

## Grace

- Opening Scripture: Titus 2:11-12
- What is grace?
  - Greek: graciousness; the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life (including gratitude); acceptable, benefit; favour; gift; joy; liberality; pleasure; thank(s); thankworthy
  - dictionary: favor or goodwill; a manifestation of favor especially by a superior; favor shown in granting a delay or temporary immunity; moral strength
  - theological definition: the freely given, unmerited favor and love of God; the influence or Spirit of God operating in humans to regenerate or strengthen them; a virtue or excellence of divine origin; the condition of being in God's favor or one of the elect
  - grace was prophesied of by the prophets (I Peter 1:9-10)
  - grace came through Jesus (John 1:15-17)
- What does grace do?
  - we are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:5, 8, Titus 3:4-7, Acts 15:11)
  - grace keeps us from sin (Romans 6:14-15, 1-2)
  - it is able to build us up spiritually (Acts 20:32)
- How does grace operate?
  - grace is a gift given by God (James 4:6, Ephesians 2:8)
  - given to the humble (James 4:6)
  - we can fall from or frustrate the grace of God (Hebrews 12:14-15, Galatians 2:21, 5:2-6)
- What are some characteristics of grace?
  - we can come boldly to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16)
  - given for service (Ephesians 3:7-8)
  - given in time of trouble (II Corinthians 12:8-10)
  - hope through grace (II Thessalonians 2:16-17)
  - the riches of God's grace (Ephesians 1:7, 2:7)
- Conclusions
  - grace is a spiritual gift from God as a result of His favor
  - initially, God's grace is presented to everyone for salvation (opening scripture)
  - however, there are deeper levels in God that we can seek after as we look into God's "riches" and seek to be used by Him
  - also, in time of trouble, we can freely go to God's throne of grace and ask for anything we need