4

23:4 *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. KJV*

- in this phase of life called dying, God works through the believer to reach others, often, previously unknown individuals, friends or family, who up to this point had rejected the knowledge of God
- for such a believer in dying grace, it is another opportunity to reflect the thinking of Christ, to demonstrate the grace of God, to lay up more treasures in heaven since God never wastes the phase of home-going of believers; the Psalmist calls this phase of dying grace as precious

Psalm 116:15

116:15 *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. KJV*

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- there is a category of grace for eternity
- it is called surpassing grace in which God provides above and beyond man's greatest expectations or imagination
- this surpassing grace includes rewards and crowns for that which God was able to accomplish in the believer's life on earth

Ephesians 2:4-7

- 2:4** *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,*
- 5** *even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*
- 6** *and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus,*
- 7** *in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. NASB*

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... with your spirit **(Philemon 25 continued)**

- the believer is spiritually alive to God at the moment of salvation
- therefore God is able to shower upon His child every spiritual blessing on the basis of grace
- it is in the spirit of the believer that the Word of God is stored for use in life
- without the human spirit alive to God, there can be no spiritual life for man is born spiritually dead
- the new birth is essential, and the new nature has a affinity to God who gave that nature; it desires to be fed and nurtured by God's Word
- when that spiritual nourishment occurs, there is spiritual advance; when the old nature is in control with its human good and evil thought patterns, spiritual growth is squelched
- the only source of grace thinking is God's thinking, and His thinking is the Word of God
- thus, grace thinking must be placed in the human spirit so that the believer can then apply grace principles in the filling of the Spirit
- grace thinking must be guarded; for its enemy, legalism, always seeks to have the Christian function on the basis of works, that which is deserved, favor earned, meritorious behavior
- that is Satan's system of thinking and action, and it is evil

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- to not be grace oriented is to drift off course, and the result is loss: loss of reward, loss of spiritual impact for Christ, loss of inner peace and happiness

...Amen

- Paul concludes with the thought ... *“may it be so”*
- his desire is that Philemon exercise grace toward Onesimus
- in Onesimus, Philemon had, at first, a slave who was unprofitable
- now Philemon has, in Onesimus, more than a slave; he has a brother in Christ