Amazing Grace

Adam Willingham · Romans 4:1–4

INTRODUCTION

- The word that is translated grace in the New Testament actually just means favor. It is unmerited.
- We are needy recipients of the grace of our God, and we must therefore become reflectors of that grace.

1 Grace Is Appreciated Only Once Sin Is Understood

1 Chronicles 17:16–17

- Because we have sinned, we are outside of God's grace, and we cannot earn it.
- To the extent that we do not see sin for what it is, we cannot see grace for what it is.
- We must abhor sin before we can appreciate the grace of God. We cannot appreciate the solution until we've been sickened by the problem.
- Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house that you have brought me this far?

2 Salvation Is a Gift; No One Can Boast

Romans 4:1–2

- Salvation is a gift. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- And obedience is absolutely vital. Don't get me wrong. But no matter what we do, salvation cannot be earned.
- Even the most righteous men and women, the most reputed Bible characters, cannot boast or claim payment from God.
- Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners among whom I am the foremost of all.

3 No Amount of Good Deeds Can Earn Grace

Romans 4:3–4; James 2:24; Ephesians 2:8–10

- It is God who pulls us up. Yes, we have our part that we must do. But ultimately, we can't pull ourselves out of this pit that we're in.
- Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.
- So it's absolutely required that we be obedient, but this here is not talking about obedience. It's talking about works of merit.
- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And that salvation, not of yourselves, it is a gift of God. Not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

4 Grace Is Not Two Workers of Equal Strength

2 Corinthians 3:4–5

- Number one, we don't have a very good history of holding up our end. And number two, God is our superior.
- But our sufficiency is in God. And God alone. It's not in ourselves at all.
- Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.

5 God's Grace Is Trustworthy and Dependable

1 Peter 1:20

- Grace is part of God's eternal nature. It's not that God hated us at one time and then decided to start loving us.
- For God so loved the world, what did he do? He gave his only begotten Son.
- For he was foreknown before the foundation of the world. But has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.
- The grace of God truly is amazing. It is dependable.

6 Grace Demands a Response

1 Corinthians 15:10; Titus 2:11–12

- We need to respond to the grace of God by laboring for him.
- But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me did not prove vain, but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.
- We need to become a conduit for the grace of God.
- Are we going to be like our Savior and show the same grace towards others that He has shown to us?

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **If you take hold of it, he'll pull you up out of that well into which we've fallen. But you've got to sit on that bucket and you've got to hang on.**

MY NOTES