



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

“To testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

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SATAN DETHRONED

By J. R. Graves

(Part 1)



“Now shall the prince of this world be cast out.” JOHN 12:31.

A SINGLE sober glance at the present condition of this world; at the conduct of human rulers; at the condition of the population; at the whole course and direction of this world, should be enough to satisfy any man that Satan is the prince of the world, and rules and reigns triumphantly, and almost supremely. Facts sustain the assertion of the Bible that the devil is the prince of this world; that all the governments. of the earth, and the glory of them, are his and he, giveth them to whomsoever he wills: and those who know his character best know that he gives them, not to the most deserving, but to his (See **SATAN DETHRONED Continued P. 2, Left Column**)

THE EXCEEDING RICHES OF CHRIST

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

By Elder Bill Lee

Let us turn in our Bibles to Romans 5:20-21 and look this evening at the wonderful grace of our God. A moment ago as we were singing the hymn **“Count Your Blessings”** I remembered reading that God spoke to Abraham and told him to look at the stars of Heaven, and said, **“So shall the number of thy seed be.”** How many of those stars do you think Abraham could count?

Considering this command of God to Abraham, we know any individual standing anywhere on the earth, with the naked eye can see only a minute portion of the stars. Even with the ones we can see, I believe, we would have

great difficulty in counting them. Let us not forget that beyond what we can see there are innumerable stars out there —so many that their existence is infinite! It could be compared with an attempt to counting the sand of the seashore.

In counting our blessings, the blessings of which we are aware are not close to being all our blessings God has bestowed upon us! I am convinced there are so many more than the ones of which we are mindful!

And, so it is with God’s grace. When we come to the subject of **“Grace”** this evening, we (See **EXCEEDING RICHES Cont. P. 7, Rt. Col.**)

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You Are Welcome!

(SATAN DETHRONED, Continued From P. 1) best friends, and to those who will do his will and please look at the facts written upon the history of the ages. Satan gained his first conquest over the race in the Garden of Eden; and his victory is signal and complete. The garden of God was made a desolation, and emptied of its sinful inhabitants; and the whole dumb earth, though guiltless of wrong, and radiant and blushing in virgin innocence and loveliness, was cursed for man's sake—cursed, since it was to be the future abode, the seat and

throne of the great enemy of God and man—Satan.

The succeeding age witnessed the continued triumph of the king of evil. God appointed a worship, an altar, and sacrifice of blood, significant of man's sinfulness, and that without remission, by the shedding of the blood of the offender or a substitute, there could be no salvation; and the sacrifice of the innocent lamb typified and pointed forward to the "seed of the woman," the true Lamb of God, who was to come and take away the sins of the world;—forward to which sacrifice the true worshipper was to look, and by faith believe on Him who was to come as his Saviour and Redeemer. "But, through Cain, Satan corrupted this worship by substituting what God had not appointed for what He had; he stirred up the pride and false reason of the human heart to change God's ordinance; to substitute the dictations of man's conscience for the express command of God. So Cain brought the fruit of the ground instead of a lamb without spot or blemish, and thus became the father and representative of all who have, from his day, corrupted and counterfeited the worship of God by substituting human forms, human doctrines and rites and ordinances, for God's appointments. All idolatrous worship, and all human religions, and all churches set up by men have sprung from this source. The world is this day filled with them; they are triumphant everywhere, universally popular, and multiplying while those who have, as did Abel, and Enoch, and Noah, and Seth, preserved the primitive and true worship amid the general corruption, are few, and are despised, hated and persecuted; and their history written in their blood.

From the garden to the deluge, by corrupting God's worship reigned; so that when the wickedness of man became so great God could no longer endure it, and swept off the whole race with a flood, only eight persons of the living millions at the close of the first sixteen hundred years, were found upright in the sight of God. Who will doubt that Satan was the prince of that age?

The history of the world from the deluge until the, advent of Jesus Christ, a period of three thousand years, is scarcely brighter. The sons

of God—the supporters of His true worship, were soon lured by the fascinations of rites and pomps of human and devil-invented worships; and the world soon fell under the scepter of the enemy, and he ruled and reigned again supreme, through religions opposed to God's religion, through civil governments opposed, in principle, to the government God appointed.

