

Message Notes

Sola Gratia: Grace Alone

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – “Hammer Time!”

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Sola Gratia: Grace Alone
Ephesians 2:1-10

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What is Grace?

Grace in the Old Testament

Genesis 3:21

Exodus 34:6-7

Leviticus 16:3

Numbers 6:24-26

Isaiah 53:1-6

Grace in the New Testament

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Ephesians 2:1-10

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Becoming a people transformed by Grace

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Receiving Grace

Living in Grace

Giving Grace

Gospel Application – “*Are you gripped by the grace of God?*”

Genesis 3:21 / Exodus 34:6-7 / Leviticus 16:3

Numbers 6:24-26

²²The LORD said to Moses, ²³“Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: ²⁴’ ‘ ‘The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.’ ” ²⁷“So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

John 1:14

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Titus 2:11-13

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Galatians 5:13-14

¹³You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.



STOP...

HAMMER TIME!

A portrait of Martin Luther, a German theologian, wearing a black cap and a dark robe. The background is a light blue-grey color.

**I'VE GOT
95 THESES**

**BUT THE CHURCH
AIN'T ONE**



1517



2017

AMAZING GRACE

The Reformation to the Glory of God



FIVE

SOLAS

AMAZING GRACE

The Reformation to the Glory of God



Sola Gratia

Today's Message:
Sola Gratia: *GraceAlone*

What is *Sola Gratia*?

What is *Sola Gratia*?

**Sola Gratia means that grace alone is the sole requirement for salvation, transformation and a right relationship with God.
NOTHING else is required!!**

What is *Grace*?





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THE 5 SOLAS SERIES

Grace ALONE

SALVATION AS A
GIFT OF GOD

What the Reformers Taught . . . and Why It Still Matters

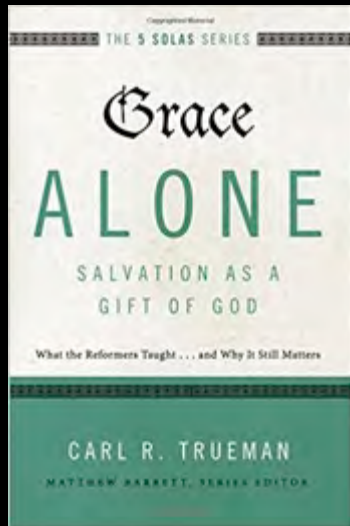
CARL R. TRUEMAN

MATTHEW BARRETT, SERIES EDITOR





Grace is that aspect of divine action by which God blesses his rebellious creatures, whether through preservation (common grace) or salvation (special grace). It characterizes the manner in which he deals with those who through their rejection of him as their Creator and sovereign deserve nothing from him and yet whom he still chooses to bless.



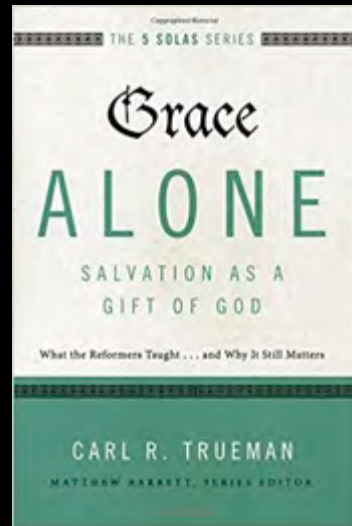
~ Carl Trueman, *Grace Alone---Salvation as a Gift of God: What the Reformers Taught...and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series), page 25.

**Grace in the
OLD TESTAMENT**

Genesis 3:21

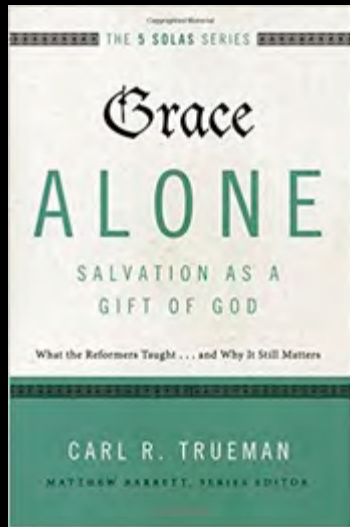
The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

We first see God's grace on display when God confronts Adam and Eve in the garden after the fall. Adam and his wife have made themselves clothes out of leaves in an attempt to cover their shame. When God approaches, he does not accept their coverings, yet he does not immediately wipe them from the face of the earth either. Instead, he slays animals and covers Adam and Eve with the skins of the animals so that their sinful nakedness might be covered.



