

The Grace of God in Truth

Colossians 1:6-8

We are studying Prayer as prayer relates to JESUS CHRIST

Colossians 1:3

³ **3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,**

⁴ **4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;** Spiritual Love from GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT ?????????? motivation for prayer related to eternity future.

⁵ **5 because of the hope/confidence laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel**

⁶ **6 which has come to you,** the impact of the verb to come is that the gospel has arrived and started is supernatural impact. The gospel always has an impact—whether it is believed or not, it never returns void. by the grace of God **just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit** more and more people are believing the gospel **and increasing,** more and more people are hearing the gospel **even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;**

and understood the grace of God in truth; This is one of the richest things that can be said of a congregation, that they understood the Grace of God in Truth.

And understood this is Aorist Active Indicative of the Greek word

epiginosko which fundamentally means to fully know and understand **to comprehend**.

One Lexicon:

“to know exactly, completely”

In comparison with other words for knowing, this word is more often used when a stronger perception or knowledge was meant.

This assembly of believers in Colossae were certainly exceptional in their understanding.

We will see this word again, in the powerful context of Colossians 2:2 -3.

² **that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself,**

³ **in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**
1:6...you heard it and understood This is a wonderful complement from Paul...they fully understood **the grace of God in truth.**

What does ‘in Truth’ modify?

1. It modifies ‘to understand’ They truly understood God’s grace. Most people do not understand the grace of God, but Paul is so impressed with these believers in Colossae for they truly understand the Grace of God...for Salvation, for Spirituality, for living a life that is pleasing to God.

**Many people understand grace at Salvation
but when they turn to the Christian life—
they turn to works and call it grace.**

This is what the book of Galatians is all about. When Paul compares the believers of Galatia with these believers in Colossae, he is so impressed with these believers in their understanding of Grace.

**Do you realize how few people
fully understand the Grace of God in Truth?**

Do you understand the grace of God in truth?
(shame on me if you don't)

Very few from the head of Roman Catholic Church to heads of denominations – preachers in churches, etc. **Grace** is one of those words used by almost everyone, but not everyone has the same understanding as is in the WORD OF GOD.

And by what they call grace, not many are saved.

**Lets look at a brief understanding of Grace
from the WORD OF GOD.**

(1) Unmerited favor or good or blessing... God's unmerited favor of good.

(2)	Divine method of God dealing with man.	
(3)	Sum total of all that concerns God and man.	
		Created by grace
		Saved by grace
		Live by grace
(4)	G od's R iches A t C hrist E xpense	
(5)	Under Grace, God gives to man what He does not deserve, in contrast with Merch where God does not give to man what he deserves.	
(6)	This He does by the substitution of His Son on cross.	
(7)	A true understanding of Grace is essential for grace Guide you into all truth. And to correctly understand what Grace is we have to turn to the Bible.	
I.	Faith is the only (function) of man that is compatible with grace: Romans 4:16	
16	For this reason <i>it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace,</i>	
II.	There is no part of man doing if it is by grace. Romans 11:6	
6	But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.	
III.	A combination of these two verses makes it clear that there is nothing that man can do to earn salvation from God, except to simple believe in the gospel. Ephesians 2:8-9.	
8	For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, <i>it is the gift of God;</i>	

not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

IV. But the teachers who teach a **false view of grace**, also know these verses and many others.

So, what do they do with these verses?

They simply change the definition of Grace.

The reason this way.

If they **DO** something on their list of **doing for salvation**, they simply conclude that **after you do** these things **then God will save you** and that is Grace.

FALSE:

I (God) will do for you if you will do for me
Promise Trust me

These are going on **Promise** and **Faith**
 BUT WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF THEIR FAITH?

What do you have to do for God to bless you?

Here is the difference between all the denominations of your friends in school:
 Baptist, Methodist, Roman Catholic Church, Presbyterian, etc.

Why are there so many different religions and they all use the same Bible?

Here is part of that Answer:

THEY DISAGREE ON WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO FOR GOD!

I (God) will do for you if you will do for me
Promise Trust me

Confess,
Repent,
Keep the Commandments;
Some Rituals
like Baptism
or even Communion,
Join a Church,
Live a Certain Way, etc.

But they conclude, and here is their definition of grace.

I (God) will do for you if you will do for me
Promise Trust me

This is in contrast with the true understanding of grace.

I (God) will do for you
Promise Trust me

This is Grace

you will notice there is **no if clause** under True Grace.

Under true grace, God does all the work, all we do is Trust Him and Believe in the Person and Work of His Son, Jesus the Christ.

V. If saved by grace through faith , how are we to live? How are we to recover the F/HS?

We will see this in Colossians **2:6**

6 **Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.**

VI. If saved by Grace through Faith , how are we to live?
How are we to recover the Filling of the Holy Spirit?

Colossians 2:6

6 **Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.**

How did we receive CHRIST JESUS?

(1) By grace—where we do nothing...no repentance, confession, rituals, etc.