Through the influence of Satan, man soon rejected both that form of worship and of government through which God was acknowledged as man's creator and rightful king, for Satanic forms of worship and modes of government. God said to Samuel: ***"The people have not rejected thee but they have rejected me wishing a king like the nations around them to rule over them."***

Glance your eye over the history of the ages from the deluge to the advent, and see that it is a history of universal and most fearful wickedness; a history of crime, of mighty wrong, of oppression, of corruption and vice the human mind can scarce conceive of. Tribes in deadly strife with tribes; nations dashing against nations in the terrible conflicts of the battlefield; the earth everywhere blackened by the desolations of war; its fairest islands and loveliest vales bathed in blood, while gaunt famine and pestilence have followed hard upon the footsteps of war, and death and hell have brought up the rear. Look at the picture of human corruption, human wickedness and human war; look at every civil government, corrupted in the hands of even its professed friends, and everywhere else rejected for the worship of devils—look at this, and say if Satan was not, through this long period, the prince of the world.

Need I add more, a crowning fact, startling with terror! Christ the creator, God's own Son, the rightful ruler of the race, and rightful king of this earth, saw the awful ruin, degradation and woe into which Satan had plunged the race and, moved with pity, came to save them; came to redeem them from under the cruel hand of Satan, and restore a sin-cursed and sin-polluted world to the beauty and glory of a world of light, and make a fit dwelling place for God, and the holy and pure. He came to His own people, to His own kingdom, and His own received Him

not but as ravening wolves receive a lamb, they seized Him, and hung Him to a cross.

This was the act of 'those who were the priests and teachers of His own appointed worship, of His own professed friends. Look upon the world's face when the mangled, tortured body of the Son of God lay in the darkness of Joseph's tomb, and say if Satan was not then the triumphant prince of this world! The Witnesses and true friends of God were but a handful; and their lives were only preserved from the sword by the power of God.

We cannot, doubt the fact asserted by Satan to the face of Christ Himself, and not denied or questioned by the Son of God. Thus it is recorded: ***"The devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world" and said: 'All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them; for that is delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine'.*** Christ did not question his claim; and His silence then gave assent to it; and He everywhere else affirmed the sad fact. In our text He acknowledges him as the prince of this world; in other places He gives him the same title, though he is an usurper of the rights of the prince of heaven, God's own Son. When He appeared as heir, Satan bruised His heel—slew Him, and cast Him out of his dominions. And thus we see Christ is an exile from the earth—banished from among men; and the general voice of mankind was then, ***"We will not have this man to reign over us;"*** not this Jesus, but Barabbas; not Christ be our king, but Satan.

Two thousand years have nearly passed since Christ was driven from the earth by the power of Satan; and what does the history of these twenty centuries teach us? That Satan has been dethroned and cast out, or has he maintained his cursed power? Has he yet been bound under the hatchments of the pit, or is he to-day everywhere triumphant? Alas, alas! There is, there can be, but one answer—the devil reigns.

The facts of history show that the first advent of Christ, and the organization of His visible kingdom on the earth, the antitype of His natural Israel, has not, after the lapse of two thousand

years, offered the least check to the reign of Satan as prince of the earth; nor, judging from the past or the present, have we any grounds to believe that two thousand centuries more would do so. As in the days of Cain, so now, by his corruptions of the religion Christ came to establish, and by his uncounted and constantly multiplying and successful counterfeits of Christianity, he has yearly been strengthening his power, and extending his influence over the nations. He reigns over the nations:

I. AS THE GOD OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP, BEING THE AUTHOR OF ALL MANNER OF RELIGIONS, AND THE PERSECUTOR OF THE TRUE.

He was not satisfied with having slain the Prince of Peace, but he instigated a murderous, unrelenting, exterminating warfare upon all His followers, if possible, to blot them from the earth. Through Saul and others, he made havoc of the Church; he dragged the last apostle to martyrdom. The blood of the true witnesses of Jesus, from the blood of John the Baptist, the first Christian minister, mingled at the foot of the cross with the blood of the martyred Founder of Christianity, has flowed down, and its stream has been fed and widened and deepened by the blood of the unnumbered millions of those *“who have not worshipped the beast, nor the image, neither have received his mark in their hands, or on their foreheads;”* who have never symbolized with the Papacy, and are not daughters of that mother Church; so that it can be said to-day as truly as it was said in Christ’s day, *“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent make havoc of it.”*

They refused Caesar, and refused to acknowledge a human head, and denounced and dis-fellowshipped the new Church as the synagogue of Satan; they baptized all whom they converted from the Catholics, and were therefore called Anabaptists.

