

## By Grace You Have Been Saved

**Ephesians 2:1** And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

**Ephesians 2:2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

**Ephesians 2:3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the rest.

**Ephesians 2:4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

**He loved us.** This does not refer to a past tense—*He loved us* but *with which He loves us* He still loves us, God will always love us, nothing can change the love of God for us. God found a way to love us without compromising His righteousness or His justice or any other of His characteristics.

Since God is perfect, His love is perfect!

**But the God being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loves us.** This refers to every believer regardless of your spiritual status. You see that word *great*? That refers to the magnitude of His love.

**By Grace You Have Been Saved**  
**Ephesians 2:5**

God loves us whether we love Him or not.

**1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved  
US.**

In the sovereignty of God He has made a decision to love us. And since He is also immutable, He will always love us. His love will never change whether we are faithful or faithless, whatever we do or fail to do, no matter how good or how bad we may be, whatever we may do or fail to do, God will keep on loving us. He will never change His love for you. He has already decided to keep on loving you and He found a way to love us. God is absolute righteousness, while we are unstable, failures, depending on our response to His Word or fail to take in the Word of God. God loves us with a perfect love because He is perfect.

By the way, let's talk about you and those who love you. If anyone loves you it is a compromise of their righteousness, and their justice. It is a compromise of every characteristic which they possess that is noble. But they continue to love! And so does our God!

**But the God being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loves us...***Even when we were dead in our transgressions* This is how we were before we were found by grace, found by God. We were not worth loving, we were spiritually dead, we were under the control of Satan, we were under the control of our sin nature. (verses 1,2,3) This was our understanding of total depravity.

**Even when we were all dead in our transgressions.** This is told us, how we were, so that we will never forget how we were and how God changes us, or *made us alive together*, that is with all people since the time of Adam.

**Together with Christ.** Even when we were dead in our transgressions, He made us alive together in association with Christ.

**By Grace You Have Been Saved**  
**Ephesians 2:5**

At this point we need to look at the doctrine of Propitiation because this is the way He accomplished our being made alive in association with Christ. This is the way that God is able to take His perfect love and direct it toward us.

***Doctrine of Propitiation***

1. Let's start with understanding Propitiation: it is the act of gaining or regaining the favor or goodwill of mankind from God. So you can grasp Propitiation look at some simple words for Propitiation. Something like *appease, or mollify, or pacify* while they mean "to ease the anger or disturbance of God."

One way to understand Propitiation is the difference between Propitiation and Atonement.

Propitiation is the divine side of the work of Christ on the cross. Atonement is the *covering over of sin*.

Propitiation God recognizes what Christ accomplished in behalf of the world.

Atonement is the reconciliation between God and man, accomplished by Jesus Christ on the cross.

Propitiation rendered God as *satisfied* toward the unsaved.

Atonement is the special result of Christ's *sacrificial* suffering and spiritual death by virtue of which all receive forgiveness of sins.

Propitiation the fact that God is now satisfied by the work of Jesus Christ.

Atonement *ransomed and or redemption* means Atonement has occurred, the act of gaining or regaining the favor or goodwill of mankind to God.

**By Grace You Have Been Saved**  
**Ephesians 2:5**

While the word Propitiation is mentioned in the New Testament, the word Atonement is not mentioned in the New Testament.

2. The Greek word for *Propitiation* actually means *the mercy Seat* referring to the mercy seat over the ark of the covenant. It can also be correctly translated 'place of propitiation'. This should be translated *place of propitiation, or means of expiation*.

The basic meaning is 'the act of gaining or regaining the favor or goodwill of mankind from God.'

3. To understand the mercy seat one must first of all comprehend the Ark of the Covenant. Ex. 25:10-22 and Ex. 37:1-9 declares the concept of the Ark of the Covenant.
4. In summary, the Ark was a wooden box, 2 ½ cubits long (that is 45") by 1 ½ high (27") by 1 ½ cubits wide (again 27"). The wood was acacia wood (acacia wood is incredible and one of the best woods that supports both indoors and outdoors). It was a box made out of acacia wood, and the box is overlaid with gold. The gold represents the deity of Christ, and wood represents the humanity of Christ. So, we have a box called the Ark of the Covenant constructed of wood and gold. Jesus Christ is God, He is sovereignty, absolute righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, omnipotence, immutability, and veracity. But as God He cannot go to the cross. Sovereignty cannot reduce itself to one point. Immutability cannot change its characteristics. Righteousness will have nothing to do with sin, except through justice to condemn it. There's no way that Christ as God can go to the cross. So that is the gold in the ark. The wood in the ark speaks of the fact that Christ would become, in the fullness of time, (Galatians 4:4) true humanity, as He did. And the wood represents the fact that Christ had a human body, and He had a human soul, and the soul had no

