

The Doctrine of Grace

I. Introduction & Definitions

A. Hebrew Vocabulary.

1. חָנַן chanan #2603_{76x}: *show favor, be gracious* (Gen. 33:11; Ex. 33:19; Num. 6:25; 2nd Sam. 12:22).
2. חֵן chēn #2580_{69x}: *favor, grace* (Gen. 6:8; Ex. 33:12,13_{x2},16,17; Prov. 3:34).
3. חַנּוּן channuwn #2587_{13x}: *gracious* (Ex. 34:6; Neh. 9:17; Joel 2:13; Jon. 4:2).
4. Personal names Hannah & Hananiah come from this root.
5. The terms for supplication come from this root as appeals to God's grace. חַנּוּנָה t^chinnah #8467 & תַּחֲנוּן tach^anuwn #8469.
6. Often || to חֶסֶד chesed #2617 *lovingkindness* and/or רַחֵם racham #7356 *compassion* (Ps. 51:1).

B. Greek Vocabulary.

1. χάρις charis #5485_{155x}: *grace* (Jn. 1:14,16,17; Eph. 2:8; 2nd Pet. 3:18).
2. χάρισμα charisma #5486_{17x}: *gift* (Rom. 6:23; 11:29; 12:6; 1st Cor. 12:4).
3. χαριτόω charitoō #5487_{2x}: *to freely bestow* (Eph. 1:6).
4. The terms for forgiveness and thanksgiving come from this root as recognition of God's grace. χαρίζομαι charizomai #5483 & εὐχαριστέω eucharisteō #2168.
5. The early church fathers adopted the term Eucharist for the grace and thanksgiving of the Lord's table (Did. 9; ISmyr. 8).

C. Seven Fundamental Facts About Grace (Adapted from L.S. Chafer, *Grace*, pp.3-22. Philadelphia, PA: Sunday School Times Company, 1922).

1. Grace is not withheld because of demerit.
2. Grace cannot be lessened because of demerit.
3. Grace cannot incur a debt.
4. Grace is not exercised in the just payment of a debt.
5. Grace is never the over-payment of a debt.
6. Grace does not appear in the immediate divine dealings with the sins of the unsaved.
7. Grace does not appear in the immediate divine dealings with the sins of the saved.

II. Development & Applications.

A. Saving Grace.

1. Common Grace is the blessing of mankind to live and move and exist in the world God created for our habitation (Acts 17:24-28). Our life and breath and everything comes from Him (v.25).
2. Prevenient Grace is God's work on fallen mankind's behalf which allows the unbeliever to comprehend the gospel and respond by faith (Jn. 6:37,44,45).
3. Efficacious Grace is the grace of God which provides salvation at the very moment the offer of eternal life is accepted by faith (Acts 15:6-11; Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8,9).
4. Safe-keeping in Grace (1st Pet. 1:5,10,13).

B. Living Grace.

1. Logistical Grace: All that we receive.
 - a. Everything I possess is a testimony to God's grace. I cannot boast in even one thing (1st Cor. 4:7).
 - b. This perspective enables me to embrace a scum of the world orientation (1st Cor. 4:8-13).
 - c. Grace orientation allows a believer to rest in perfect financial contentedness (Phil. 4:11-13).
 - d. Grace orientation allows a believer to identify the priestly function for our expenditures and the faithfulness of God for our income (Phil. 4:18-20).
 - e. Our needs are simple (Prov. 30:8-9; 1st Tim. 6:6-10; Heb. 13:5), and any abundance is designed to be shared (2nd Cor. 8:14; Eph. 4:28; 1st Tim. 6:17-19).
2. Ontological Grace: All that we are (1st Cor. 15:10a).
 - a. Saints by grace (1st Tim. 1:15-16).
 - b. Spiritually gifted by grace (Rom. 12:3,6; Eph. 3:7,8).
3. Applicational Grace: All that we do (1st Cor. 15:10b).
 - a. God the Father graciously and powerfully works within believers (1st Cor. 12:6; Phil. 2:13; Col. 1:29).
 - b. Jesus Christ set the pattern that we follow in this aspect of the Christian walk (2nd Cor. 5:19).
 - c. Grace orientation allows a believer to relax concerning unseen results (1st Cor. 3:6).
4. Surpassing Grace (2nd Cor. 9:14; Eph. 2:7).
 - a. Saving grace is made possible when One serves on behalf of the many. Surpassing grace is made possible when the many serve on behalf of the One who saved them.
 - b. Christ gave Himself, and in appreciation we can give ourselves to Him (2nd Cor. 8:1-5).
 - c. This grace orientation allows a believer to maintain abundant joy in giving no matter the ordeal of affliction we endure (2nd Cor. 8:2).
 - d. We can be thankful for surpassing grace here in time (2nd Cor. 9:14), but the full manifestation of surpassing grace awaits the ages to come (Eph. 2:7).
5. Sufficient Grace (2nd Cor. 12:9).
 - a. Sufficient grace enables the believer to display God's power in every testing circumstance (2nd Cor. 12:9; Phil. 4:13; Isa. 40:28-31).
 - b. This grace orientation allows a believer to resist the desire to have their problems taken away (2nd Cor. 12:8).
 - c. This grace orientation allows a believer to identify with God's faithfulness and successfully navigate to His designed ekbasis (1st Cor. 10:13).
6. Growing in Grace (2nd Pet. 3:18).
 - a. Untaught, unstable, unprincipled ones actively seek to carry away the unsuspecting believer (2nd Pet. 2:18-19; 3:16-17; 2nd Cor. 11:3,13-15; 2nd Tim. 3:6-9).
 - b. We must remain ever vigilant so we don't join in the self-destructive apostasy (2nd Pet. 3:14,17; 1st Cor. 10:12; Heb. 3:12).
 - c. The best defense against apostasy snares is to maintain a consistent growth regimen—not for one's own sake but for the eternal glory of Jesus Christ (2nd Pet. 3:18).

C. Dying Grace (Ps. 23:4; Phil. 1:21ff.; 2nd Tim. 4:6-8).

1. The faithful Lord who walks with us through life, will walk with us through the occasion and circumstances of our physical death (Ps. 23:4).
2. This grace orientation is so occupied with Christ that matters of life and death are hard to choose between (Phil. 1:21ff.).
3. This grace orientation rests in a marvelous assurance that our assignment is complete (2nd Tim. 4:6-8).

III. A Summary & Conclusion can be achieved by reviewing the NT Survey of Grace that was taught in 1st Corinthians 15.