This Catholic Church soon divided into two parts, or bodies: the western was called the Roman, or Latin, Church, the eastern the Greek Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic, in the sixteenth century, became the mother of numerous branches. All the Protestant churches

acknowledge Rome to be the mother Church; and when you hear Protestants speak of “branches of the Church,” you can understand them to mean that the trunk, or body, is the Roman Church. The Anabaptists, now called Baptists, never did belong to Rome, and never branched from that trunk, and therefore belong not to the Protestant family. Sir Isaac Newton, himself a Protestant, declared that “the Baptists are the only churches that never symbolized with Rome.”

By the multiplication of religions, and societies which claim to be true Christian churches, in the world, false doctrines and worships, Satan is increasing his influence over the minds of men. The world believes these false religions and churches to be true; and their doctrines, and their worship and rites are more pleasing to them than the true.

Since the sixteenth century, all the Protestant organizations have been originated; and in the life-time of some before me, no less than six new religions and churches have been set up. Is it Christian charity or treason to Christ to admit these to be Christian churches, and equal to Christ’s churches?

While Satan is free to deceive the nations can his power over them be neutralized by the Gospel as here administered? Can he be dethroned by present agencies?

II. BUT SATAN REIGNS TO-DAY TRIUMPHANTLY OVER THE NATIONS THROUGH CIVILIZED GOVERNMENTS, THROUGH WHICH HE OPPOSES AND OPPRESSES CHRISTIANITY.

We have seen that he is a very religious devil, having hundreds of churches where Christ had one: it is also true that he is the prince of politicians. God gave His ancient people one form of civil government. It was a simple theocracy; all the laws emanated from divinity, and were entrusted to judges to be executed. They were, therefore, perfectly just, and perfectly adapted to man’s wants: but like the government of Christ’s Church, it was simple and unostentatious, without the glitter of pomp and splendor of human governments; and Satan, exciting the pride and vainglory in the people’s hearts, moved them to despise the

authority of God, and demand a king, as the nations of the world then had. God, by His prophet, warned them faithfully of the many and heavy evils and oppressions, and slavery to one man, they would entail upon themselves in preferring a Satanic form of government to his; but they rejected God, and chose a monarch. And from that time until this, all the civil governments of the world have been in the hands, and under the direction of Satan; and he has given them, and the glory of them, to his most deserving friends and servants.

He has been a very fair devil in this. Those who have most fully sold themselves to him to do his will, and practice his arts, have generally succeeded to the chief places in earthly governments. All earthly governments have given their power and influence in favor of a false worship; have had state churches in their pay, and persecuted the churches of Christ. The state church is preeminently the church of politicians and the rulers of this world. By the hands of these state churches, the blood of millions of the witnesses of Jesus has been shed, and Christianity corrupted in all lands.

Thus, under the reign of Satan, since the days of Nimrod, the earth has groaned under the oppression of tyrants; right is crushed into the dust under the iron heel of overpowering might and wrong; poor, wronged, outraged humanity, robbed of its heaven-born rights, lies crushed beneath the throne of despotism, and the altars of priestcraft, crucified, like its Redeemer, between two thieves. The wailing groans of the world's population have been ascending up from every continent, and from every isle, for ages; and with every century, and every year, the groan deepens, and the wail loudens.

There are those who have, for years, preached to us a political and religious millennium soon to dawn: is there a ray of light above the dark clouds of gloom that have rolled down upon the nations? ***“Watchman, what of the night?”*** Is there any hope for humanity? For earth's wronged millions? None for Poland? None for Hungary? None for Ireland? None for our overpowered, crushed and bleeding South? None—none while Satan reigns and rules. The pages of revelation point forward only to the

universal distress of nations, and wars with all their horrible consequences, multiplying with the years, until men's hearts fail them through fear of the more terrible things to come.

I here confess I have been interested in the success of a peculiar form of government for our noble South. I believed that the conservatism of a peculiar system of labor and a separation from those who had resolved to overthrow it was the best for us, and promised a glorious future to us; and that it was the inalienable right of thirteen states and ten millions of freemen to rule themselves, and no treason to assert it. Nor will I deny that every desire of my soul and prayer of my heart and effort of my hand consistent with my profession were for it; and were I to die to-day for it, I dare to say I am not ashamed of what I have done, or not to denounce my principles as wrong. But I am a conquered and converted man. I have given my allegiance to a government that I have imperiled my life, in the battle shock, to resist—not to overthrow; and I am to that government henceforth a true citizen and subject. The recent hopes of the South are, forever annihilated: to renew them would be preposterously absurd.

