**March 2014**

**His Grace is Sufficient**

What is grace?  Grace has been defined as unmerited favor or help.  Thus, it is something that is not earned.  We often hear the term mercy used with grace, in the biblical sense.  Mercy may result in someone receiving compassion; an offense may have been committed, but someone may receive a lessened sentence, or even a pardon.  In God’s eyes we were all guilty (“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”, Romans 3:23).  How could we possibly escape the wrath of God?  There was nothing we could do on our own to receive this unmerited favor, His Grace is sufficient; this grace we speak of, it is truly a **GIFT.**

We were tied to sin and the consequences thereof.  Thus, we needed to be freed from condemnation and eternal damnation of which we could never escape, or be proven worthy of to avoid as being justified, unless a payment could be made on our behalf (in our stead).  We could never be sinless, no matter how hard we might try.   How about keeping the law?  Really? I do my best to be of good mind and character, but even the simplest of civil law I cannot keep.  I thank God we are not under “The Law”.   I drove through a traffic light this morning that was a definite orange!  On our own we could never been proven to be just or honorable, due to our sin nature.   (“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one”, Romans 3:10); the ultimate price would have to be paid; only by the lamb of God, His only begotten Son (Jesus), could we become worthy.  Only then could we be made righteous.  His grace provides our **RIGHTOUSNESS!**

We are so blessed with everything our Lord provides for us on a daily basis, and we need to be in a state of mind of thankfulness in all that we do for all the days He gives us on this earth.  While it would be only one sin that would condemn us, He did not take on the sin of a few, He took on all the sins of ALL of mankind when He went to the Cross of Calvary; that is why the pain He had to endure had to be so great.  As a lamb to the slaughter, a sinless man, God incarnate, went to an “Old Rugged Cross” and carried the pain and suffering for us ALL!  It took this Perfect Sacrifice to provide a payment that would suffice.  It took the ultimate price; the price of His grace had to be **ACCEPTABLE!**

When God created the heavens and the earth, and He saw that it was good, He finished His creations and then He rested; He had concluded His beautiful work.  Then man, in God’s image, along with his helpmate fell to the temptation of the evil one; they were tempted, tested, and they failed; sin entered the picture.  How foolish Satan is as he continues to believe he will win.  How foolish man is as he believes his way is better than God’s way; man continues to fail by not going to His Word for direction in their lives.  The payment of all sin had to be covered by Christ’s Blood.  The Devil could not anticipate the mystery of Christ rising from death, to live forever more.  This was the only way for God to make things once again whole and perfect.  His grace is **COMPLETE!**

God is omnipotent!  God is omnipresent!  God is Omniscient! He is the Alpha and the Omega!  God is Three in One (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost).  Look to the Heavens now and make plans for your future; it is easy and a very basic thing to do.  Too often people make plans for the here and now; early gratification.  This mortal life is fast and fleeting; plans are better made for the hereafter.  Once we arrive in Heaven, there will be no end; it will be everlasting.  We will be with our God, and we will experience things we could never imagine in this lifetime; it will be perpetual.  Just as He, His grace is **ETERNAL!**

We are in the dispensation of grace: the “Age of Grace” (God’s Grace).  How do we better understand this church age?  We do this by focusing on the Pauline Gospel: the Gospel of Grace.  And in studying the  Bible, we need to study it in what manner?  By fairly separating the Word of Truth?  By justly classifying the Word of Truth? By properly distributing the Word of Truth?  By correctly apportioning the Word of Truth?  By exactly parting the Word of Truth?    Yes!    We need to know those scriptures that most directly affect us in this age of grace; and how do we study?  We study by “Rightly Dividing” the Word of Truth!  In doing so, we better understand God’s Infinite and wonderful, gift of grace.

This is the focus of the Grace Gospel Believer!  We need to know what has been directed specifically to each and everyone of us.  Yet, we need to study all of God’s Word, to show ourselves approved by Him. While we “divide” for a better understanding, we study the Bible in its entirety.  From “Gems of Grace Truth”, Joel Finch said it best: “We believe the whole Bible is God’s inspired Word and is to be read and studied from cover to cover.  Learn from the moral principles of the Law, find inspiration in the Psalms, be instructed by the practical wisdom of the Proverbs, but remember that our personal instructions are in the epistles of Paul.”

Yours in Christ’s Love,

Joe