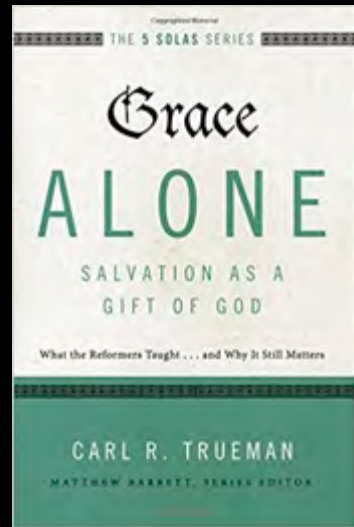
God deals with the immediate problem of their guilt in the manner of his own choosing. In other words, he provides the solution to the problem of Adam's sin. In Genesis 3, for all his wrath at Adam's rebellion, he is revealed to be a gracious God who saves his people through animal sacrifice.

These themes recur throughout the Scriptures, as we find again in Genesis 22, for example. After God has asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son to the Lord, Abraham makes the portentous statement that God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering (Gen 22: 8). Again, we see God revealed as gracious because he provides for his people what they cannot provide for themselves — the sacrifice required for sin. Grace and sacrifice are inextricably linked throughout God's dealings with his Old Testament people.



It is perhaps worth pausing here for a moment and reflecting on the existential implications of the fact that sacrifice is connected to salvation and grace. Sacrifices were raw and bloody affairs. It is often said by opponents of the meat industry that more people would be vegetarians if they had to kill the animals they eat.

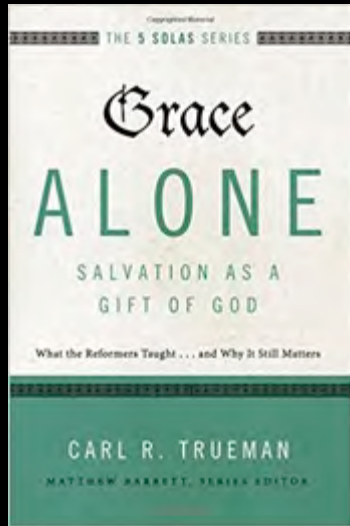
That is probably true because slaughtering an animal is a dramatic and powerful event, especially when it is done by knife



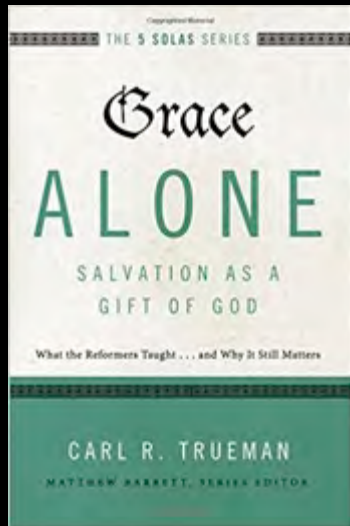
rather than by gun. It involves violence and, quite literally, blood and guts. Imagine the impact on Adam and Eve of being clothed with the raw, bloodied hides of the animals slain by God to cover them. This would have been quite a contrast to the leaves they had chosen for themselves.



The Lord was signaling to them that their actions had catastrophic consequences beyond their wildest nightmares. And imagine being present at a sacrifice and seeing the lifeblood literally pour out of a lamb. It is one thing to understand the cultic and doctrinal significance of sacrifice. It is quite another to witness it firsthand.



Human alienation from God is something that affects us at the deepest level, and it is a problem of catastrophic proportions. The anodyne, coolly objective ways in which we discuss sacrifice in the lecture room, or the transformation of the cross into an item of costume jewelry, are eloquent testimonies to the way we have turned the problem of the human condition and the response of God's grace into ideas that verge on being mere abstractions. The violent nature of sacrifice stands in judgment on the inadequacy of such conceptions and reminds us of the powerful, existential dimension of human rebellion and divine grace. Sin is violent, lethal rebellion against God; and biblical grace is God's violent, raw, and bloody response.



