

GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

John 1:14-18

(John 1:14-19), "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. {15} John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. {16} And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. {17} For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. {18} No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."



S IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT *GRACE* and *TRUTH* are linked together in our text. *TRUTH* and *GRACE* seem to walk hand in hand. Sometimes words other than *GRACE* are used with *truth*. Those words are similar in meaning to *grace*. Scripture sometimes links *truth* with *mercy, love, lovingkindness* or *peace*.

- **(Psa 40:11)**, "Withhold not thou thy TENDER MERCIES from me, O LORD: let thy LOVINGKINDNESS and thy TRUTH continually preserve me."
- **(Zec 8:19)**, ". . . Therefore LOVE TRUTH AND PEACE."
- **(John 1:17)**, "For the law was given by Moses, but GRACE and TRUTH came by Jesus Christ."
- **(2 John 1:3)**, "GRACE be with you, MERCY, and PEACE, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in TRUTH AND LOVE."

S *TRUTH* and *GRACE* ARE LINKED TOGETHER FOR A GOOD REASON. To accept one to the exclusion of the other leads to error. FOR EXAMPLE, *GRACE WITHOUT TRUTH* lends itself to *LIBERALISM*. One the other hand, *TRUTH WITHOUT GRACE* easily becomes *LEGALISM*. Both *liberalism* and *legalism* are wrong.

E.G. AT WORK ONE DAY, A YOUNG HIGHSCHOOL STUDENT made a comment at break time that sparked a sharp discussion. He said that **IF** you are a Christian, you can do anything you want and it will not affect your relationship to God. It was quite evident by listening to his daily conversation that he was doing anything he wanted without regard to truth. He was AN EXAMPLE OF *GRACE WITHOUT TRUTH*.

E.G. THE PHARISEES in Jesus day were just the opposite. They were *LEGALISTS*. They were an example of *TRUTH WITHOUT GRACE*. The problem with *truth* without *grace* is the *law* administrated without *grace* mandates death (Heb 10:28).

THE PHARISEES DRUG A WOMAN caught in the act of ADULTERY before Jesus in John 8. They said to Jesus that the *law* commanded that she be stoned. Then they asked Jesus what He had to say about that (John 8:4-5).

JESUS bent over and wrote on the ground. He said to the Pharisees, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7). They left one by one until she was left standing alone. Jesus asked the woman where her accusers were. Then He said, "Go, and sin no more."

QUESTION — DID *GRACE* OR *TRUTH* set that condemned woman free? The answer is **YES!** JESUS APPLIED BOTH *LAW* AND *GRACE*.

- BOTH *LAW* AND *GRACE* helped convict her of sin. Both helped tell her what she had done was wrong. (Read Rom 3:20; 5:20)
- BOTH *TRUTH* AND *GRACE* provided a way for her to be set free. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

S EVERY **COUNSELING SESSION** should be marked by *GRACE* and *TRUTH*. Exclude either one and the person will leave more **DISTRAUGHT** than when they came. *Truth* must be told regarding the situation, but *grace* needs to stand ready to offer a helping hand. JESUS SAID:

(**Mat 11:28-29**), "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

IT IS SAID OF JESUS THAT HE WAS (V. 14), "... FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH."

S HE WAS COVERED IN EVERY PART.

S Having already examined *truth* in the previous message **THE GOAL OF THIS MESSAGE** is to **EXAMINE GRACE** as it has been revealed in *TRUTH*.

- Grace does **not do away with** truth. Grace **operates according** to truth.
- (**Col 1:6 NIV**), "... God's **GRACE** in all **ITS TRUTH**."

- I. CLASSIFICATIONS OF GOD'S GRACE
- II. CONDITIONS FOR GOD'S GRACE
- III. CONSEQUENCES OF GOD'S GRACE

I. CLASSIFICATIONS OF GOD'S GRACE

S **WHAT IS GRACE? GRACE IS _____** (You fill the blank)

S **HASN'T SOMEONE WRITTEN A BOOK, "GRACE IS A BLUE-EYED BLOND"?**

S **SOMEONE HAS STATED "GRACE is what you SAY BEFORE A MEAL."**

S GRACE IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT

- THE BIBLE **USES** THE WORD *GRACE* **170X's** (KJV)
- THE BIBLE GIVES **DEMONSTRATIONS** OF *GRACE*
- YET THE BIBLE NEVER GIVES A **DEFINITION** OF *GRACE* though the word occurs so often. Nothing in all those verses ever specifically states what grace is.

S THE EXPLANATIONS OF GRACE WE DO HAVE COME BY considering the various **USES AND EXAMPLES** OF GRACE in the Bible.

