

Amazed by Grace

“...But where sin abounded, **grace** did much more abound:” Romans 5:20

“Grace”, the small word which embodies the GREAT message of redemption.

- * In 1828, Noah Webster defined grace as, “the free unmerited love and favor of God, the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from him. Favor, Mercy, Pardon. Favor conferred.”
- * Adrian Rodgers described grace as, “both the **desire** and the **ability** to do the will of God.” Neither are present, outside of grace.
- * Thomas Watson, one of the Puritan writers asserts that, “grace is the infusion of a new and holy principle into the heart, whereby it is changed from what it was—and is made after God's own heart...it biases the soul heavenward—and stamps upon it the image and superscription of God”
- * J.I. Packer said that grace tells the story of “how our Judge has become our Savior.”
- * Charles Spurgeon joyfully proclaimed that “grace is always God’s free gift, and that suits a man who has not a penny in his pocket.”
- * Augustus Toplady commented, “Grace finds us beggars but leaves us debtors.”
- * Charles Hodge highlighted that, “the doctrines of grace humble a man without degrading him, and exalt him without inflating him.”

In *The Valley of Vision (The Puritan Book of Prayers)* there is a prayer that is titled, “The Grace of The Cross”. The prayer begins, “Oh MY SAVIOUR, I thank thee from the depths of my being for thy wondrous **grace** and love in bearing my sin in thine own body on the tree.”

John Newton is known as the great hymn writer who penned the familiar words to *Amazing Grace*. At the end of his life, he was still marveling at the grace of God. Even in his last will and testament he writes: “I commit my soul to my **gracious** God and Savior, who mercifully spared and preserved me, when I was an apostate, a blasphemer, and an infidel, and delivered me from the state of misery on the coast of Africa into which my obstinate wickedness had plunged me...”

Throughout these many years the redeemed of God have been singing the same song and preaching the same message which will be our story through the endless ages. The story of Grace. Robert Robinson is the song writer who penned the great hymn, *Come Thou Fount*. One stanza reads, “Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.” After penning the blessed thought he writes so vividly, “O to grace how great a debtor, Daily I’m constrained to be!”

When pausing to consider God’s grace in our own lives, we will certainly say amen to Robinson’s song!

~ Pastor Tim Hodge