~ Carl Trueman, *Grace Alone---Salvation as a Gift of God: What the Reformers Taught...and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series), pages 30-31.

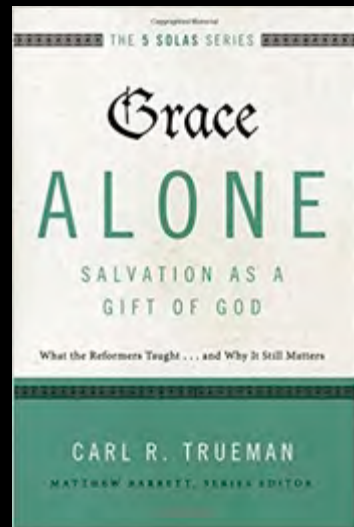
Exodus 34:6-7

⁶And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

Leviticus 16:3

This is how Aaron is to enter the Most Holy Place: He must first bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering...

This fact — that God is the one who establishes and regulates the sacrificial system — should not be ignored. It's significant because it teaches us that the Old Testament sacrifices were not an attempt by human beings to find something that would placate or cajole an angry God. We wrongly imagine that God was angry with his people and they somehow discovered ways to twist his arm and earn his favor despite their sin. The Scriptures teach us that it was God who took the initiative, revealing how sinful humans could relate to him. He established the content, the terms, and the results of the sacrifices



because his wrath needed to be satisfied in a particular way. This initiative is further evidence of his grace and favor toward his people. This is not humanity reaching up to God but God reaching down to humanity, an action completely founded in God's unmerited favor toward his people. He establishes by grace the sacrifices which serve to satisfy his justice.

~ Carl Trueman, *Grace Alone---Salvation as a Gift of God: What the Reformers Taught...and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series), pages 29-30.

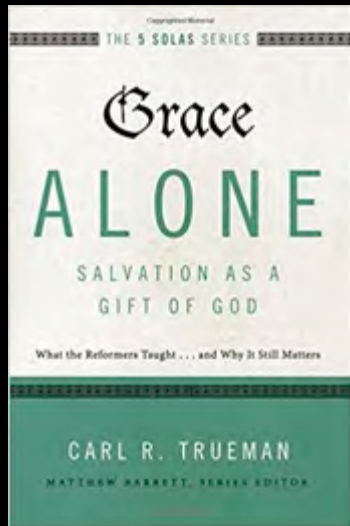
Numbers 6:24-26

²²The LORD said to Moses, ²³“Tell Aaron and his sons,
‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

²⁴“ ‘ “The LORD bless you and keep you;
²⁵the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
²⁶the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.” ’

²⁷“So they will put my name on the Israelites,
and I will bless them.”

The blessing of Numbers 6 was originally given to the Aaronic priesthood, and this ties it closely to the entire sacrificial system of the Old Testament. We should note this because we have a tendency today to reduce grace to a kind of divine sentiment. This reduction of grace cheapens forgiveness. We wrongly believe that apologizing will be sufficient to cover the evil of our sin. But grace is far more than a sentimental notion. Grace is connected to God's being and God's action, especially God's action in Christ. It is therefore costly and not to be treated in a light fashion as if it were something cheap.

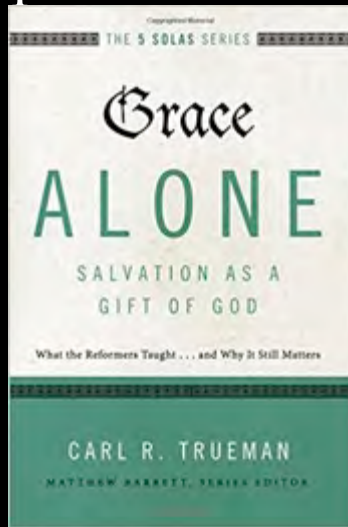


~ Carl Trueman, *Grace Alone---Salvation as a Gift of God: What the Reformers Taught...and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series), pages 28-29.

