

KNOWING GOD LSN 9

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THE GRACE OF GOD

GRACE

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- A. Short Definition: God's unmerited kindness**
- B. Long Definition: God's commitment to do good to those who do not deserve it**

GRACE - KEY VSS

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- *The God of all grace* (1 Pet. 5:10).
- *Come, buy . . . without cost* (Isa. 55:1).
- *The Lord gives grace* (Psa. 84:11).
- *[God & Jesus] full of grace* (John 1:14).
- *Grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ* (John 1:16-17).

GRACE - CLARIFIED

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- 1. Grace is, by definition, not a divine obligation.**
- 2. Grace allows us to stand in God's presence.**

GRACE - CLARIFIED

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3. Grace rescues us in accord with both God's love and holiness.

- **In His holiness, God hates the sin that defines me.**
- **In love, God seeks my best.**
- **Grace makes it possible for God to seek my best without doing violence to His holiness.**

GRACE - CLARIFIED

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3. Grace rescues us in accord with both God's love and holiness.

“Being justified as a gift **by His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, . . . so that He would be **just** and the **justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Rom. 3:24–26).

GRACE - CLARIFIED

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4. Salvation can only be acquired by grace alone.

- *But if it [God's saving choice] is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace (Rom. 11:6).*
- **Grace + merit ≠ grace.**

GRACE - CLARIFIED

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5. God imparts grace to us in several different ways.

- Saving grace
- Sustaining grace

*And God is able to make **all** grace abound to you, so that **always** having **all** sufficiency in **everything**, you may have an abundance for **every** good deed (2 Cor. 9:8).*

GRACE - CLARIFIED

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5. God imparts grace to us in several different ways.

- Saving grace
- Sustaining grace
- Heart grace

"It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace" (Heb. 13:9).

GRACE - CLARIFIED

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5. God imparts grace to us in several different ways.

- Heart grace

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **instructing us to deny** ungodliness and worldly desires and **to live** sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age (Titus 2:11-12).*

When God's grace enters the heart, it becomes an internal tutor providing ongoing instruction, both negative and positive, that is pertinent to practical living.

Grace schools men in how to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to say yes to self-control, godliness, and holiness.

GRACE - CLARIFIED

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5. God imparts grace to us in several different ways.

- Saving grace
- Sustaining grace
- Heart grace
- Future grace

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:13).

And when He had **taken a cup** and given thanks, ***72**
 He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves;
 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the
 vine from now on until the kingdom of God
 comes." And when He had **taken some bread** and
 given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them,
 saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do
 this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way
 He **took the cup after they had eaten**, saying,
 "This cup which is poured out for you is the new
 covenant in My blood" (Luke 22:17-20).

GRACE - CLARIFIED

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6. Men can limit their receipt of grace.

- All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives **grace to the humble** (1 Pet. 5:5).
- It is not the case that humility **earns** grace; this is contrary to the very nature of grace. But humility is, by its very nature, an admission of the absence of merit. To such a one, God delights to give grace!

GRACE - CLARIFIED

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B. Long Definition: God's commitment to do good to those who do not deserve it

- God is pleased to do good to us without regard for merit, especially as we admit we have no merit!

GRACE - IMPLICATIONS

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1. God's grace always "outflanks" sin - there is no mess that sin can make that is beyond grace's ability to more than put to rights.

- *The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more* (Rom. 5:20).

GRACE - IMPLICATIONS

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2. God's grace overcomes weakness and limitation.

- *And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong* (2 Cor. 12:7-10).

GRACE - IMPLICATIONS

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2. God's grace overcomes weakness and limitation.

- Weaknesses, Criticisms, Obstacles, Persecutions, and Limitations are desirable! **(1)** God's grace works more actively under these conditions. **(2)** There is no doubt about how much credit **WE** deserve. And **(3)**, what is accomplished is "only by the hand of God."

GRACE – IMPLICATIONS

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3. The recipients of grace ought to be fluent in the language of grace!

- *Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will **give grace** to those who hear (Eph. 4:29).*

GRACE – IMPLICATIONS

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4. The recipients of grace ought to be good stewards of grace.

- *As each one has received a special **gift (charisma)**, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the **manifold grace (charis) of God** (1 Pet. 4:10).*
- **Recipients of vertical grace are accountable to impart horizontal grace!**

GRACE – IMPLICATIONS

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5. We are authorized to use our identification with Jesus as a basis to request grace!

- *Therefore let us **draw near with confidence** to the **throne of grace**, so that we may receive mercy and **find grace to help in time of need** (Heb. 4:16).*
- **We are invited and authorized to come for grace precisely because we can admit we have no basis for being there except that Jesus is our high priest!**

GRACE – IMPLICATIONS

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6. Merit thinking has got to go!

- Peter exhorted believers *to grow in the grace . . . of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* (2 Pet. 3:18). **Grace is like the soil in which God's people grow best.**
- Our relationship with God will not thrive when we define it on the basis of worth and merit. (This doesn't mean we are complacent about doing what is right.)

GRACE – IMPLICATIONS

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6. Merit thinking has got to go!

- **A relationship with God that is grounded in and sustained by grace gives us far more reason to live for His pleasure than the merit plan could ever muster.**
- **Which is more motivating? Performing to earn love or expressing a secure love?**