

## Endless Grace

**Text: Ephesians 2:1-13** And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. 11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

**Psalms 40:5** Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

**Introduction:** **Endless Grace** is the topic of this Sermon!

THOSE WHO KNOW ME, KNOW THAT EPHESIANS 2 IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE CHAPTERS OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE – I read/reread it countless times each year – the richness of Grace never diminishes no matter how many times it is read!

As I was thinking upon the topic of GRACE for this sermon, I immediately thought of the lyrics from AMAZING GRACE:

**"Amazing Grace Song"** (*Reference: Wikipedia*) is a Christian hymn written in 1772 and published in 1779 by English Anglican clergyman and poet **John Newton (1725–1807)**. It is possibly the most sung and most recorded hymn in the world, and especially popular in the United States, where it is used for both religious and secular purposes.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup>

**With the message that forgiveness and redemption are possible regardless of sins committed and that the soul can be delivered from despair through the mercy of God, "Amazing Grace" is one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world.** American historian Gilbert Chase writes that it is "without a doubt the most famous of all the folk hymns"<sup>[4]</sup> and Jonathan Aitken, a Newton biographer, estimates that **the song is performed about 10 million times annually.**

1. LYRICS: (3 verses) - *Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.*
2. *'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear;  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.*
3. *Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*

**There are many important truths about GOD'S GRACE to be unpackages from out text!**

**1. God's Grace is Available to all Mankind – regardless of race, social standing, or net worth!**

**Ephesians 2:13** *But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

**Titus 2:11-15** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation **hath appeared to all men,** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. **These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.**

**2. Wonderful Thoughts / Facts about Grace we take from our TEXT:**

*Let us attempt to describe GRACE as given in our text by using the words below that start or include the letters “EX”:*

***explains – extinguish – explosion – expression – exchange – exaltation – exhibition – exorbitant – inextinguishable!***

**(2.1). Our Text EXPLAINS 3 Things:**

**1. EXPLAINS – the TRUE Picture of Fallen Man as seen by God: Ephesians 2:1-3**

- <sup>1</sup> And you hath he quickened,
- <sup>2</sup> who were dead in trespasses and sins:
- <sup>3</sup> in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
- <sup>4</sup> Among whom also we all had our conversation (*LIFESTYLE*) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and
- <sup>5</sup> were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

**2. EXPLAINS - WHY God Provides Grace:**

- **Ephesians 2:8** <sup>1</sup> For by grace are ye saved – **THE WHY** – GRACE IS GIVEN TO SAVE AND REDEEM US – THERE IS NO OTHER REMEDY FOR SINS TO BE FORGIVEN!

**3. EXPLAINS – HOW we receive God's Grace:**

- **Ephesians 2:8** through faith; **THE HOW** – GRACE IS GIVEN BY FAITH - **Hebrews 11:6** But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

**(2.2). EXTINGUISHES - Ephesians 2:8&9 – Grace EXTINGUISHES ANY & ALL HUMAN EFFORT:**

- <sup>1</sup> *NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST*
- <sup>2</sup> not of yourselves: DOES NOT ORIGINATE WITHIN MAN – IT COMES FROM GOD!
- **GEORGE WHITEFIELD QUOTE** - What! Get to heaven on your own strength? Why, you might as well try to climb to the moon on a rope of sand!

**(2.3). EXPLOSION - Ephesians 2:11-13 Grace is an EXPLOSION OF HOPE:**

Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, **having no hope, and without God in the world:** **But now in Christ Jesus** ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

**(2.4). EXPRESSION - Psalms 40:5 Grace is an EXPRESSION of God's Love toward the followers of CHRIST:**

Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

**Ephesians 2:4** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

(2.5). **EXCHANGE - Ephesians 2:1-5 Grace is an EXCHANGE of Allegiance - Surrendering the CONTROL of our LIFE to God:**

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: **Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. **But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ**

(2.6). **EXALTATION - Ephesians 2:5-6 Grace is an EXALTATION of OUR Standing and Position – a HIGH CALLING:**

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And (GOD) hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus **Romans 8:16-17** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...

**BY GRACE - We are highly exalted – We are CHILDREN OF GOD - NOW! – We sit in heavenly places – NOW!**

(2.7). **EXHIBITION - Ephesians 2:7&10 Grace makes us an EXHIBITION OF WONDER:**

- ...in the ages to come he (GOD) might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.
  - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
- I John 3:2

(2.8). **EXORBITANT - Ephesians 2:4,7-8 Grace is an EXORBITANT AND PRICELESS GIFT:**

- **Ephesians 2:8** - it is the gift of God: *A PRICELESS GIFT OF INCALCULABLE VALUE!*
- **Ephesians 2:4** But God, who is rich in mercy...
- **Ephesians 2:7** (GOD might show) the exceeding riches of his grace ...
- **CHARLES FINNEY QUOTE** - Sin is the most expensive thing in the universe. Nothing else can cost so much. Pardoned or unpardoned, its cost is infinitely great. Pardoned, the cost falls chiefly on the great atoning Substitute; unpardoned, it must fall on the head of the guilty sinner.

(2.9). **Closing – INEXTINGUISHABLE - Ephesians 2:7 God's Grace will be INEXTINGUISHABLE IN HEAVEN:**

... in the ages to come he (GOD) might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

*Psalms 136 - STATES THE FACT THAT GOD'S MERCY (GRACE) ENDURES FOREVER!*

*Psalms 136- STATES 4 TIMES – O GIVE THANKS!*

**LET US ALL GIVE THANKS FOR HIS WONDERFUL GRACE!**

1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**

2 O give thanks unto the God of gods: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**

3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**

4 To him who alone doeth great wonders: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**

5 To him that by wisdom made the heavens: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**

6 To him that stretched out the earth above the waters: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**

7 To him that made great lights: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
8 The sun to rule by day: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
9 The moon and stars to rule by night: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**  
10 To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
11 And brought out Israel from among them: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
12 With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**  
13 To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**  
16 To him which led his people through the wilderness: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**  
17 To him which smote great kings: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
18 And slew famous kings: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
19 Sihon king of the Amorites: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
20 And Og the king of Bashan: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
21 And gave their land for an heritage: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
22 Even an heritage unto Israel his servant: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**  
23 Who remembered us in our low estate: for **his mercy endureth for ever:**  
24 And hath redeemed us from our enemies: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**  
25 Who giveth food to all flesh: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**  
26 O give thanks unto the God of heaven: for **his mercy endureth for ever.**

***OUR PROMISE FROM GOD IS - ETERNAL LIFE –  
THE ASSURANCE OF GRACE IS AS REAL AS GOD AND AS STRONG AS GOD!***