

GRACE Defined: "unmerited or unearned favor"

Grace is God's attitude toward the state of man's hopelessness in sin.
Grace is the gift for the forgiveness of sins and the misery that sin brings.
Grace is God's selfless act to deliver us from our point of no return.

God's justice: What we deserve.

God's mercy: We DON'T get what we DO deserve.

God's grace: We get MORE than we deserve.

GRACE removes GUILT.

MERCY removes MISERY.

TRUTH: Eternal life is a FREE GIFT and cannot be earned.

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; It is the GIFT of God--- not by works, lest anyone boast.

TRUTH: Christ made the ULTIMATE sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, to receive the free gift of salvation one must ACCEPT it.

Illustration: Free Gift

We have a difficult time accepting God's gift of salvation by GRACE because *we have bought into the WRONG belief that we have to be "good enough."*

Illustration: Death for Life

The wages of sin is death.

Death is all that we have to offer.

The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ.

He takes our "death" and gives us his "life."

TRUTH: Eternal life cannot be earned or deserved.

As Americans and in most other cultures, we are taught from birth that we must "earn our way." This seems only right to us. This wrong belief is self-reinforcing because it allows us to think WE are in control and that we can "DO IT OURSELVES."

- This is the same type of thinking we saw in the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve decided they wanted to "be like God."
- Even after salvation the tendency to depend upon ourselves must be overcome.
- We are **SELF-FOCUSED**-----**Self-sacrifice, self-worth, self-made, self-esteem, self-help---self-self-self**

Illustration: Video: "The Man on the Middle Cross"

S_____ plagues our path to salvation and beyond.

The ONLY answer to this problem is to be **TRANSFORMED** into the image and likeness of Christ where **SELF** becomes **SELFLESS!**

Galatians 5: 1-6

1 It is for freedom's sake that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. 3 Again, I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. 4 You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5 But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Proverbs 14:12

12 There is a way that seems right to man, but in the end it leads to death.

The Bottom Line . . .

**It is by God's GRACE ALONE through FAITH ALONE in CHRIST ALONE
that I am saved!**