

Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?

Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Stop! Just slowly read this part of the sentence – let it sink into your soul.

**To the praise of the glory—of His Grace!
which He freely bestowed on us in the
Beloved**

Ephesians 1:6 starts off with a *prepositional phrase* plus the *accusative singular* of the compound *noun epainos* and the *preposition* plus the *accusative* should be translated *as a result*.

Resulting in praise. In the Greek *ainos* means praise, and here with the preposition *epi* intensifies the verb *ainos* and should be translated *over praise*. I could not find one translation that even tried to intensify the verb. To intensify the verb ‘to praise’ we could say, over praise, to give it the mark of exulted esteem. Sometime in our slang of English, we might say, I *really* thank you, or I *really* praise God for what He did. By adding *really* we are seeking to make the declaration as thoroughly as possible. I don’t just thank you, but I *really* thank you and am *really* thankful. In Classical Greek the compound meant to give high approval, unchallenged approval or praise.

So what Paul is saying in the beginning of verse 6 is or should be, the believer’s response to the Plan of God, as we will see, namely His Grace. As you grow in the Word of God, you are *increasing in the Knowledge of*

Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6

God (Col. 1:10 and growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)). So, it takes time over the years in the study of the Word of God to reach the point of praise Paul is referring to here. And people, if you think this is just me trying to over emphasize the study of the Word of God, this is not of me, this is in the text right here before you. Many Christians are so adamant on moral conduct and even prayer but say virtually nothing about studying the Word of God. Yet, over and over this is the emphasis given in Scripture.

Ephesians 1:6 resulting in praise of the glory of His grace,...Paul now enriches this extraordinary praise with the Greek word *doxa* without the *definite article* which emphasizes the quality of God as given in this noun used to describe God.

The glory Here is yet another word we could spend hours on. The Greek word *doxa* is derived from the verb *dokeo* to consider, to believe, to think, to recognize. To introduce you to the root meaning, look at

John 12:43 for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God

The only problem is that the Greek word translated *approval* is our word for *glory*. **for they loved the glory of men rather than the glory of God**

Add to this

John 5:44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the *one and only God?*

**Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6**

Giving glory to God is ascribing to Him all that He is, giving full recognition to the Glory of God.

**Ephesians 1:6 resulting in the praise of the
glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed
on us in the Beloved.**

The word translated *bestowed* is the *Aorist Active Indicative* of the Greek word *charitoo*. To give you some idea of just how rich this sentence is, this verb comes from the root word *grace*. So, in the original Greek: *to (the) extraordinary praise of the glory of His grace of which He graced us in the one having been loved*. Let's see how difficult it is to translate from Greek into English. And as we read through these, please slow down in your reading---grasp what is being said about God and what He has done to every one of us.

**Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6**

Version	Translation
NIV	to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.
New Living Translation	So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.
English Standard Version	to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.
Berean-Study-Bible	to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the Beloved One.
Berean-Literal-Bible	to <i>the</i> praise of <i>the</i> glory of His grace, which He has freely given us in the Beloved <i>One</i> ,
New King James	to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.
Christian Standard Bible	to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.
Good News Translation	Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son!
Holman Christian Standard Bible	to the praise of His glorious grace that He favored us with in the Beloved.
International Standard Version	so that we would praise his glorious grace that he gave us in the Beloved One.
NET Bible	to the praise of the glory of his grace that he has freely bestowed on us in his dearly loved Son.
Aramaic Bible in Plain English	That the glory of his grace may be praised, that which overflows upon us by his Beloved One.
God's Word Translation	so that the kindness he had given us in his dear Son would be praised and given glory.
Douay-Rheims Bible	Unto the praise of the glory of his grace, in which he hath graced us in his beloved son.
Darby Bible Translation	to [the] praise of [the] glory of his grace, wherein he has taken us into favour in the Beloved:
Webster's Bible Translation	To the praise of the glory of his grace, in which he hath made us accepted in the beloved:
Weymouth New Testament	to the praise of the splendour of His grace with which He has enriched us in the beloved One.
Wuest	resulting in the praise of the glory of His grace which He freely bestowed upon us in the beloved

**Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6**

You will note that Wuest is the only translation that correctly translates the Greek construction as a result clause: *resulting in the praise of the glory*

Let's see how this flows in the sentence:

**In love-- having predestined us-- to adoption--
as sons-- through Jesus Christ-- to Himself,--
according to the kind intention-- of His will,--
resulting in exalted praise or recognition-- of
the Glory of His Grace-- which He freely
bestowed upon us --in the Beloved.**

Us refers to any human being who at some point made the decision to believe in His Son, Jesus the Christ, as his/her personal Savior. The moment you make that decision, God, out of His love has predestined you to adoption as adult sons, in Christ. And He did this for Himself. And He did this by His love and the Kindness of His will which results in our exalted praise or recognition of His Grace which He freely bestowed upon us in the beloved. This preposition with the *perfect passive participle* of *agapao* which you know is Divine Love. With the force of the *passive* it is to be translated **in the one having been loved**. Here you can grasp the force of the *perfect tense* as introducing something that is permanent. God has always loved His Son and by His putting everyone who believes in His Son, 'in' His Son, confirms the force of our position in Christ. No one is predestinated to believe in Jesus as their Savior, but everyone who does believe in Jesus as their Savior, God has made the

Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6

decision out of His love to put that believer into His Son. This is the dynamics found in the Lord's prayer in

John 17:6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

What we are seeing in Ephesians 1:3-6 is the fulfillment of what Jesus prayed to God the Father. We are 'in' the one loved by God. And since we are in the one loved by God, we share being the object of the Love of God!