**By Grace You Have Been Saved**  
**Ephesians 2:5**

sin nature, that is the virgin birth. He also was born with and retained a human spirit. So Jesus Christ was a trichotomus being during the time of His incarnation, at the same time He was impeccable.

The Ark of the Covenant is a portrayal of the hypostatic union, and the impeccability of Jesus Christ.

5. There are three verses of Scripture in the Bible that tells us the content of the Ark (the sacred chest representing to the Hebrews the presence of God among them) Numbers 17:8; 17:10; and Hebrews 9:4.

**Numbers 17:8 Now on the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony; and behold, the rod of Aaron's for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds.**

**Numbers 17:10 But the Lord said to Moses, "Put back the rod of Aaron before the testimony to be kept as a sign against the rebels, so that you may put an end to their grumblings against Me and they do will not die."**

**Hebrews 9:4 having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tablets of the covenant;**

**By Grace You Have Been Saved**  
**Ephesians 2:5**

There were three things in this box made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold, so it would appear to be a golden box. First, there was the table of the law. The table of the law spoke of sin, as transgression of God's perfect standard. Secondly, there was Aaron's rod that budded, which speaks of sin in terms of reversionism, revolution against God. And finally, there was the pot of manna which speaks of sin, in rejection of the provision of God. So all three articles inside of the box picture sin. They pictured Christ bearing our sins in His own body on the tree.

6. The content of the box therefore indicates the work of Christ on the cross. On the cross Jesus Christ was bearing our sins.

**1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.**

When Christ went to the cross, the sins of the world were poured out upon Him, as it were, using the cup analogy. Sometimes the cup is used in this connection to represent our sins. They are all in one cup as it were. Christ drank the cup, "Father if it be thy will let this cup pass from me, nevertheless not my will but thine be done".  
Matthew 26:39

7. Over the top of the ark was a mercy seat. We have the box, inside which represents the content of sin, and then over the top we have a throne, a mercy seat, with a cherub, a golden cherub on each side of the throne. This throne or seat was made of solid gold. There was a cherub on each end to represent the pertinent characteristics of the essence of God. One cherub represents perfect Righteousness; one cherub represents the Justice of God.

**By Grace You Have Been Saved**  
**Ephesians 2:5**

8. On the day of atonement the high priest took the blood of an animal sacrifice and entered the Holy of Holies and sprinkled this blood over the top of this golden throne. This was the blood of an animal. Now, when righteousness looks at that blood, righteousness is satisfied, God's righteousness, because that blood is a representative analogy of the work of Christ in bearing our sins. Righteousness is satisfied and justice is satisfied, because the animal sacrifice was without spot and blemish, representing that impeccability, the perfection of Jesus Christ. Justice is satisfied because Jesus bore our sins in His body on the tree, and this is what is meant in the English by propitiation. Propitiation means satisfaction.
9. The mercy seat represents the doctrine of propitiation or satisfaction. God the Father is *propitiated* with the work of the Son of God. So, because of propitiation, God is free to take His perfect Love and direct it toward every believer without compromising His righteousness, or His Justice.
10. Therefore the doctrine of Propitiation, emphasizes the uniqueness and the Glory of Jesus Christ.
11. The New Testament description of the Ark and the Mercy Seat is found in Hebrews 9:4-5.

Propitiation is used therefore to manifest the true Love of God.  
1 John 4:10.

We now come to a parenthesis in our passage.

**(By grace you have been saved)** In this statement God found a way to love us!

**By grace you are saved** which has a *perfect passive participle* meaning *you have received salvation—you have received being saved or delivered*. The *passive* voice means that by faith in Christ you receive the

**By Grace You Have Been Saved**  
**Ephesians 2:5**

perfection and eternal *salvation*. You receive for all eternity the moment you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior. *By grace you have been permanently, eternally saved.*

In a few lines we will be at the famous verse: *For by grace you have been saved*, so lets take a look at a study of Grace!

