

GRACE

Light

December 29, 2019

Introduction: The apostle Paul writes, *for by grace you have been saved through faith*. If you are like me, I recognize the need for God's grace every day – every day. We need grace. We appreciate God's grace. And in our deepest times of need, we have confidence to draw near God's throne receiving mercy and finding this grace we so desperately need. Yet... Jesus never used the word. Do you not find this significant? Such an important theological word and Jesus never mentions it. John is the only gospel writer who attaches the word grace to Jesus. ...*the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*. John goes on to say, *from his fullness we have all received grace upon grace*. So, is this word important? Absolutely!

⁶ *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God **merciful and gracious, slow to anger**, and abounding in **steadfast love and faithfulness**, ⁷ **keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving** iniquity and transgression and sin..."* (Exodus 34:6–7).

¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of **grace and truth**.* ¹⁵ *(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")* ¹⁶ *For from his fullness we have all received, **grace upon grace**.* ¹⁷ *For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth** came through Jesus Christ.* ¹⁸ *No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known (John 1:14–18).*

I. The Grace of Flesh

*And the Word **became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have **seen his glory**, glory as of the **only Son from the Father**, full of **grace and truth** (John 1:14).*

*But **we see him**... namely Jesus, crowned with **glory and honor** because of the **suffering of death**, so that by the **grace of God** he might **taste death for everyone** (Hebrews 2:9).*

II. The Grace of Fullness

*For from **his fullness** we have all received, **grace upon grace** (John 1:16).*

¹⁶ *...according to **the riches of his glory** he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,* ¹⁷ *so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,* ¹⁸ *may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,* ¹⁹ *and **to know the love of Christ** that surpasses knowledge, that **you may be filled with all the fullness of God** (Ephesians 3:16–19).*

III. The Grace of a Shepherd

*I am the **good shepherd**. The good shepherd **lays down his life for the sheep** (John 10:11).*

²³ And I will set up over them **one shepherd**, my **servant David**, and he shall **feed them**: he shall feed them and **be their shepherd**. ²⁴ And I, the Lord, will be their God, and **my servant David shall be prince** among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken (Ezekiel 34:23–24).

A Shepherd's Grace Expressed
Psalm 23

A. Grace supplies my needs.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want (Psalm 23:1).

*And my God will **supply every need** of yours according to his riches in glory in **Christ Jesus** (Philippians 4:19).*

B. Grace gives rest.

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters (Psalm 23:2).

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest** (Matthew 11:28).*

C. Grace restores.

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake (Psalm 23:3).

*Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give to you**. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid (John 14:27).*

D. Grace protects.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me (Psalm 23:4).

⁴ "I tell you, my friends, **do not fear** those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ³² **Fear not, little flock**, for it is your Father's good pleasure to **give you the kingdom** (Luke 12:4, 32).

E. Grace anoints.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows (Psalm 23:5).

¹⁶ So we have come to know and to **believe the love that God has for us**. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because **as he is so also are we in this world** (1 John 4:16–17).

F. Grace brings salvation.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23:6).

*¹¹ For the **grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people**, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who **gave himself for us** to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are **zealous for good works**. ¹⁵ Declare these things... (Titus 2:11–15).*

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- I. The Grace of _____ (*John 1:14*) (*Hebrews 2:9*)
- II. The Grace of _____ (*John 1:16*) (*Ephesians 3:16–19*)
- III. The Grace of a _____ (*John 10:11*) (*Ezekiel 34:23–24*) (*Isaiah 54:8*)

A Shepherd's Grace Expressed – Psalm 23

- A. Grace supplies my _____.
The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want (Psalm 23:1). (Philippians 4:19)
- B. Grace gives _____.
He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters (Psalm 23:2). (Matthew 11:28).
- C. Grace _____.
He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake (Psalm 23:3). (John 14:27)
- D. Grace _____.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me (Psalm 23:4). (Luke 12:4, 32)
- E. Grace _____.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows (Psalm 23:5). (1 John 4:16–17)
- F. Grace brings _____.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23:6). (Titus 2:11–15)