The Marvelous Grace of Our Lord and Saviour

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

Titus 2:11-14

Are you looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus? Students of Bible prophecy can say that His appearing is nearing. For those who are waiting and looking for His return, it is a most joyful anticipation, but for those absorbed in the world, it is going to be an overwhelming surprise. The word of God teaches that there is a great crisis coming on this world before Jesus appears in His glory. That is why He said “watch and pray.”

There is also more to be done by those who are waiting for the Savior’s return. We must succeed in “denying ungodliness and worldly lusts; we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.” The Lord, by close and pointed truths for these last days, is cleaving out a people from the world and purifying them unto Himself.

“The gospel dispensation is the last period of probation that will ever be granted to men. Those who live under this dispensation of test and trial and yet are not led to repent and obey will perish with the disloyal. There is no second trial. The gospel that is to be preached to all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples presents the truth in clear lines, showing that obedience is the condition of gaining eternal life.
Christ imparts His righteousness to those who consent to let Him take away their sins. We are indebted to Christ for the grace which makes us complete in Him.” SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, 971

In the year 1806 Noah Webster published the first truly American dictionary. If you look up the definition of grace in that first dictionary you would read the following: “GRACE: Unmerited Divine assistance given to men for his regeneration or sanctification.” In today’s modern versions, this definition is listed after several other definitions and is not worded as plainly as the original.

This is a short meditation study on grace—what it is and why we need it now more than ever before. Also, why we can praise the Father that “grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” our Lord and Savior because He loved our souls, He saw our fallen condition; and He saw our need of grace.

After the reformation years, godly, God-fearing men began to diminish rapidly. The following inspired statement explains why we need thus grace: “By disobeying the commands of God, man fell under the condemnation of His law. This fall called for the grace of God to appear in behalf of sinners… .” God’s Amazing Grace, 10.

“As used in the Bible, the expression ‘kingdom of God’ is employed to designate both the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory. The kingdom of grace is brought to view by Paul in the Epistle to the Hebrews. … [T]he apostle says, ‘Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace.’ [Hebrews 4:16.] The throne of grace represents the kingdom of grace; for the existence of a throne implies the existence of a kingdom.” The Great Controversy [1888], 347.

“The kingdom of grace was instituted immediately after the fall of man, when a plan was devised for the redemption of the guilty race.” Ibid.

This plan was devised even before the creation of this world, but was first revealed after man sinned.

The apostle Paul began twelve of his thirteen letters with the phrase “Grace and peace be unto you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.” He loved to talk of God’s grace. Let’s continue our study on grace and on why we need it now more than ever.

What vital role does grace play in the salvation of mankind?

•  We are “kept free from sin” through grace. Selected Messages, vol. 1, 394
•  It is by grace that “we may overcome our faults.” The Desire of Ages, 301
•  “By His grace He is able to keep every man from transgression.” Signs of the Times, February 14, 1900
•  “His grace must be assimilated” … or “Christ is of no value to us.” The Desire of Ages, 389

What does it mean to you that “of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace”? Let’s read from God’s word what we should understand about this grace. In Ephesians 2:8, Paul wrote, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” And in Titus 2:11, Paul wrote, “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.” To the Romans, in chapter 1, verse 5, Paul wrote, “we have received grace and apostleship for obedience.”

One of Paul’s most encouraging statements about grace is in Hebrews 4:16: “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Later, in the same letter, he wrote, “let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Hebrews 12:28).

As he was concluding this letter to the Hebrews, he wrote, “For it is good that the heart be established by grace… ” (Hebrews 13:9).

James addressed the same topic when he wrote, “He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE” (James 4:6 ).

We conclude our study with this encouraging quote from Romans 3:24 “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

May the Lord bless your meditation of this study and may “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen” (Revelation 22:21).
Boost Your Immune System

Your Personal Responsibility

Only those living in the most remote and isolated locations would not know that a pestilence is currently running rampant around the world. By God’s grace, Seventh-day Adventists have been given a health message that, if followed faithfully, keeps their immune systems performing at optimum levels.

Nevertheless, it is sometimes the case that in spite of following the tenets of the health message, a true adherent can be afflicted with a contagion.

To assist church members in achieving an optimum level of immunity, Janet Headrick, a former employee of Steps to Life, conducted a seminar this past December in which she provided information on how to decrease your chances of being infected and how to treat viruses naturopathically.

This informative session was attended by about 12 church members. Each attendee received a packet of handouts and sample supplements to implement the recommendations presented.