(Continued Next Issue)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EARLY DAYS OF THE ROSEVILLE LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

[Editor's note: Several years ago an article similar to, perhaps identical to, the following one was published in ***The Landmark Messenger***, Bro. Rick Perdue, Editor, published by Roseville Landmark Missionary Baptist Church. I re-published it in ***The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator***. I recently received this one that had been given by Bro. Perdue to Bro. Harris to publish in a history of the churches of California. Notice that it makes no mention of a Mother Church or Sponsoring Church for the Roseville church. Recently a brother sent me an article by the same author in which he took a different position.]

Brother and Sister Charles E. Hunt, with two baby girls, came to Roseville, California, about December 23, 1912. They found no true New

Testament church in the town. (There was at that time but one Missionary Baptist church in California. It was at Lake City, Modoc County, but was not known to Brother Hunt until about five years later.)

Seeing the need of a true New Testament church, Brother Hunt's spirit was stirred and his heart was burdened to present the gospel to them. He began his ministry in July in his own home. Later there were house-to-house prayer meetings which grew until the houses were filled. There was also a song service one night each week.

Brother and Sister Hunt and Sister Lula Hunt took part in the organization of a church. After reconsideration, Brother Hunt realized that this organization and the teachings of the church were inconsistent with his beliefs and early teachings.

A new work was then started by Charles, Maud, Chester, and Lula Hunt, who were members of the old-time Missionary Baptist Church of Keokuk Falls, Oklahoma. Brother Hunt preached there in 1929.

In December 1916, Elder T. J. Simmons of Myrtle Creek, Oregon, a lifetime Landmark Missionary Baptist, came to Roseville to visit Brother D. M. Bond, another Landmarker. Brother Simmons was a great teacher, preacher, and defender of the faith. He moved to Roseville in April 1917 and became Brother Hunt's first theological teacher.

Up to this time they were still attending the First Baptist church. Brother Hunt was studying with all his might for the ministry, as he had been for about three years.

Brother Simmons encouraged this small group so much that they began meeting in homes for Sunday night services and Thursday night prayer services. The way was opened for Brother Hunt to begin his preaching ministry, and he preached his first sermon in the home of C. U. Clemons on Sunday evening, July 8, 1917. They met Thursday evenings in the home of Brother T. W. Moore, with five families in attendance.

Brother Simmons exhorted the brethren to organize a church in order to carry out the Lord's commands and walk in the footsteps of Jesus and the apostles. On the evening of July

29, 1917, five of the group decided to enter into solemn covenant with each other and with God.

The following evening, Monday, July 30, 1917, the Church was duly organized, and Brother Moore decided to enter into the organization, stating that if he could not push he would not pull back. The charter members were: Elder T. J. Simmons, Elder C. E. Hunt, Maud Hunt, Chester Hunt, Lula Hunt, D. M. Bond, and T. W. Moore. That same evening, Sister Moore united with the Church on profession of faith and was received as a candidate for baptism. She was baptized that same evening, July 30, 1917, by Brother Simmons in what was known as Dry Creek (but there was much water there) about 10:30 p.m. by the light of coal oil lanterns.

Brother Moore was elected the first clerk and treasurer. The Church was named Cherry Glenn Missionary Baptist Church,

On August 4, 1917, Brother C. E. Hunt was licensed to preach. Sister Bond, Flora Hunt, and Clarence Flint were received by baptism, and Ethel Fogle was received by letter.

The first Church building was erected on the corner of Cherry Street and Earl Avenue. It was 18' x 24' in dimension, and the total bill for materials and wiring was \$194.20.

On February 10, 1918, Brother C. E. Hunt was ordained to the full, work of the gospel ministry, and Brother Chester Hunt was ordained a deacon. On February 17, 1918, Elder C. E. Hunt was called as Pastor. On March 28, 1918, Brother Moore was ordained a deacon.

The Church continued to carry out the commands of our Lord, and souls were saved in spite of persecutions from without and hindrances from false brethren within.

Brother Hunt resigned as Pastor, and he and Sister Hunt were granted letters November 4, 1920, to organize a church at Mt. Shasta, California.

The Church was then without a pastor for three years but continued her services according to the admonition of Paul, neglecting not to assemble themselves together. Souls were saved, baptized, and added to the Church. At different times, Brother Hunt came from Mt. Shasta by request of the Church to baptize for her.

The original building was destroyed by fire in March, 1921. The lot was sold for \$250, the insurance check was \$300, and Sister White of College City (of Arbuckle Church) sent a check for \$500, making a total of \$1050 with which to erect a new building. Brother Chester Hunt made up the balance to about \$1750.