(2) Through faith —only this time it is faith in the one whom God sent for spirituality—GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.

God sent His Son for Salvation and God sent His Spirit for Spirituality.

Colossians 1:6

understood the grace of God in truth This is referring to the Truth of the Gospel...note again verse 5 **...which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel...**so understanding the Grace of God in Truth is Grace in the Truth of the gospel.

First is the all importance of **understanding**. This requires consistent intake and growth in WORD OF GOD and the essential Filling of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches the truth of Scripture.

There are so many doctrines misunderstood, falsely or incorrectly defined doctrines like God Himself, what He is like. Doctrines about Jesus Christ Himself and all these lead to a mass

misunderstanding of the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST, the gospel of God, the gospel of truth, etc. It stands to follow that if one does not understand Grace, he will surely miss the truth of the gospel.

On the one hand the gospel is all inclusive—**Whosoever** but at the same time it is exclusive **only those who believe**. On the one hand it is so simply that it's simplicity is so overlooked: **believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST and you will be saved**. On the other hand it is so complex for it involves so many doctrines.

The doctrine of Redemption —	which looks at the Gospel from the standpoint of sin.
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The doctrine of Propitiation —	which looks at the gospel from the standpoint of God.
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The doctrine of Reconciliation —	which looks at the gospel from the standpoint of the sinners.
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The truth of the gospel demands a Biblical understanding of the Righteousness God being imputed to the one who believes.

Understanding that there is a negative and a positive side of the gospel. The negative is the taking away of sins of the world which happened on the cross but just the removal of sins does not save, there must be the positive side and that is the imputation of God's perfect righteousness which happens as soon as one believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.

Which brings us to another aspect of the gospel,
ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED,
and this because Salvation has nothing to do with sin,

but with the Imputation of Righteousness which God does
and God never takes back
what He has graciously given at saving faith in JESUS CHRIST.

And then, of course, a full discussion of the gospel covers what happens after death into eternity, or *ETERNAL SECURITY*.

And this is not yet the completion of **understanding the grace of God in truth**

Colossians 1:7

7 just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,

Is your pastor-teacher faithful servant of JESUS CHRIST in his study and teaching of the WORD OF GOD?

Lets draw a profile this Pastor-Teacher of Colossians... Epaphras.

1. A beloved fellow comrade of Paul. (absence of arrogance)
2. Faithful servant of JESUS CHRIST Biblical priorities in life.
3. For the benefit of other believers not for his own benefit.
4. Has the Godly priority in speaking of others. (1:8)
5. A bonds slave of JESUS CHRIST. 4:12
6. A faithful prayer warrior. 4:12
7. Godly priorities in his prayers for others. 4:12
8. Fellow prisoner with Paul. Philemon 1:23

He Studies --- He Serves --- He Prays

Colossians 1:7

7 **just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,**

Just as you learned introduces how they learned the gospel.

How do we learn Biblical Truth? One of course is reading it, and another is hearing the truth taught by sound teachers.

Several things are involved with this status of these believers **that they are learned in Spiritual Knowledge** .

First:	They had a Pastor-Teacher who studied and taught the truth of the gospel.
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Second:	Their faithful attendance every time he taught
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Third:	Finally their listening in the power and teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit with the result that they learned .
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This word **-learned-** means to understand what you are learning.

Oh, people it is one thing to learn but it is another to understand what you are learning. And Epaphras was the kind of teaching who in your learning you understood how things went together.

It is the **foundation** that we search for when we seek to understand anything. It is one electrician who can come in and set up your use of all the plug-ins in one room but it is a master electrician who understands how what you do in one room effects

the whole system of that house. Well, the same thing is true in study of the WORD OF GOD, where the basic fundamental structure begins with a solid foundation in understanding God—His essence, how and why God does what God does. And so here in just the first seven verses of Colossians Paul over and over has mention God and JESUS CHRIST.

We could go back now in just seven verses and see if we understand the **foundation** that Paul is setting up between God the Father and JESUS CHRIST and believers.

Where God is mention in 4 out of the first 7 verses and JESUS CHRIST is mentioned in 5 of the first 7 verses, and the gospel is the primary subject of the last three of these seven verses.

And yet very carefully placed in these verses is *Faith* and *Learning*.

Is your Faith the Faith God is looking for?

And are you learning Truth?

Colossians 1:7

7 **just as you learned** and part of what they learned we saw
From verse 6 **and understood the grace of God in truth,**
resuming verse 7
**as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow
bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,**
No Pastor-Teacher is there on behalf of another person

other than on behalf of and for the benefit of JESUS CHRIST.

I am not sure what happened to the scholars of the NASV.
The original manuscripts do not say **a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf.**

The KJ is much closer to what is said in the original manuscripts:
as you learned from Epaphras the beloved fellow-servant of us who is faithful on behalf of you, a minister of Christ.

To whom is Epaphras faithful?
He is faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ.

