

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Propheying Message One : The Tremendous Significance of the Grace of God as Revealed in the New Testament

I. Overview:

Grace is the greatest truth and the highest revelation in God's New Testament economy. According to the New Testament, grace is actually what God is to us for our enjoyment. Grace is God in our experience, for grace is God in Christ with all that He is for our enjoyment. Grace is mainly not the work God does for us; grace is the Triune God Himself dispensed into our being and experienced by us for our enjoyment. Grace is the manifestation of the Triune God in His embodiment in three aspects; the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Our God and Father has graced us in the Beloved. For God to grace us means that He has put us into the position of grace so that we may be the object of His grace and favour, that is, that we may enjoy all that God is to us. In Ephesians 2:8 Paul says, "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God". Grace is God dispensed into us; therefore, to be saved by grace means to be saved by having the processed Triune God dispensed into us. When the processed Triune God is dispensed into us, He becomes saving grace to us in our experience. God will display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Why do we say that the New Testament is a the history of God's grace?

The grace of God is a matter of tremendous significance. The New Testament is a history of God's grace, and grace is the incarnated Triune God. First, the Triune God became a man in the flesh through His birth by a human virgin as grace for the accomplishment of redemption. Second, the last Adam, as the embodiment of the Triune God, became the life-giving Spirit through His death and resurrection as grace entering into man.

B. Explain that we should have the proper understanding of the grace.

According to the New Testament, grace is actually what God is to us for our enjoyment. Grace is actually God in Christ dispensed into our being for our enjoyment in our experience. Grace is mainly not the work God does for us; grace is the Triune God Himself dispensed into our being and experienced as our enjoyment. In brief, grace is the Triune God experienced and enjoyed by us.

Day 2 —

A. Expound that grace is the Triune God by the Father as the source, by the Son as the element, and by the Spirit as the application.

In the dispensing of God, the grace is called the grace of God, the grace of Christ, and the grace of which the Spirit is. In the New Testament, phrases such as the grace of God may be considered as appositional. In other words, the grace of God indicates that the grace is God and God is grace. Thus, grace is the Triune God by the Father as the source, by the Son as the element, and by the Spirit as the application.

B. Why is that without being processed, the Triune God could not become grace?

The grace in God's economy in the believers' experience is the processed Triune God. Without being processed, the Triune God could not become grace. God is one, yet He is three—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. The Son is the embodiment and expression of the Father, and the Spirit is the reality and realization of the Son. In the Son the Father is expressed and seen, and as the Spirit the Son is revealed and realized.

Day 3 —

A. Expound the relationship between grace and God becoming flesh.

God became flesh and tabernacled among us, full of grace. This shows that grace is the incarnated God. If God remained in Himself, He could not become grace. If God was merely God and was not incarnated to become a man, He could not be grace. Hence, in the New Testament, God became flesh, and when He became flesh, He became grace.

B. Explain how He is qualified to be our grace.

The incarnated God is triune—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. The Father as the source is embodied and expressed in the Son. In His incarnation He as God was transformed to become a man. In His resurrection He as

God in the flesh was transformed again to become the life- giving Spirit. The Father as the source is embodied and expressed in the Son; the Son is realized as the Spirit and abides in the believers as the grace.

Day 4 —

A. Explain God's choosing and predestination are related to the grace of God.

The praise of the glory of God's grace is the result, the issue, of the sonship. God's predestinating us unto sonship is for the praise of His expression in His grace, that is, for the praise of the glory of His grace. Eventually, every positive thing in the universe will praise God for sonship (Rom. 8:19), thus fulfilling what is spoken in Ephesians 1:6.

B. Expound John 1:17 that grace is what God is to us for our enjoyment.

Whatever God came to be to us and to do for us is God Himself as grace coming to us in His incarnation. This is clearly revealed in John 1, which tells us that God as the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us, full of grace and reality, and that grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the words in Ephesians 2:8 to be saved by grace.

Because we have been saved by His grace, God may display it. In Ephesians grace denotes God dispensed into us. Therefore, to be saved by grace means to be saved by having God dispensed into us. Most Christians regard grace as a thing, not as a person.

B. Explain the meaning of being saved by grace.

Many Christians consider salvation as merely being rescued from a pitiful situation. According to Ephesians, salvation is the transmission of the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ into us. When this person comes into us as grace, we are saved. Grace is the saving person of Christ Himself.

Day 6 —

A. Explain what the glory of God's grace is.

The glory is God expressed. Whenever God is manifested, that is glory. We may use electricity as an illustration. Electricity is hidden, but when it is expressed as light, that light is the glory of electricity. Likewise, when God is hidden, we cannot see His glory. But when He is expressed, His glory is made visible.

B. Expound what the praise of the glory of God's grace is.

When we praise God, we praise Him primarily for what He is or what He does. In praising God you need to forget yourself and get outside of yourself. When you are truly praising God, it seems that you do not exist. You see only God, what He is, and what He does. Therefore, you praise Him and speak well concerning Him.

III. Conclusion:

In this series of messages, we need to understand not only the meaning of God's grace, but also the relationship between His grace and His economy. God's economy is entirely a matter of grace. God's economy is carried out by grace and in grace. The grace of God is altogether with and for God's economy. Therefore, our experience of grace is not only for our interest, but also for the fulfillment of God's economy. This message is the opening words to help us with a thorough understanding of God's grace in His economy. If we gain the feeling of God's grace in His heart, we will agree that grace is a tremendous thing, and its significance is certainly great. Grace is God Himself as everything for us. Grace is the embodiment of the Triune God, and the New Testament is a history of the grace of God as the incarnation of the Triune God.