- PROBABLY THE MOST **FAMILIAR DEFINITION**
“God's Unmerited Favor”
- ANOTHER POPULAR DEFINITION USES THE **ACROSTIC** OF G.R.A.C.E.
“**G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense”
- **C. I. SCOFIELD**,
“Grace is the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man.”
- **DR. HARRY IRONSIDE**
“Grace is the very opposite of merit . . . Grace is not only undeserved favor, but it is the favor shown to the one who has deserved the very opposite.”
- **WHEN GOD PASSED BY MOSES** while in the cleft of the rock, God said of Himself:
(**Exo 34:6**), “. . . The **LORD**, The **LORD** God, **MERCIFUL** and **GRACIOUS**, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and **TRUTH**,”
- Is it not safe to conclude that *GRACE IS GOD'S ABOUNDING KINDNESS TOWARD US?*

CONSIDER FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS OF GRACE

#1. COMMON GRACE

COMMON GRACE IS grace that is **COMMON TO ALL** humanity whether **LOST OR SAVED**. Common grace is **GOD'S KINDNESS TOWARD ALL** humans overall.

(**Psa 145:9**), “The **LORD IS GOOD TO ALL**: and his tender mercies are **OVER ALL HIS WORKS**.”

COMMON GRACE IS MANIFEST IN AT LEAST THREE WAYS:

(1) **GOD'S MATERIAL PROVISION**

- **Sunshine** and **rain** fall on the just and the unjust (Mat 5:45). The atheistic farmer has rain and sunshine so that his crop can grow just like the Christian farmer.
- **Food, drink, clothing** and **shelter**.

(2) GOD'S RESTRAINT OF EVIL

- Part of the Holy Spirit's ministry is the **restraint of evil** (2 Thes 2:7 NKJV).
- Restraint of evil is **A BLESSING TO ALL** whether believers or not. Without restraint **government** and **social order** would be impossible.

(3) GOD'S CONVICTION OF SIN.

- In order for the lost person to come to Christ for the forgiveness of sin, the Holy Spirit must convict of sin (John 16:8-11).
- God approaches the lost person to convict them of their sin so they might see the need of His forgiving grace.

#1. COMMON GRACE

#2. SPECIAL GRACE

S *Special grace* is **NARROWER IN SCOPE** than *common grace*. It speaks of the **grace directed to those** who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

S **GRACE IS SO AMAZING BECAUSE IS IT IS ALWAYS DISPLAYED AGAINST A BACKDROP OF SIN and FAILURE.** That is why God's grace shines so brightly.

S The **STARS** shine brightest at night because of the darkness. They shine in the daytime but you can't see them. It is the backdrop of the darkness of night that causes the stars to shine out in their glory. **SO IT IS WITH GRACE!**

S **THE HEART OF THIS MESSAGE** is directed at God's *special grace* as it affects those who come to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

#1. COMMON GRACE

#2. SPECIAL GRACE

#3. PAST GRACE

PAST GRACE refers to **God's past acts of kindness** in the lives of His children. The examples are almost unlimited in number.

(1) NOAH

(**Gen 6:8**), "But Noah found **GRACE** in the eyes of the LORD."

(2) JACOB (Gen 32:28)

(3) KING DAVID (Ps 51)

(4) KING MANASSEH (2 Chron 33:12-13)

(5) Before becoming a believer, THE APOSTLE **PAUL** drug Christians out of their homes and imprisoned them. He consented to the stoning of Stephen. Yet, God called Paul by His grace (Gal 1:15).

- (6) **CALVARY** stands at THE PINNACLE of the list. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). Jesus died on the cross for our sin, not His own.

JOHN WYATT

"I scourged the back of Jesus,
With thorns I crowned His head.
I cursed Him and I mocked Him,
I longed to see Him dead.
I laughed with scorn as I followed him
up the path of Calvary,
I nailed His hands upon a cross
And His blood ran at my feet.

BUT STILL HE LOVED ME

Near death forgave me,
BY **GRACE** He saved me from all my sin.

- (7) **EVERY BELIEVER** could give a testimony OF **GOD'S PAST GRACE**. Our **SALVATION** testimony is a story about God's *past grace*. **EVERY BLESSING** of God since our salvation is a testimony of God's *past grace*.

- #1. COMMON GRACE
- #2. SPECIAL GRACE
- #3. PAST GRACE

#4. FUTURE GRACE

- S **DON'T JUST THINK** of *grace* in the **past tense**. It would be **MORE ACCURATE** to think of *grace* as **PAST, PRESENT** and **FUTURE TENSE**. We will experience God's grace for **ALL ETERNITY**. We have **BARELY TOUCHED THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT** when it comes to God's grace. **AS VAST** as *past grace* has been, it is but the beginning of our experience related to God's *future grace*.

(Eph 2:5-7), "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."

(John 1:16), "And of his fulness have all we received, and **GRACE FOR GRACE**."

- S THE MEANING OF "**GRACE FOR GRACE**" IS IMPORTANT
- The Greek preposition "**FOR**" can be translated as "**UPON**." Then it would mean "**GRACE UPON GRACE**." It is a picture of God's goodness and kindness **heaped up, one upon another**.