PASTORS, here is your responsibility, to be Faithful to the Lord **ON BEHALF OF** or **FOR THE BENEFIT OF** those God brings to you to listen and grow under.

Epaphras the beloved this is the attitude that every Pastor-Teacher of the WORD OF GOD should have for other Pastor-Teachers who are liked minded with them.

fellow-servant this Greek word shows the humility of Paul, this word refers to those in the same condition—so Paul is saying that Epaphras is in the same Spiritual condition as Paul. He does not see himself as superior to Epaphras

Epaphras the beloved fellow servant among us who is faithful This tells us something very important about this pastor: he walks, he lives by faith in the Holy Spirit.

How do we know this?

Because Faithfulness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22.

Again, this is a difficult theological concept for so many to understand. Many like to say that *faithfulness is faithfulness* but to God this is not true.

Lets take two pastors, they both study and teach, etc.. one **IN THE FLESH**, the other **IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**.

These are not equal before God.

God does not accept those things done in the flesh.

Deeds done in the flesh are called **HUMAN GOOD**.

Because while they are good, they are done in the flesh.

This is going to be the all importance of understanding what is going on at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Good deeds done **in the power of the Holy Spirit** are referred to as **DIVINE GOOD**

because they are done in the power and direction of God the Holy Spirit.

It is not what we do but in what power we do it!

Either “the power of the flesh” or “the power of the Holy Spirit.”

This conflict between the Spirit and the flesh is seen in
Galatians 5:16-17

¹⁶ **16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**

¹⁷ **17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.**

Colossians 1:7

⁷ **Epaphras the beloved fellow servant among us who is faithful**
and here is where the NASV misses what the Greek manuscript is saying: after the adjective, **faithful** we have a prepositional phrase **on behalf of you,** that is *–for your benefit.*

The gift of Pastor-Teacher is given to a male at the point of his Faith in JESUS CHRIST. It is given for the benefit of others, as

are all the spiritual gifts.

Spiritual gifts are given so that every believer contributes to the body of Christ. Everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST, this includes you, receives at least one Spiritual gift. There is so much to learn and know and understand about Spiritual gifts.

They are given so that you have a contribution to make to the body of Christ. There is so much abuse in regard to Spiritual gifts.

Like because someone has the gift of Pastor-Teacher they are superior to all other gifts. This is not taught in the WORD OF GOD.

And there is no such Spiritual gift as Pope.
And the Pastor-Teacher does not have an inside position with God. He is not better than any other believers.

Yes, he has authority over one local assembly but he is not spiritually superior to others. Over the years I have had people say, you are closer to God, would you pray for me?

I may pray for you but I am not closer to God by virtue of my Spiritual gift. You are a believer priest and you are Indwelt by the Holy Spirit, so you are positionally just as close to God as I am. Now one believer may be more mature than

another, but this does not make them closer to God. You can and should pray for yourself. Pray your own prayer in full confidence.

Some people (churches) set up surperiority by gifts.

This is an attack on GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT and a total misunderstanding of Spiritual Gifts. Some make a really big issue out of knowing what your Spiritual Gift is. In some cases it is necessary to know what your Spiritual Gift is, but in others it is not necessary. You just live each day as unto the Lord, walking in power and leading of the Holy Spirit and He will guide you in your Spiritual Gift. It is necessary that one who has the Spiritual Gift of Pastor-Teacher or Evangelist know what his gift is so that he can prepare.

One final warning about Spiritual gifts that is not often taught. People may often try to take advantage of your Spiritual Gift.

For example if you have the Spiritual Gift of giving, people often will try to take advantage of you; or if you have the gift of hospitality, etc.; almost every Spiritual gift comes with this warning.

This is why it is so important to know how to walk in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Then we have the final phrase of Colossians 1:7 **minister of**

Christ. So verse 7 reads like this:

⁷ just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

Colossians 1:8 (NASB95)

⁸ **8** and he also besides teaching these believers the truth of the Gospel, he also: informed us Paul and those with him like Timothy of your love in the Spirit.

In case you missed it, Epaphras wants to be sure that Paul knew their love was not love from the flesh but from the Holy Spirit. And note there is no stated object of their Spiritual Love. The point is that everytime they love in the Holy Spirit, the object is not the issue, the issue is that they love in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Just loving is not enough before God.

In whose power do you love?

In the flesh or in the Holy Spirit?

The only love that is pleasing to God is when we love in the

power of the Holy Spirit, or Spiritual Love, described in
1 Corinthians 13.

X

X

X

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you

⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;

⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel

⁶ which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth;

⁷ just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,

You have to make up your mind:

Is Christ sufficient for all your needs?

Or do you have to have other things or something else?

**This book is about the Sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST:
to God the Father;
and to you?**

Is the Word of God sufficient for you?

Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?

Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?

Is the World of God sufficient for **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) in your
life or do you need outside help?

So we learn so much from the true understanding of the Gospel.

