

The Gospel and God's Righteousness

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(13)

[Romans 1:1-17](#)

(Continuation from 10/11/15)

A. Paul's Credentials: Enslavement to Christ, [Romans 1:1-7](#)

[\(Romans 1:1-7\)](#) **Introduction:** no person is a true follower of Jesus Christ unless he is *enslaved by Christ*. In fact, it is *impossible* for a person to belong to Christ unless he is *enslaved by Christ*. This is the shocking message Paul wants to get across to the believers at Rome.

1. He was a slave of Christ (v.1).
2. He was an apostle of God (v.1).
3. He was set apart to the gospel of God (v.1-4).
4. He had received God's grace and God's mission (v.5).
5. He acknowledged the enslavement of others (v.6-7).

5. [\(Romans 1:6-7\)](#) **Believers: Paul acknowledged the enslavement of others. He said four things about believers.**

[Romans 1:6-7 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶“Among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;
⁷ to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

1. Believers are the “called” of Jesus Christ, called just as Paul was.
 - a. Believers are called to be saved, to be “of Jesus Christ.”
[\(1 Timothy 2:4-6\)](#)
 - b. Believers are called to the mission and task of Jesus Christ.
[\(John 20:21; Matthew 20:28\)](#)
2. Believers are “beloved of God,” held ever so close to His heart, counted precious and dear to Him and deeply loved.
[\(Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16; John 16:27; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-5; 1 John 3:1\)](#)
3. Believers are called to be “saints”.
[\(1 Peter 1:15-16\)](#)
4. Believers are recipients of God's grace and peace.

[Titus 2:11-15 \(NASB\)](#)

¹¹“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,
¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,
¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to

purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

¹⁵ These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.”

([Titus 2:11-15](#)) **Grace**: (*charis*): probably the most meaningful word in the language of men. The Bible means something far more than men mean by grace. To men the word “**grace**” means **three things**.

1. Grace is that something, that quality within a thing that is beautiful or joyful. It may be the fragrance of a flower, the rich green of the grass, the beauty of a lovely person.
2. Grace is anything that has loveliness. It may be a thought, an act, a word, a person.
3. Grace is a gift, a favor that someone might extend to a friend. The favor is always freely done, expecting nothing in return, and the favor is always done for a friend.

However, when the early Christians looked at what God had done for men, they had to add a deeper and much richer meaning to the word **grace**. For God had saved sinners, those who had acted against Him. Therefore, grace became the favor of God showered upon men—men who did not deserve His favor.

Grace became the kindness and love that God freely gives to His *enemies*—men who are.....

1. “without strength” ([Romans 5:6](#)).
2. “ungodly” ([Romans 5:6](#)).
3. “sinners” ([Romans 5:8](#)).
4. “enemies” ([Romans 5:10](#)).

No other word so expresses the depth and richness of the heart and mind of God. This is the distinctive difference between God's grace and man's grace. Whereas man sometimes does favors for his friends and thereby can be said to be gracious, God has done a thing unheard of among men: He has given His very own Son to die for His enemies ([Romans 5:8-10](#)).

- a. God’s grace is not earned. It is something completely undeserved and unmerited.
[Ephesians 2:8-9 \(NASB\)](#)
⁸“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God*;
⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”
[Titus 3:4-5 \(NASB\)](#)
⁴“But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His love for mankind* appeared,

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⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”

b. God’s grace is the free gift of God. God extends His grace toward man.

Romans 3:24 (NASB)

²⁴“Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NASB)

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

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

Titus 2:11-14 (NASB)

¹¹“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

¹² instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

¹³ looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.”

c. God’s grace is the only way man can be saved.

Romans 5:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.”

1 Corinthians 1:4 (NASB)

⁴“I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus.”

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NASB)

⁹“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”

Titus 3:6-7 (NASB)

⁶“Whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.”

4. Grace means all the favors and gifts of God. It means all the good and perfect gifts of God, all the good and beneficial things He gives us and does for us, whether physical, material, or spiritual (**James 1:17**).

James 1:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming

down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.”

Ephesians 1:7 (NASB)

⁷“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”

Ephesians 2:7 (NASB)

⁷“So that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19 (NASB)

¹⁹“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

1 Timothy 1:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“And the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus.”

Titus 3:4-7 (NASB)

⁴“But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared,

⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life.”

Ephesians 2:13-14 (NASB)

¹³“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.”

John 14:27 (NASB)

²⁷“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

John 16:33 (NASB)

³³“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Psalms 29:11 (NASB)

¹¹“The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace.”