People, we do not earn being loved by God. And be sure you never forget, we cannot lose being loved by God.

Don't you let anyone ever tell you that you are not loved by God, that because of something you did that offends them, God stopped loving you. This is blasphemy! For God to stop loving you, He would have to stop loving His Son, Jesus the Christ. And dear people, that is blasphemy. God the Father loves God the Son with a 'permanent' love. Therefore, God the Father loves every believer with a 'permanent' love. Please, never forget this about yourself and anyone else who is a believer in Jesus Christ. We are in union with His beloved Son, and therefore we are the objects of the Father's permanent love.

But the issue now is: are you benefited by His love in your life? Many people often think that God does not love them because they are not benefited by His love. First, remember this love is by the grace of God which means you did not earn it, nor do you deserve it, nor can you lose

**Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6**

it. But you may or may not be benefited by His love during your life here on earth. This depends on a few things we have and will continue to have. For an example, to be benefited by His love during your life depends on you making a decision about His Spirit whom He has graciously supplied you with the moment you believed in Jesus Christ. But we have to make the decision throughout every day to allow the Holy Spirit to empower us. That is, we must make the decision to simply trust His Spirit to empower us and lead us and allow us to be benefited by His love. You see, God's love for you is permanent and never changes. It is up to you if you are going to be benefited by His love in your life. Most of the misery we experience in this life is because of bad decisions. And the reason we are not experiencing benefit from God's love is not because of God, but because we make decisions not to be benefited by His love. Now, get this set in your mind, not being benefited by the love of God is not a decision involving works, of do and do, but by a decision of no faith! You are not going to simply trust His Spirit!

Ephesians 1:6 resulting in exalted praise or recognition-- of the glory of His Grace-- which He freely--graciously bestowed upon us --in the one having been loved.

That is in Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. This is a title of Jesus Christ as the object of the Father's love. And I know that some of you at various times in your life, may think, of course He loves His Son, Jesus Christ, but not me—for I have really sinned this time. People, please understand God does not love you because you do not sin, God loves you because He has graciously put you into union with His Son, which means you are

Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6

the object of His love by the mere fact you are in His Son. We do not earn nor deserve to be in Christ. This is something God decided to do out of His Love and Kindness. Therefore, always be at peace about God the Father loving you and then give Him extraordinary praise. I hope that you learned this as a child. There was never a moment in life, no matter the trouble I may have been in that I did not know that my mother loved me and I could be benefited by her love by coming to her. People, if we can experience this from earthly parents, how much more from our heavenly Father? Why do I translate the *perfect passive participle* **having been loved**? Because, every time you read this, I want you to know and never forget first, God loved His Son, then He put you into union with His Son and therefore you will always be loved by God, your Father.

Ephesians 1:6 resulting in exalted praise or recognition -- of the glory of His Grace -- which He freely -- graciously bestowed upon us -- in the one having been loved.

Twice in this one verse we have the word ‘grace.’ Some 13 times in this short epistle of Ephesians we have the word grace. This epistle is about the Grace of God.

There are some three words that every pastor, every teacher under the Christian umbrella will use over and over. Love, Faith and Grace. But be alert. They do not all mean the same thing when they use these three words. In fact, they will often not use these words as they are used in the Word of God. When you are listening to some teacher and he uses any of these words, do not put your definition into their mouths. Know, learn what do they mean when they use Love, Faith and Grace?

Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6

All three of these words are crucial to correctly understanding God and the Word of God.

All three of these words can and often are used to teach works. Works in salvation, works in spirituality, works in receiving blessings from God.

Therefore, it is so vital that we grasp the Biblical meaning of these three words. And here we have the word Grace.

What does grace mean when it is used to refer to the grace of God?

I have several books in my office with 'Grace' in the title. It is amazing how someone who believes in a works salvation, calls that Grace. But they do! Roman Catholics call it grace in being blessed by God for something you do. As we will see, this is not grace. Calvinists call their view of election grace, which it is...if you are one who is elected. Many Christians who correctly understand salvation by grace through faith, call it grace that you are restored in the Holy Spirit by works. What we see throughout Church History is confusion on the subject of grace, we see contradictions by the same persons on grace.

**Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6**

To many people this is grace:

I, God will do for you

If

You do for me

I, Promise...and this is Grace

(and then you find so many different ‘lists’ of things you have to do for God, for God to do something for you. These lists includes verbal works, like repentance, confession, making various promises and some include overt works like some ritual, or joining some Church or Denomination etc. This is not Grace.

