

Bible Questions & Answers

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Worship: 10:30am & 6:00pm Sunday
Bible Study: 9:45am Sun. & 7:00pm Wed.
RADIO: Mon-Fri. 6:55am (1230AM, 95.3FM)
TV: Comcast Ch.8, Tues. 8pm, Thur. 9pm
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WHAT IS GRACE? WHAT IS GOD'S GRACE?

Grace is defined by Thayer as: good will, loving kindness, favor, benefit, bounty, recompense, reward.

Grace is shown by one toward another – whether from God to man or from man to man. For example: The church at Corinth bestowed “grace” [favor] upon the needy [2 Corinthians 8:6,7,19]. Wholesome words minister “grace” (benefit) to the hearers [Ephesians 4:29]. We are to sing with “grace” (loving kindness) in our hearts [Colossians 3:16]. Our speech is to always be with “grace” (favor, benefit) [Colossians 4:6].

But, “What is the Grace of God?” The grace of God is God’s favor, His loving-kindness, His bounty that He bestows upon mankind: mercy, forgiveness, redemption, salvation. It is because of God’s grace [favor] toward all men that he makes a way of escape from the penalty of our sins. God’s grace, favor, or benefit is freely extended to all mankind, even the vilest sinner, whether men appreciate it or not. *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to **all men**, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world”* (Titus 2:11-12). None are singled out to receive God’s grace while others are refused His grace. It is made available to all. Jesus died for all men [Hebrews 2:9]. But, all do not wish to receive God’s grace because they refuse to comply with God’s commands.

Each individual must meet the conditions demanded by God in order to benefit from God’s grace. For example: if I offered everyone who reads this column a \$1,000 absolutely free, I’m sure you would be calling to find out how to get it. That phone call and coming to get it would, in the very least, be conditions you must meet before the \$1,000 would do you any good. When you comply, did you **earn** the \$1,000? Obviously not. It was a free gift. But you still had to do something – meet the conditions I laid out for you.

God’s grace comes with conditions. Each one must **believe** in Jesus (John 8:24), **repent** of sins (Luke 13:3), **confess** faith in Christ (Acts 8:37), **be baptized** for remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38), and **be faithful** (1 Cor. 15:58). Are you willing to meet God’s conditions in order that you may receive God’s grace, bounty, favor,