The name was changed to White Missionary Baptist Church in honor of Sister White and in appreciation of her contributions.

The new building was erected on the corner of Clinton and Fern Streets, the present location. Since that time the name has been changed to Landmark Missionary Baptist Church.

The following ministers have served this Church as Pastors:

C. E. Hunt- February 1918 to September 1920

Ben Brock- November 1923 to February 1931

J. L. Whitmire - May 1934 to April 1937

Elmer Poison- January 1938 to August 1938

C. E. Hunt- August 1938 to September 1941

T. E. Griffith - November 1941 to August 1948

H. B. Beam - September 1948 to January 1953

Troy Mize- February 1953 to June 1956

J. W. Scott- September 1956 to the present

This Church has never had trouble with a pastor, fired a pastor, nor even asked a pastor to resign.

(EXCEEDING RICHES Cont. From Page 1) understand we have limited knowledge and awareness of the bestowal of God's grace in our lives. Please turn to Romans 5:20 and let us read what the Bible says. ***"Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."***

I believe "grace" is one of the most difficult words to define. I think it is relatively easy to understand when you are dealing with individuals—with humanity dealing with humanity. Whenever we deal with others, and

as we do acts of charity we administer grace to those who, as far as we are concerned, have no merit—we are not paying back one favor for another. We help people in need because we **want** to help them.

But, that is such an inadequate description of God's grace toward his people. God's grace toward his people is very difficult for us to define. But, in the text we just read, I think is the greatest definition, or explanation, of God's grace. Again in verse 20, ***"Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound."*** You might recall that Paul expressed ***"I would not have known sin except for the law."*** By the law is the knowledge of sin and through the law the offense did abound, and sin did appear by the law, and through the law to be exceedingly sinful. Paul writes here that ***"the law entered, that the offense might abound. But, where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."***

I want us to focus our attention upon these words: ***"grace did much more abound."*** In the Greek language, the original language, only one word is used for ***"grace did much more abound"***. And the definition of that word is simply ***"super abounding grace"***. God's grace is so much greater than the grace we have for other human beings upon this earth. God's grace is super abounding grace! It supersedes any other grace! God's grace is above all other grace! Please go with me to the Book of II Corinthians 4:15. Here the apostle Paul writes, ***"For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God."*** Notice the wording here, "abundant grace".

I think sometimes we do not get a clear picture of our salvation because our definition of grace is so limited. Maybe we do not see it as ***super abounding grace***. Maybe we do not see, as Paul states here, "abundant grace."

If we turn over to the Book of I Timothy 1:14, here the apostle Paul writes, ***"And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant"***. This word is the same word that is translated in our text, ***"Grace did much more abound."*** Here it uses the expression "exceeding abundant" as it refers to grace. Again, it is the same word that is

translated in both these places. If we go back to Philippians 4:7 we notice how that same word is translated. ***“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*** It is a different subject, but it is the same word that is translated, and it gives us better understanding of what Paul is saying in our text that ***“Grace did much more abound”***. Here, the Bible states ***“the peace of God which passeth all understanding.”*** Notice these words, ***“which passeth.”*** It is just more than we can comprehend, it is more than we can think, it is truly exceedingly abundant, it passes everything! It passes any expectation that man has, and certainly deserves or merits—does not come into the equation.

When we think of the salvation of sinners, God’s grace passes all understanding. It passes all comprehension, and is truly exceedingly abundant. Back in Romans 5:17 Paul wrote, ***“For if by one man’s offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace.”*** Notice that. I am reading all of this and emphasizing this to tell you that in our salvation, God does not just do enough to barely save sinners, but it is abundant grace! In this same verse again—it speaks of ***“abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”*** Notice also in verse 17 two other words, if you would—***“much more”***—I have pointed out these words to you on many occasions, but I want to refresh our memory! Surely, as far as man is concerned, the stars are without number! The sand of the seashore is without number. It is impossible for us to estimate, or even give an accounting of the stars or of the sand of the seashore...and so it is with God’s grace. Whenever you think you have a comprehension of God’s grace, in God’s book you will find “there is so much more”.

