

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Grace

"Grace is everything for nothing to those who don't deserve anything." – Anonymous

"Grace is God's unmerited, free spontaneous love for sinful man, revealed and made effective in Jesus Christ." – C.L. Mitton

"Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see." – John Newton, "Amazing Grace" (Hymn)

"His grace reaches me, yes, His grace reaches me, and 'twill last thru eternity; now I'm under His control and I'm happy in my soul, Just to know that His grace reaches me." – Whitey Gleason, "His Grace Reaches Me" (Hymn)

"Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, Deeper than the mighty rolling sea; Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain, all sufficient grace for even me." – Haldor Lillenas, "Wonderful Grace Of Jesus" (Hymn)

Grace is usually defined as "the unmerited favor of God." We receive something truly wondrous that we in no way deserve. If we truly got what we deserved, it is too terrible to contemplate.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Many translations render it "free gift" (ASV, NASV, NASB, RSV, ESV). Although the word "free" is not actually in the Greek, certainly the thought is there. Eternal life is indeed a free gift from God, one not to be taken lightly.

"Wages" is a reference to what we earn. In ancient times it referred to the rations for a soldier. What we earn, or sow, despite our best effort, is never enough to afford us a heavenly home. So many have this delusion that they can work their way into heaven. You could never do enough good deeds, or live a good enough life, as there has to be atonement for your sins.

"Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow." – Elvina M. Hall, "Jesus Paid It All" Hymn

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourself; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

Be thankful that God was merciful enough to send His Son to redeem us from our sins. Without Him, you and I would have no hope.

Don't ever take the gift of God's grace lightly. Your salvation came at an awful cost. It is hard to picture God's Son suffering at the hands of sinful men. But then, even Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that one would lay down His life for His friends" (John 15:13).