Here is grace

**I God will do for you, in fact have already done
for you**

Trust me

I promise,

And people, this is Grace. We do nothing but non-meritorious faith in the one He has sent. John 6:29.

What we are going to look at under the Study of Grace, is from R.B. Thieme, notes from Seminary, and many notes from various authors of books which I will occasionally make reference.

I. Definition: Start with Lewis Sperry Chafer in his Systematic Theology. “Grace is what God may be free to do and indeed what He

Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace? Ephesians 1:6

does, accordingly, for the lost, after Christ has died on behalf of them.” R.B. Thieme elaborated on this basic definition. “Grace is all that God is free to do for man on the basis of the cross.” The Anchor Bible Dictionary Volume 2 defined grace in the New Testament as: “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.” With no further explanation The New Westminster Dictionary of the Bible, “In the NT, grace (Gr. *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.” We could go on and on reading definitions of Grace. But, I want you to be aware of one more definition, because this is the only one which under the definition of grace speaks of the perfect Righteousness of God. This is taken from Jeff Harkin’s book ‘Grace plus Nothing’ on page 21 under what is grace? “The grace of God is essentially the gift of righteousness (right standing before God) and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Not only are these *gifts* but they are also unmerited gifts.” “...Furthermore, *grace alone has the power to free you from sin: For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace (Rom 6:14).*”

Unger points out that God’s grace is to be distinguished from His mercy and love, quoting

**Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6**

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

Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

The point here is that God loved us and had mercy on all mankind even when we were dead in sins. But He could not save us out of His love or mercy. That would require the satisfaction of His perfect Righteousness.

Any biblical definition of grace must include the concept that Grace is all that God is free to do for man on the basis of the person and work of His Son, Jesus Christ on the cross. Take away the cross work of Christ and God can do nothing for mankind and keep His perfect Righteousness in perfection. Because of the cross, God is free to express His love to mankind through grace without jeopardizing His perfect essence. You will often find the word ‘free’ or ‘freedom’ when talking about Grace. Why? Because no one can truly give apart from freedom and God gives to mankind out of Total Freedom because of the cross. Now, very important, Grace is always both God’s plan and God’s policy for mankind. This means that after one is saved grace does not change. God blesses mankind. God blesses the believer on the basis of grace. So, as you are saved, you will be restored from sin, and blessed in your Christian life. Any biblical definition of Grace must also include the perfect Righteousness of God.

Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6

Jeff Harkin's definition of Grace includes the Righteousness of God. "The grace of God is essentially the gift of righteousness (right standing before God) and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Not only are these *gifts* but they are also unmerited gifts." Many people emphasize the grace of forgiveness of sins, which is very important. But remember, that forgiveness of sins does not save, we need the positive of the gospel—imputed with the perfect Righteousness of God. Here is where many religious people bring in works...you have to do something to be righteous before God. People, there are no works that we can do to be righteous before God as unbelievers or as believers. It must come by grace. I like the way the Bible defines grace in

Romans 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Here is where some preachers and theologians play with words. They correctly contend that for eternal life salvation, no works can be involved. And here, they correctly include as works, salvation by repentance, by confession, by joining a certain church or denomination, or some ritual or making Him Lord, inviting Jesus into your heart etc. But, once you are saved, now to come out from the power of sin and back into the power of the Holy Spirit, now you have to repent or confess or yield etc. And here is the tricky part. They contend that now these acts are not works. Yes, they were works if you use them to be eternally saved but now, they are no longer works if you have to do them to be filled with or by the Holy Spirit. And what is fun here is that it all depends on their list of what you have to do, as it not being works. In other words, if they teach, you have to 'repent' to be filled with the Holy

Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6

Spirit, then ‘repentance’ is not works. But, if you teach you have to confess or yield etc. then they are works.

If repentance is not works, then confession, or yield etc. is works.

If confession is not works then repentance or yield etc. is works.

If yield is not works then confession or repentance is works.

And none of these give any Biblical justification for their definition on how these acts are no longer works.

People, if it is not by faith alone in one whom God has sent, it is works.
Grace is no longer grace.

One more issue is that God’s grace is biblically distinguished from His *mercy and His Love*. Note carefully

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

**Ephesians 2:5 even when we were dead in our
transgressions,**

Do you see it? Even when we were unbelievers, dead in sin, God had mercy on us and loved us...but He could not save us but **made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)**, not saved by His mercy or by His love, but we are saved by His Grace. His mercy and His love motivated Him to provide a grace way whereby all mankind could be saved. Therefore a few verses down He states:

**Coming Spiritually Alive is Always by Grace?
Ephesians 1:6**

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

Ephesians 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

And to put the whole picture together we need a correct reading of

John 3:16 For in this manner, loved, The God, the world, that The Son, the only begotten, He gave that (to die spiritually on the cross, bearing the judgment for the sins of the world) – in order that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life