Isaiah 53:1-6

¹Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Here we see the culmination of God's gracious action focused on the Servant. Our griefs and our sorrows have been borne by him. Our peace is bought as he is crushed and chastised. Our sins and transgressions have been laid on him by the Lord so that we might not have to bear their consequences ourselves. God is the agent in this work on our behalf. It is not a response to any good actions we have performed. Rather, it is the opposite: this is how God responds to our sinful rebellion. God's graciousness finds fulfillment in the work of the Servant. Here God's unmerited salvific favor is enacted and displayed for all to see. Isaiah's prophecies of the Servant and his gracious activity point us forward, to the fullness of God's grace revealed in Christ in the New Testament.



~ Carl Trueman, *Grace Alone---Salvation as a Gift of God: What the Reformers Taught...and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series), page 35.

**Grace in the
NEW TESTAMENT**

John 1:14-17

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' "

¹⁶From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-10

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in

transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might

show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his

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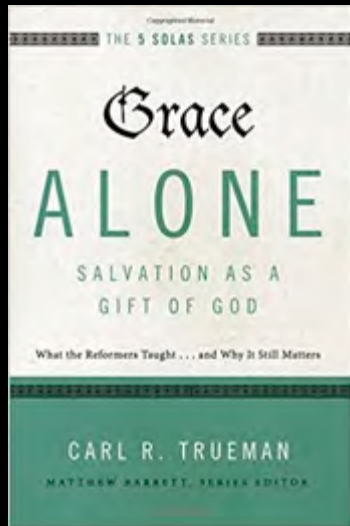
saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of

God – ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which

God prepared in advance for us to do.

This human depravity does not mean that all are as bad or as wicked as they can be. There is a distinct difference between the polite atheist who lives at the corner of the street and is a good neighbor and friend, and the Adolf Hitlers and the serial killers of this world. In claiming we are dead in trespasses and sins, Paul is making a point about our relationship with God: if we are to be brought back into his favor and enjoy that holy communion with him for which we were originally designed, then God must take the initiative. We do not need spiritual healing, for that would imply we are merely in need of repair. We need spiritual resurrection. And resurrection is the unilateral act of God, not a cooperative exercise between the living God and the dead. That is vital for an accurate understanding of grace. Grace is not God giving wholesome advice or a helping hand. It is God raising someone from the dead, first Christ and then those who are in Christ.

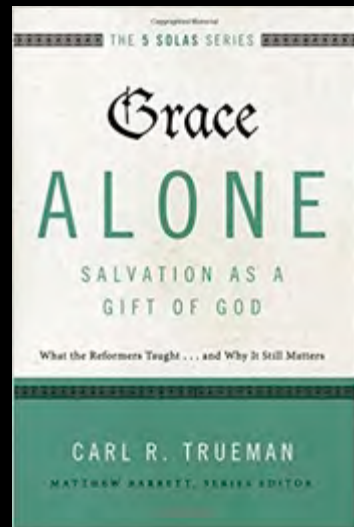


~ Carl Trueman, *Grace Alone---Salvation as a Gift of God: What the Reformers Taught...and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series), pages 40-41.

Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

If we are ever tempted to think of grace in abstract terms, then this passage, rather like the passages on sacrifice in the Old Testament, should cure us of such. The grace of God here is not simply the fact that God set forth his own Son to be a sacrifice, if that were not in itself amazing enough. It is that the incarnate Son even now continues to intercede for us on the basis of his sacrifice and does so in a manner that takes full account of his human nature and of his incarnate life.



God is terrifying and awesome in his absolute holiness; yet because of his grace manifest in Christ, we are urged to approach him with confidence. The grace of God in Christ incarnate is the cure for all diffidence and timidity in prayer.

~ Carl Trueman, *Grace Alone---Salvation as a Gift of God: What the Reformers Taught...and Why It Still Matters* (The Five Solas Series), page 37-38.