“A responsibility to spread the knowledge of hygienic principles rests upon all who have enjoyed the benefits of health reform. This responsibility rests upon every man and woman who claims to be a Seventh-day Adventist…. All should realize that this is an important part of the Lord’s great work for the salvation of souls. Let it be the aim of all to be laborers together with God for the uplifting of humanity. All should be educators by precept and example. They should feel a personal responsibility to send forth fully instructed men and women who shall exert a direct and saving influence in the homes, the communities, and the churches to which they go.” General Conference Daily Bulletin, January 30, 1893
**Bibles and More**

We are very pleased to report that sufficient funds have been raised to send a pallet of *The Great Controversy* to Zambia, in cooperation with Advent Books of Great Britain. Your donations to our Bibles & More fund have lent significant support to that effort.

To support similar efforts, please mark your donation Bibles/SOP.

**Orphanages**

In the entire continent of Africa, there are an estimated 52 million orphans. Statistics for orphans combine three groups, and include those that have lost both parents, those that have lost a father, and those that have lost a mother. The latter two groups are commonly referred to as “half orphans.”

Many orphans have no support and are forced to fend for themselves as well as for their siblings. Their challenges include maintaining a household, providing food, and working to support themselves as well as fund education and medical costs. Yet, because of their young age, orphans are often unable to find any kind of stable income. Fear and stigmatization of diseases such as AIDS, Ebola, and Covid also contribute to unemployment.

Steps to Life is committed to establishing a means of providing spiritual as well as physical support for as many orphans as we can with your support.

Our sincerest thanks for your contributions toward this end.

**Tabloid Project**

Seth Ferrell continues to carry on the effort first began by Ruben Teske many years ago. Literally millions of present truth tabloids have been distributed around the world through this program.

To obtain copies for your own distribution purposes, please contact Roger or Joyce Brown for case quantities of the following tabloids:

- *Behold He Cometh*
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This amount represents 2021 funds raised for several orphanages in Africa which Steps to Life supports.
Feeding Those in Need
Effective Practical Work

It has been said that the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach. Although this is a somewhat “worldly” bit of advice, the kernel of truth it contains cannot be denied. The most prominent thought often on the mind of a hungry person is food—Where is my next meal coming from?

It is often the case that those in need of physical food are also in need of spiritual food. By the time you receive this newsletter, the members of the church affiliated with Steps to Life will have completed an effort to satisfy both the physical and the spiritual hunger of some of the less fortunate in the surrounding area.

Although the church members are constantly seeking to lighten the burden of the oppressed—whether physically, mentally, or spiritually—the Christmas season is a time of special outreach.

Each year as the holiday season approaches, the church prepares colorfully wrapped boxes of food to take to those in need. Along with the food, an appropriate book from the writings of Ellen G. White is also provided, along with a season of prayer.

This past holiday season, the Winfield Sabbath Fellowship joined with Prairie Meadows Church members to “feed the flock.”

“Practical work will have far more effect than mere sermonizing. We are to give food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, and shelter to the homeless. And we are called to do more than this. The wants of the soul, only the love of Christ can satisfy. If Christ is abiding in us, our hearts will be full of divine sympathy. The sealed fountains of earnest, Christlike love will be unsealed.”

Christ’s Object Lessons, 417.
You probably recall having read about Henry Mwesa, our Bible work coordinator in Zambia. Altruism runs in his family, as his wife, Sarah, who has medical training, has agreed to tutor two women in Kenya who would like to become medical missionaries. The only cost will be supplies and mailing costs between the two countries, as Sarah has agreed to do the training at no cost to the participants. The total cost for supplies and postage is expected to be about $600.00.

To support the training of these two soon-to-be medical missionaries, please mark your donations Helping Hands.

“The true medical missionary will be wise in the treatment of the sick, using the remedies that nature provides. And then he will look to Christ as the true healer of diseases. The principles of health reform brought into the life of the patient, the use of nature’s remedies, and the cooperation of divine agencies in behalf of the suffering, will bring success.” The Review and Herald, March 6, 1913

I pray that you are all enjoying the rich blessings of the narrow way. I give thanks to our Almighty God for the protection He gave me as I recently spent a week visiting a number of areas. God is wonderful to give me the opportunity to visit Nyamira County. I spent a week at one of our home churches in Nyamira, helping them with various church activities. We managed to learn lessons from Landmarks—more about The Faithful Steward.

I spent six days in Egesima where again we learned more concerning Words of Warnings before I left for Nyamakoroto. There I visited the home church, where I managed to conduct a child dedication.

We now have seven new members and two older members who have returned and we believe that more people will be attending church in the days to come.

We look forward, as we prepare for the soon coming of Christ, that we will be ready to meet Him when He comes so that we can soon go home.

God Bless you all in Jesus Name.

Zachary
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