

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

I. Incommunicable (God as Absolute Being)

A. Aseity

B. Immutability

C. Infinity

1. Perfection—relationship to being

2. Eternity—relationship to time

3. Immensity-Omnipresence—relationship to space

D. Unity-Simplicity

II. Communicable (God as Personal Spirit)

A. Spirituality

1. Life

2. Personality

B. Intellectual Attributes

1. Knowledge

2. Wisdom

3. Veracity (Truth, Truthfulness, Faithfulness)

C. Moral Attributes

1. Goodness (Benevolence, Love, *GRACE*, Mercy, Longsuffering)

2. Holiness

3. Righteousness

D. Attributes of Sovereignty

1. Sovereign Will of God

2. Sovereign Power of God

THE GRACE OF GOD

Grace *IN* God refers to God's unmerited love in action toward those who have forfeited it and deserve the very opposite, being under a sentence of condemnation.

Because of this grace in God, we have Grace *FROM* God. God acts in grace (that is, He is gracious toward His own) because He is first of all a God of grace.

God's grace is

- Free: not prompted by anything outside of Himself
- Spontaneous: self-generated, arising from a natural inclination
- Not capricious: it is governed by His wisdom and will
- Not with gain on the part of the Giver in mind
- Not hindered by sin
- Not conditioned upon works
- Exclusive of merit on man's part

ISRAEL'S RENEWAL—Ezekiel 36:16-32

Israel's sin and judgment :16-21

What the LORD will do to restore Israel: "I will

- sanctify My great name :23
- take you from among the nations :24
- gather you out of all countries
- bring you into your own land
- sprinkle clean water on you :25
- cleanse you from all your filthiness
- cleanse you from all your idols
- give you a new heart :26
- put a new spirit within you
- take the stony heart out of your flesh
- give you a heart of flesh
- put My spirit within you :27
- cause you to walk in My statutes
- be your God :28
- deliver you from all your uncleannesses :29
- call for the grain and multiply it
- bring no famine upon you
- multiply the fruit of your trees :30
- multiply the increase of your fields

Why the LORD will do these things

Negatively-- v. 22, cf. v. 32

Positively-- vv. 21-23

SALVATION: THE SOVEREIGN WORK OF OUR TRIUNE GOD

EPHESIANS 1:1-14

Concerning the FATHER: 1:1-6

- Source of grace and peace
- He is blessed (His blessedness is ascribed by believers)
- He blesses us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies
in Christ
- chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world
- predestined us to sonship through Christ
- made us accepted in the Beloved

(all to the praise of the glory of His grace)

Concerning the Son: 1:7-12

- Source of grace and peace (v. 2)
- redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins
- abounding in the riches of His grace
- knowledge of the mystery of His will
- inheritance in Christ

(all to the praise of His glory)

Concerning the Holy Spirit 1:13-14

- sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise
- the guarantee of our inheritance

(all to the praise of His glory)

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, the focal point of salvation

Ephesians 1:1-14

- grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ :2

- blessed in Christ :3

- chose us in Him :4
- holy and blameless before Him

- predestined to sonship by Jesus Christ :5

- accepted in the Beloved :6

- In Him we have redemption through His blood :7

- ...gather together all things in Christ; . . . in Him :10

- In Him. . . an inheritance :11

- trusted in Christ :12

- In Him you believed . . . in Whom :13

God's Saving Grace Ephesians 1:7

BENEFIT: Christ's spiritual blessings in heaven (v. 3);
the forgiveness of sins (v. 7)

ORIGIN: Divine choice from eternity past (v.4);
the good pleasure of God's will (v. 5)

PURPOSE: Holiness and blamelessness (v.4);
to be joined with Christ (v. 10)

PRIVILEGE: Adoption into God's family as beneficiaries of Christ
(v. 5)

COST: The blood of Christ (v. 7)

MEANS: Preaching of the Word leading to faith in Christ (vv. 12-13)

ASSURANCE: The Holy Spirit as the down payment of our
inheritance (vv. 13-14)

SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE EPHESIANS 2:4-10

The person of Man described:

"dead in trespasses" — v. 5; cf 2:1-3

The person of God described:

--rich in mercy

--His great love

--grace, exceeding riches of His grace

--His kindness

The work of God described:

--made us alive together with Christ

--(saved us by His grace)

--raised us up together

--made us sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus

--shows the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness
toward us in Christ Jesus

--saved us by His grace

--gifted us with faith to believe in Jesus

--created us in Christ Jesus for good works

THE GRACE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

"Grace is not fully nor properly perceived if it is seen only as being in God or from God. It must also be viewed in its effects as received by and its evidences as manifested through the believer.

"This facet of truth is reinforced in Scripture by every passage which teaches us regarding our proper duty to glorify God. He is glorified in every display of His ineffable character."

W. Robert Cook

Every Christian is to glorify God

in what he *IS* (John 17:10)

and

in what he *DOES* (I Corinthians 10:31).

We must be gracious, for He is gracious.