Luther on GRACE

**“GOD DOESN'T
LOVE US BECAUSE OF
OUR WORTH,
WE ARE OF WORTH
BECAUSE GOD
LOVES US.”**

- Martin Luther

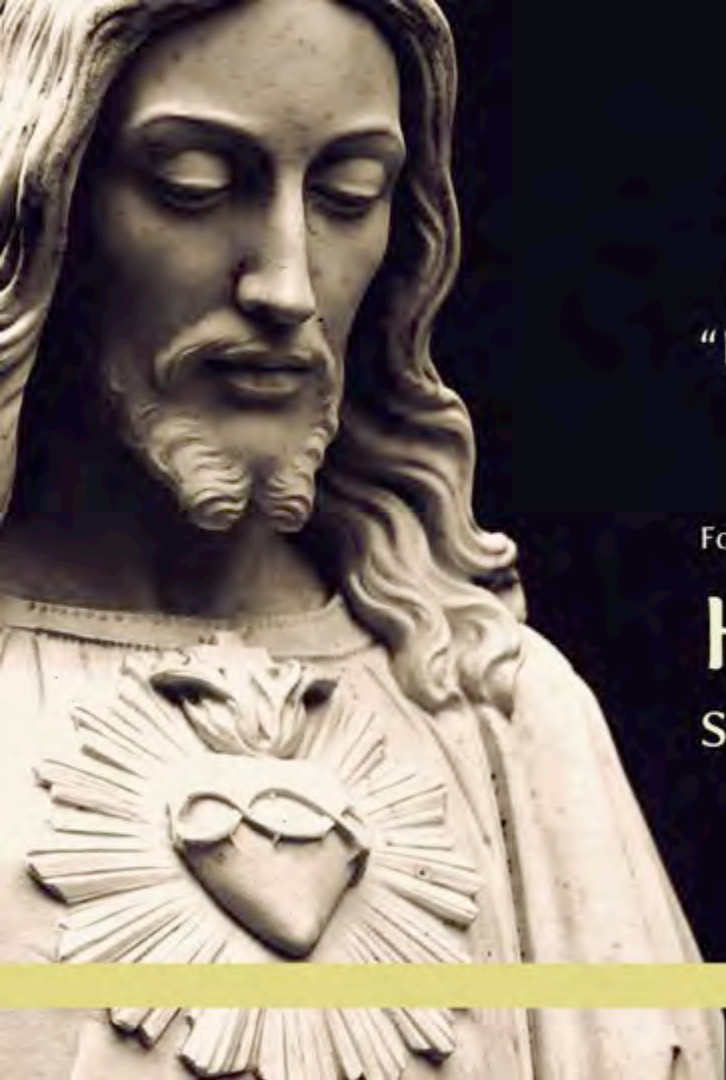


Preach the
Gospel
.ORG

God has surely promised His grace to the humbled, that is, to those who mourn over and despair of themselves. But a man cannot be thoroughly humbled till he realizes that his salvation is utterly beyond his own powers, counsels, efforts, will and works, and depends, absolutely on the will, counsel, pleasure and works of Another - God alone. As long as he is persuaded that he can make even the smallest contribution to his salvation, he remains self-confident and does not utterly despair of himself, and so is not humbled before God.



~ Martin Luther, *The Bondage of the Will*.



“So when the **devil** throws your **sins** in your face and declares that you
deserve **death** and **hell**, tell him this:

“I admit that I deserve **death** and **hell**,
what of it?”

For I know **One** who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf.

His name is Jesus Christ,
Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!”

~ Martin Luther, *Letters of Spiritual Counsel*, trans. and ed. Theodore G. Tappert
(Vancouver, British Columbia: Regent College, 2003), 86-87

Christ is full of grace, life, and salvation. The soul is full of sins, death, and damnation. Now let faith come between them and sins, death, and damnation will be Christ's, while grace, life, and salvation will be the soul's; for if Christ is a bridegroom, he must take upon himself the things which are his bride's and bestow upon her the things that are his. If he gives her his body and very self, how shall he not give her all that is his? And if he takes the body of the bride, how shall he not take all that is hers?



~ Martin Luther, *The Freedom of the Christian Man*, in
The Works of Martin Luther, 31: 351.

Becoming a
PEOPLE TRANSFORMED BY
GRACE

TRANSFORMING

GRACE

**LIVING CONFIDENTLY IN
GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE**

JERRY BRIDGES

Author of The Pursuit of Holiness, The Pursuit of Godliness, and Trusting God

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

1. Live with a vague sense of His disapproval.

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

1. Live with a vague sense of His disapproval.
2. Feel ashamed bringing your needs before Him when you've just failed Him.