### ***Doctrine of Grace***

1. From R. B. Thieme Jr.: “Grace is all that God is free to do for man on the basis of the cross, on the basis of propitiation.”

Merrill Unger in 1957 “Grace is what God may be free to do and indeed what He does, accordingly, for the lost after Christ has died on behalf of them”.

(Wikipedia) “It is understood by Christians to be a spontaneous gift from God to people – "generous, free and totally unexpected and undeserved" – that takes the form of divine favor, love, clemency, and a share in the divine life of God. It is an attribute of God that is most manifest in the salvation of sinners.”

(C.L. Mitton, 1962) “God’s unmerited free, spontaneous love for sinful man, revealed and made effective in Jesus Christ.”

In Hebrew, grace involves such other subjects as *forgiveness, salvation, regeneration, repentance and the love of God, or grace, favor, acceptance.*

In Greek; *charis* translated: grace, graciousness, kindness, goodwill, gift, favor, thanks and gratitude.

Nelson: favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that person deserves.



**By Grace You Have Been Saved**  
**Ephesians 2:5**

The Revell concise Bible Dictionary “God’s free and spontaneous action taken to meet human need, especially in providing salvation and in enabling the believer.

The Anchor Bible Dictionary Vol. 2 Grace in the Old Testament. “Grace is the favor of God to human beings. The subject of grace in Old Testament is too vast for comprehensive treatment.”

Grace in the New Testament: “Grace is love demonstrated by giving; in the gospel, grace is unmerited divine favor, arising in the mind of God and bestowed on His people. It is often considered with regard to its beneficial effects.”

The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible “In the OT Heb. *hen* means literally, favor (Zech. 4:7; 11:7, 10.) In the NT grace (Gk. *charis*) refers to the unmerited and freely given redeeming action of God through Christ by which sin is forgiven and its power broken, and believers are upheld and strengthened in their Christian life (Rom. 6:14-15; 12:3,6; 15:15; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 8:9; Eph. 1:2; 2:5; 6:24).”

Lexicon of New Testament Greek. “*Charis* has been distinctively appropriate in the New Testament to designate the relation and conduct of God towards sinful man as revealed in and through Christ, especially as an act of spontaneous favour.”

Harper’s Bible Dictionary “Grace, a favorable disposition on the part of God, usually without reference to any merit or desert in the object of the favor, and, especially in the NT, even when the object is entirely lacking in merit or desert. The grace of God is therefore that quality of God’s nature which is the source of men’s undeserved blessing. In particular those blessings which have to do with their salvation from sin.

**By Grace You Have Been Saved**  
**Ephesians 2:5**

2. Let's start with our understanding of God. He is free to love us, He is free to save us. God is actually free from the confinements of His own perfect character to do something for us. As members of the human race, we are imperfect. God is perfect! So grace is God's freedom to express His love to mankind without jeopardizing any part of His essence. Therefore grace is the plan of God!

Grace is the work of God! Grace is the expression of God's perfection, because grace means very simply that God does all the work and man does all of the benefiting.

Grace depends upon the essence or the character of God, therefore grace depends on who and what God is. Grace is what God can do for man and be consistent with His own character or essence, and this is why propitiation is so important.

3. We now look at mankind. Being imperfect it is impossible for us to realize the implications of a perfect God giving us something that is free and essential.
4. God is free to give to mankind because of the cross. The cross of Christ freed God to save us and to save us permanently.
5. The issue: the believer must sort out the difference between grace and legalism. Legalism is man's ability, man's works, man's actions intruding into the plan of God. Man always has some talent he wants to use, some ability, some plan, some gimmick, some concepts that the world wants to incorporate into God's plan. But anything that man throws into the plan of God gets man deeper in debt. Whatever man throws in destroys grace. The plan of God however is not destroyed or neutralized because grace rejects man's talent, or man's ability or man's plans, anything that we have to try to add into God's plan. Man's works, whatever man adds cannot coexist with God's work. They are mutually exclusive and this

**By Grace You Have Been Saved**  
**Ephesians 2:5**

forms a great issue in our life from the moment of salvation on. We are constantly faced with the issue of grace verses legalism. So the point is to stay out of the way and just accept what God does.