We will never understand it all! There is always much more than we can possibly understand. Here in Romans, Chapter 5, there is the contrast between the first Adam and the Last Adam. The first man and the Second Man! What happened in Adam, and what happens in the Lord Jesus Christ! Let us realize that in Jesus Christ there is much more! Let’s read

verse 17 again, ***“For if by one man’s offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”***

Please study that verse with me and look at it carefully, for this verse is sufficient! There are many more, but this verse is sufficient in teaching us that salvation is **not** restoration! In salvation we are **not** just given back what we lost in Adam; we are **not** just restored to what we lost in the Garden of Eden. We have much more. There is much more in salvation in verse 17, ***“By one man’s offense death reigned by one;”*** now we see that, as we look at verse 12, death passed upon all men. We are **not** just restored to life in our salvation. Look at verse 17 again. ***“If by one man’s offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and (notice this ‘and’ here) of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”***

When we look at that little word “and” we need to understand this word as “even”—and I will tell you why I say that. There is a rule in the interpretation of the Greek language that is called the “Garfield-Sharpe” rule...stating that when this little word “and” is here that is the Greek word “Kai”—when this word “Kai” is in between two nouns, it is understood as “even”. And that is what we have in verse 17. And if you read that again, and understand it that way, ***“much more they which receive abundance of grace even of the gift of righteousness,”*** it is not the gift of righteousness, plus the abundance of grace, but it is the abundance of grace, and then there is the description of that ***“even the gift of righteousness.”*** Now, we did not have that before—this is the ‘much more’! This is much more than we lost in Adam. We now have the imputed righteousness of Christ. This is that gift of righteousness! In Adam we lost innocence, and in Christ’s work for us, we are not simply restored to innocence; we are given the gift of righteousness. And **that** is much more! That is an abundance of grace! Our text says this is super abounding grace!

In our salvation we shall be conformed to the image of Christ! And that is far better than being restored in Adam. Many individuals—and I hear

it in teaching as well as in preaching—as well as reading it in books—that seem to have the belief that salvation is only being restored to what we lost in Adam, but that is simply not so! God's grace is super abounding! And through the Scripture we receive much more! The Bible says that we shall not only be like Him, but we will be with Him! That is much better than being restored to what we lost in Eden! Being like Him, **and** being with Him!

In verse 17 we again find that God's elect are those ***"which receive abundance of grace."*** I want to add here, everyone who receives grace, receives an abundance of grace, because God's grace always super abounds! But God's people are the objects of, and they are the recipients of his super abounding grace. And, we receive far more than we could ever ask or think. I will not exclude in this definition of grace "unmerited favor" because it **is** that—God's grace is always unmerited—although God does not give enough grace to barely supply our need! His provision is a super abounding grace!

Once again, let us consider together God's grace! Think of the apostle Paul. Before the Lord saved him on the Damascus Road, he confessed that he was a blasphemer, an injurious man. He caused great harm to God's people, making havoc of the Lord's church. He was an enemy of God and of Christ on every hand. He did all within his power to destroy the works of Christ. In our studying we have learned that when the Lord saved Paul he was on the way to Damascus to seize Christians and to have them thrown into prison. The number of the slaughtered we do not know, but the Lord saved Paul! We have also learned that Paul went on to become one of the greatest missionaries who ever served the Lord. All this was salvation by grace. In addition to becoming the author of 14 books of the Bible, he was instrumental in edifying the saints and instructing them in the doctrines of God.

Some might look at Paul and say, "Well, that is why the Lord saved him because the Lord knew the great work Paul would do for Him." I would never minimize the omniscience of our God—surely the Lord knew—but I tell you that was not the reason that He saved Paul. It was grace!!!

God has a way in the Bible of inserting certain individuals and their experiences where we can know, beyond a doubt, that grace super abounds and merit is not involved!! There is a very prominent man in the Bible, whose name I do not know, and there is not a lot said about him. He just stands out, and he is put there by God, and he is the one who answers many questions. He is that thief whom the Lord saved. The thief whom Jesus saved! Jesus was crucified with two thieves, and here is a man who—it appears from all we know about him—had spent his entire life prior to being crucified, in just being a robber. He was a thief and had committed all types of sins against God and man. He had no regard for either his fellow man or God. Then he was crucified as a malefactor, but the Lord saved him. Shortly before this thief was crucified, he was nailed to a cross where he died. We read in the Scripture that **before** his salvation he did no service for God. You cannot look at his life and say, "Well, the Lord saved him in order that he might do this or that type work." He died! If that is not salvation by grace, I do not know what it would be. He performed no good works **before** his salvation. He performed no good acts **after** his salvation experience! Yet, the Lord in grace saved this thief! This is a great example of salvation by super abounding grace!