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

1. Live with a vague sense of His disapproval.
2. Feel ashamed bringing your needs before Him when you've just failed Him.
3. Think of His grace as something that makes up the difference between the best you can do and what He expects from you.

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

4. Feel you deserve an answer to prayer because of your hard work and sacrifice.

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

4. Feel you deserve an answer to prayer because of your hard work and sacrifice.
5. Assume that 1 John 1:9 no longer applies to you now that you've sinned so many times you've used up all your credit.

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

4. Feel you deserve an answer to prayer because of your hard work and sacrifice.
5. Assume that 1 John 1:9 no longer applies to you now that you've sinned so many times you've used up all your credit.
6. Feel more confident before Him if you've been "faithful" with your Christian disciplines (prayer, quiet time, witnessing, etc.).

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

7. Can't honestly say you see yourself as “blameless” in His eyes.

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

7. Can't honestly say you see yourself as "blameless" in His eyes.
8. Aren't experiencing consistent peace and joy in your life.

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7. Can't honestly say you see yourself as "blameless" in His eyes.
8. Aren't experiencing consistent peace and joy in your life.
9. Don't really believe He likes you.

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You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

7. Can't honestly say you see yourself as "blameless" in His eyes.
8. Aren't experiencing consistent peace and joy in your life.
9. Don't really believe He likes you.
10. Can think of someone you look down on.

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

11. Shy away from asking Him things because you think it annoys Him.

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You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

11. Shy away from asking Him things because you think it annoys Him.
12. Haven't recently been tempted to go ahead and sin because you know your performance has nothing to do with your standing before Him.

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

11. Shy away from asking Him things because you think it annoys Him.
12. Haven't recently been tempted to go ahead and sin because you know your performance has nothing to do with your standing before Him.
13. Think of the Christian life as what you do in a day rather than the chance to experience an unending supply of His goodness toward you.

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

14. Fear that the day may not go as well as expected because you missed your time in the Bible.

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

14. Fear that the day may not go as well as expected because you missed your time in the Bible.
15. Assume you can do something to make Him love you more or less.

From *Transforming Grace* by Jerry Bridges

You know you don't understand God's grace when you:

14. Fear that the day may not go as well as expected because you missed your time in the Bible.
15. Assume you can do something to make Him love you more or less.
16. Believe you've been called into His service because of your worthiness or qualifications.

Becoming a
PEOPLE TRANSFORMED BY
GRACE

Receiving Grace



Becoming a
PEOPLE TRANSFORMED BY
GRACE

Living in Grace

Grace and Freedom!

Galatians 5:13-14

¹³You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free.

But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command:

“Love your neighbor as yourself.

Licentiousness

I'm saved by grace alone

SO:

"I'll do whatever I feel
like doing"





FREEDOM!!!

Freedom!

um, from what?

Freedom!

um, from what?

- GUILT
- SHAME
- THE GOSPEL OF
SELF-EFFORT
- DESERVEDNESS
- FEELING
UNLOVED
- IDENTITY AS
FAILURE
- GLOOM & DOOM
- WRATH OF GOD
- PRIDE
- LAW
- LICENSE





The Difficult Ride of the Christian Life



Slippery Slope

The Difficult Ride of the Christian Life



Legalism

Slippery Slope



The Difficult Ride of the Christian Life



Legalism

Slippery Slope

License



The Difficult Ride of the Christian Life



Legalism

Slippery Slope

License



Love



Titus 2:11-13

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“ “ A Christian is free and independent in every respect, a bond servant to none. A Christian is a dutiful servant in every respect, owning a duty to everyone.



~ G. Ebeling, *Luther: An Introduction to His Thought*
(Philadelphia: Fortress, 1972), 212.

**Becoming a
PEOPLE OF GRACE**

Giving Grace

LIVE  **GENEROUSLY**



1517



2017

AMAZING GRACE

The Reformation to the Glory of God

Gospel Application:

*Are you gripped by the grace of God
expressed in the gospel of Jesus Christ?*

How are you living this out in love?