

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

GRACE OF GOD**Lesson 17**

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We have come a long way since we began these lessons, we hope and pray you have a much better understanding of the God in the Bible than you had when you first started.

In this lesson we would like to discuss God's dealing with "the world in grace." The marvel of marvels is that God deals in grace, not only with the world of men, but with Satan and his fallen angels. The gospel of grace can never be fully understood or appreciated until this truth is made plain. All the questions as to God's goodness arise out of a failure in understanding His grace at this point. Had God dealt in judgment and not in grace Satan would have lost his liberty the moment he sinned, and then he could not have tempted others. In turn, each man who sinned would have immediately shared the same fate. Thus, sin would have been weeded out as soon as it appeared, and then God would never have been accused of injustice.

Why did He not act in this way?

1. There are only two possible ways of dealing with wrong doing - judgment or grace. God must be impartial. He must extend grace to all, or else to none. If God extended grace to some and not to others, that would be unjust and unrighteous. We realize that there are those who teach that God elected to damn some and to save others; that to some He gave a will to be saved and to others he never gave that will. The picture they paint of God is not fair, in fact it is mean. That God is unjust. He is not gracious. **That is not the God of the Bible.**

Let's consider the God of the Bible. In Psalms 98:8-9 the scripture says: *Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.* Is God a judge? Yes, He is. Will God judge the earth? Yes, He will. Will God judge people? Yes, He will. How? In equity.

Romans 2:11 says, *For there is no respect of persons with God..* God will not deal with a man on the basis of who that man is. Are you wealthy, educated, intelligent, or strong; do you have a good home, do you provide well for your family? That is wonderful. God is going to deal with you on the basis of His word and your obedience to it, not on the basis of your person. The same will be true of every man. Romans 2:12 declares, *For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law.* John 1:17 we read, *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.* God is the judge. Transgression of the

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law brings God's judgment, but here we find coming onto the scene the Lord Jesus Christ bringing with Him grace and truth.

2. Grace is mentioned in the Bible as a method of government is virtually letting men do as they please for a time, even if they do wrong. This is brought out in a message that is recorded in Acts 17:24-31, preached by the apostle Paul on Mars' Hill to a group of superstitious people who believed in God and worshipped God, who even built an altar to Him, but who did not know Him. The inscription on their altar was **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD**. To these people, the great missionary cried, *God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead*

For several thousand years now, even prior to God's dealing with Satan and the fallen angels, there have been a multitude of things that God has been allowing. That is, He has been giving man the freedom to do as he chooses even though the things man is doing many times are very wicked. In Romans 5:20 the Bible says, *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound* You see sin everywhere, great sin, great sinners meaning that God bestows great grace.

3. The object of grace is two-fold: to let men have the opportunity of proving in their experience whether their course is good or not; and then to make it possible to extend mercy to them when they realize they are wrong. That is to say, the reason God does not stop you the first time you do wrong is because God wants you to come to the definite, heartfelt conviction and conclusion that you are wrong, that you are a sinner who has done wrong. God wants you to come to Him and to trust Him for the salvation of your soul. God knows that you would never love Him and never trust Him if He compelled or forced you to come to Him. God lets you live your own way, doing your own thing, getting drunk, fornicating, lying, cheating, stealing, or being lazy – not working. Sadly people think because God has not

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judged/punished me, He is OK with my behavior. The truth of the matter is God is winking. (Acts 17:30) God is allowing you to continue on your course until you realize that drinking is destroying you, that sin is ruining your life, and that rebellion against God's word cannot bring you any peace, joy, or happiness. When you come to that conclusion as a result of God graciously and patiently allowing you to have your own way, you will be amazed that someone who has been so wrong, in transgressing God's word could still be loved by God. Then you will, because you do love Him and you do trust Him, come to God for the forgiveness of your sins.

This is God's wisdom, and God's great grace in operation. Let me say again, there is a two-fold object of God's grace: to let men have the opportunity of proving in their own experience whether their course is good or not; and then to make it possible to extend mercy to them when they see that they are wrong.

In Galatians 6:7-8 the Bible says, *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.* My friend, when you see your mind, your health, your strength, your future, your very life slipping away, crumbling, decaying, turning to nothingness, as you see yourself racing toward the grave, away from all that you hold dear, at last you must realize God is not mocked.

God in His grace has allowed you to run your course until the time that you run to Him. God is gracious. He will forgive, save, cleanse and pardon you.

4. Since we all are sinners God can offer grace to all without being partial. In Romans 3:23, the Bible states so simply, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God* If all men have sinned, God offers grace, saving forgiving, cleansing, and pardoning grace to all sinners.

5. Justice and mercy are at opposite extremes from each other, but they meet in agreement when grace is in operation. In Psalms 85:1-2, 10 this is stated so beautifully: *LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob. 2 Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin. Selah.* And in verse 10 we read, *Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.* The chief of sinners may be saved by God's grace and mercy. God's justice demands a sacrificial payment for sin. All the Old Testament sacrifices pictured the sacrifice that would one day come: *the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world* (John 1:29).

Jesus Christ came and took the place of the guilty sinner that the guilty sinner might go free. Read Hebrews 10:4-5, 10, 14; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

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These verses make crystal clear Bible truth that the offering of Jesus satisfied God's justice. God's judgment on sin was satisfied at Calvary where the Lord Jesus Christ took upon Himself the sins of the whole world. His sacrifice was sufficient for all time. It involved the sins of every man and never needs to be repeated. Jesus Christ through His propitiation (to appease one offend) He took the wrath that should have fallen upon the sinner. Isaiah 53:3-11, This is what it took for Him to be our Saviour, not working, giving, serving, laboring for God, none of that provides you with a Saviour. God has provided Someone with something so that you might be freely saved. Everlasting life is a gift of God.

Notes

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Name _____

1. How is God impartial?
2. The account at Mars' Hill teaches us what about God's grace?
3. The Old Testament sacrifices were a picture of what?
4. Why does god allow us to destroy ourselves?
5. What was the Someone and something God gave us?
6. How does God judge?
7. When the offense abounds, what happens to grace?
8. Explain Acts 17:30
9. Though the Children of Israel rejected their Messiah, where did God say He forgives them?
10. Explain Galatians 6:7-8
11. Define the following words?
 - a. propitiation
 - b. assurance
 - c. fornication
 - d. great grace
12. Did God extend grace to Satan?

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13. Some religions teach that God foreordained some people to go to Hell and some to go to Heaven, but what does the Bible teach?
14. What does Romans 2:11 say to you ?

True/False

- God judges in equity
- God punishes in equity
- God is grace and mercy



Scripture memorization John 1:17; Romans 5:20; John 1:29 (write out these verses on the back of this page) must be in KJV

Any questions?