Let us look together at Luke 23. We read the words "much more" and we see it in this example of the thief as he was crucified with Jesus. In verse 42 he spoke unto Jesus, ***"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."*** A lot can be said here. Some might believe this thief saw all the circumstances that surrounded him there, and somehow the thief had some type of a religious experience—and because of what he saw, and what he experienced, he decided to turn to Christ. Let me remind you, that Luke 23:42 occurred **before** the three hours of darkness; therefore, he did not see the three hours of darkness, and becoming greatly concerned, decided then to accept Christ. Today, many people believe there is some kind of emotional experience. Luke 23:42 happened **before** the veil was rent; therefore the rending of the veil had nothing to do with this event. It occurred **before** the great

earthquake. It happened **before** the rocks were rent. It took place **before** the graves were opened, and verse 42 stands in the Scripture before the declaration of the centurion that "Surely this is the Son of God".

None of those things came into play in the salvation of this thief. There was **nothing** that happened outwardly that changed this man. You can go back and read the account, and there is **nothing** even suggested outwardly that brought about the change in this man. When we once again read verse 35, when the crucifixion was taking place, **"the people stood beholding"**, and Jesus did not say a word. He was hanging there between two malefactors, and the people were there, watching what was happening, and Jesus did not say a word! Even the rulers were deriding him, and Jesus remained silent. He spoke not a word! In verse 39, **"one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him,"** and Jesus continued his silence while hanging there. He did not speak a word, but in verse 42, when this **elect** individual said, **"Lord,"** then Jesus speaks. There is something here that reveals this is God's super abounding grace bringing about a change in this individual—because no one can acknowledge and say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Spirit of God. Remember, this man who was as guilty as the other thief, who moments before had joined the other in ridiculing Christ, now says **"Lord"**. Paul wrote in Romans 10:13, **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."** Let me tell you, this thief who had come to the end of his life is no exception. Let us notice again that he said, **"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."** If you consider the events of the crucifixion, this thief is the one out of the entire crowd, of all the people, who called Jesus **"Lord"**. Judas had betrayed Jesus, Peter had denied him, and all the other disciples, the Bible says, fled. The Jews had condemned him. Pilate sentenced him to death, and the Romans crucified him, but it was this thief that singularly said, **"Lord"**. I want you to notice the "much more". The thief said, **"Lord, remember me."** And Jesus said, **"Thou shalt be with me."** That is much more! The thief had said, **"Remember me when you**

come into your kingdom". Jesus responded **"Today"**! Not sometime in the future when I come into my kingdom, but TODAY! That is MUCH MORE! That is far more! Our text says that grace does much more abound. It is super abounding grace! We sing hymns, and we use words like "amazing", "infinite", "matchless" and "marvelous", along with many other descriptions. The Bible just says it is super abounding! It is an abundance of grace. Let us look in Ephesians 2. Whenever I think about God's grace I quickly realize how little I understand about this precious grace! Again we see, it is comparable to our attempting to count the stars. It is an IMPOSSIBLE task! I do not believe we will ever fully understand all about God's grace. I am not speaking about when we live here upon this earth, I am speaking about in time or eternity. Ephesians 2:7 **"That in the ages to come"**—I do not know the number of "ages" we will experience, but I know this age will end! I know that is a fact! Following this present age, I believe there is going to be the thousand-year reign of Christ! Then, I believe we will enter into eternity. It appears to me there is going to be eon upon eon. **"that he might shew,"** not just his grace, but it speaks of, **"the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."** That word "ages" is "eons". All that is involved in the length of an "eon" I do not know. it is beyond our human comprehension.

The exceeding riches of his grace are manifest in his kindness toward us. That is **particular** grace. We believe there is a thing known as **common** grace. God is good to all people—far better than we deserve! But, there is a **special** grace that super abounds, and is the **exceeding** grace to his chosen people only! This is **particular** grace, **"kindness toward us"**.

This morning I mentioned about our wanting to know God and understand Him better. When we desire this, we have to look at Jesus Christ! So it is with his grace! We will never understand anything about the grace of God separate and apart from Jesus Christ! The grace of God is manifest in His son! What we see in Ephesians 2:7 is simply throughout eternity, a continual revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will learn

more and more about Him. The more we know about Jesus, the more we will understand God and His grace.

There are some people who believe once we get to glory, instantly, we will become omniscient—knowing everything! We will be like God. That is just not true! We will never be like God! But, I am thankful there is going to be this continual unveiling and teaching of God about his grace, and He will not teach us of His grace to the exclusion of Christ Jesus. He will still have preeminence in all things!

COMFORTABLE CONCLUSIONS

By James Meikle, 1730 -1799

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Dear Savior, in your sufferings I not only see the infiniteness of sin, but also the infiniteness of your love; so that, though I have cause with myself to be angry on account of sin, I need not despair. If the desert of my sinful folly is death—the merit of your sufferings is life! If my sins mount up to heaven—your mercy is above the heavens! Though my sins reach to the very throne to accuse me—there is ONE upon the throne who will not condemn me! My sins, in their seven-fold abominations, can rise no higher than the throne, but the rainbow of redeeming love and grace is both around and above the throne, and that in its seven-fold beauties—power, wisdom, justice, goodness, holiness, mercy, and truth. And as all the different rays meet in one glorious beam of light, so all the attributes, all the perfections of God, are summed up in LOVE! God is graciously pleased to be called by his favorite name, "**God is love!**" By the mingling rays of this beautiful rainbow, all my blackness is removed, and I am clothed with his beauty!

When I look to myself and see my vileness and necessity--I am confounded with shame! But when I look to you, and see your fullness and all-sufficiency, I am confounded with wonder! Am I weak? He is my strength. Am I foolish? He is my wisdom! Am I wicked? He is my righteousness! Am I impure? He is my sanctification! Am I in bondage? He is my

complete redemption! Am I in misery? From him tender mercy flows. Am I deceitful? He is wholly truth! In a word, am I enmity itself? Then he is love itself which passes understanding! Mine is but the enmity of a creature—but his love is the love of God!

Sin may raise the tempest of wrath, but can do no more. But Christ not only calms the raging tempest, but gives peace of conscience, flowing from intimations of peace with God, and makes me heir of all things! Where sin abounded—grace did much more abound! Where misery has surrounded me—mercy has crowned me! Sin is too strong for me—but your grace is too strong for sin!

Why, then, am I so vexed with fears, doubts, and unbelief? Because I am sinful? On that very account, Christ, who knew no sin, was made sin—that I, who knew no righteousness, might be made the righteousness of God in him. But I am a great sinner! Then, he is a Savior, and a great One! Where is boasting now soul? See—it is great mercy in God, great merit in Christ—which saves a great sinner! Since rich and free grace builds the temple of salvation, let it have all the glory!

But I fall often into the same sin! That is my failing, over which I ought to mourn, and by which I should be driven out of all boasting in my own holiness, high attainments, and religious duties; and cry, with tears of holy joy, "Grace, grace to him that has laid the foundation, carries on the whole work of redemption, and will, with shouting bring forth the topstone!"

Now, **law**, what have you to do with me? Go to my Surety, Jesus. O **curse!** you have lighted on his head, that the blessing might rest on mine! The brandished sword of justice, is beaten into the pruning-hook of the promise—that I may even plead justice for the blessing, as well as the performance of the promise.

Though once I dared not lift my eyes heavenward, for fear of divine wrath—yet now I may come boldly to the throne of grace, and claim the blessings of his purchase!

In fine, it is the glory of the Son of God that I am saved. Even if he had no concern for my immortal soul, yet he is jealous of his own glory, and will not cast his honor away, the honor of

his justice, the honor of his love, the honor of his merits, and the honor of his word of promise—all which are concerned in my salvation. Nothing could hinder him to love me—what then shall make him hate me, seeing his love is stronger than death? He loved me when I was in a state of enmity against him—and now, when I am reconciled to him, will he be angry with me, now when I love him who first loved me? His love found me when I was wandering from him—and will he abandon me now when I am panting and seeking after him? When I was altogether sin, he had mercy on me; and will he now take vengeance upon me, when I am mourning over sin, and grieved that I offend him? I had no claim, no qualification that could cause his love to descend on me, and abide with me; but his love, in his sovereignty visited me—and in sovereignty will dwell with me forever! And though my sin offends him—I shall never sin away his love, nor his presence altogether. For he shall appear the second time without sin—and deliver me from all my inherent sinfulness!

Though my sin is my burden—it shall not be my bane! Yet I shall never willingly let the traitor rest in my bosom—which would persuade my soul into rebellion against my dearest Lord, and best friend. I may have continual war with the invader—but shall obtain the victory at last! Meanwhile, I will grieve more for offending him whose name is Love, by my sin—than for the clouds, afflictions, and chastisements which seize me because of my sinfulness.

Now, with the arms of my faith, I clasp the promise—and Jesus in the promise! Here will I live, and here will I die, blessing God, who causes me always to triumph in Jesus Christ my Lord!

Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent: God does as he pleases, only as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him. A.W. Pink

DAN 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

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