- The Greek preposition CAN ALSO BE TRANSLATED as “FOR.” In that instance it shows that **A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF NEW GRACE will replenish OLD GRACE.** In other words, God’s **GRACE WILL NEVER RUN OUT.**

S **JOHN NEWTON TOUCHES ON *FUTURE GRACE* IN HIS HYMN AMAZING GRACE:**

“Tis grace hath bro’t me safe thus far, and **GRACE WILL LED ME HOME.**”

S **THERE IS A NAME GIVEN to OUR BELIEF in God’s *future grace*. It is called FAITH. The Christian faith is A CONTINUED BELIEF that GOD IS GOING TO PERSIST IN HIS KINDNESS toward us, NOT ONLY NOW, BUT FOR ALL ETERNITY.**

S **JOHN PIPER has written a wonderful 448 page book titled *FUTURE GRACE*. He explains how our hope and strength for obedience is PRIMARILY FUTURE TENSE, rather than PAST TENSE.**

HE WRITES:

“The only life I have left to live is future life. The past is not in my hands to offer or alter. It is gone. Not even God will change the past. All the expectations of God are future expectations. All the possibilities of faith and love are future possibilities. And all the power that touches me with help to live in love is future power. As precious as the bygone blessing of God may be, if he leaves me only with the memory of those, and not with the promise of more, I will be undone. My hope for future goodness and future glory is future grace. (*Future Grace*, pg 65).

“The grace we have already experienced is infinitesimally small compared to the future grace that I will experience from now to eternity” (Piper, pg 83)

“... The purpose of our salvation is for God to lavish the riches of his grace upon us. The other is that it will take him forever to do it” (Piper, pg 82).

I. CLASSIFICATIONS OF GOD’S GRACE

II. CONDITIONS FOR GOD’S GRACE

S **TO THINK OF FREE GRACE as having conditions is A BIT PUZZLING. JOHN PIPER states that conditional grace sounds a little like an oxymoron — like speaking of heavy feathers (pg. 12). Just because grace has conditions, does not mean that we earn it. GRACE IS FREE and cannot be earned, but we CAN miss it.**

S **LISTEN TO SOME CONDITIONS OF GRACE**

- (**Mat 6:14-15**), “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: {15} But if ye forgive not

men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

- **(Rom 8:28)**, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that **LOVE GOD**, . . . "
- **(James 4:6)**, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but **GIVETH GRACE UNTO THE HUMBLE.**"

S WITH **CONDITIONS** IN MIND CONSIDER **THREE THINGS**:

- #1. THE **ENEMY OF GRACE**
- #2. THE **CONDITION FOR GRACE**
- #3. AN **AGENT OF GRACE**

#1. THE ENEMY OF GRACE

S **PRIDE IS THE ENEMY OF GRACE**

S **WHAT IS PRIDE?**

- **PRIDE IS** mankind's attempt to **LIVE INDEPENDENT** of God. Pride can manifest itself in **attitude, word or action.**
- **SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS**
"PRIDE IS contempt for God and refusal to obey Him."
- **JOHN PIPER**
"PRIDE IS a turning away from God specifically to take satisfaction in self. . . . When God is neglected, the runner up god takes his place, namely man" (pg 87 & 86 in that order).

S **LISTEN TO WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT PRIDE**

- **(Prov 8:13)**, ". . . **PRIDE**, and **arrogancy**, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do **I HATE.**"
- **(Prov 6:16-17)**, "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: {17} **A PROUD LOOK**, . . . "

S THE ENEMY OF GRACE IS **PRIDE**. **PRIDE BUILDS A DAM** that holds back the flood waters of God's grace. **GOD REFUSES** to allow grace to flow freely to the proud and arrogant:

- **(James 4:6)**, ". . . God **RESISTETH** the proud, . . . "
- **(1 Pet 5:5)**, ". . . God **RESISTETH** the proud, . . . "

RESIST is a **military term** that speaks of an army going against an enemy to defeat them.

S God has **PROMISED TO DEFEAT** the plans of the proud. **GOD WILL NOT TOLERATE PRIDE**. **THREE KINGS** in Scripture illustrate **GOD'S INTOLERANCE OF PRIDE**.

[#1]. GOD RESISTED KING UZZIAH

- S **KING UZZIAH** had experienced **GREAT SUCCESS**. **HIS RESUME WAS VERY IMPRESSIVE**
- He became king at **age 16** and reigned for **52 years**
 - He **built** cities and **conquered** cities.
 - He built **towers** in the desert and dug **wells**.
 - He had many cattle and a host of **fighting men** with shields, spears, helmets, bows (**2 Chron 26:1-15**)

- S **SCRIPTURE SAYS OF KING UZZIAH**
(**2 Chr 26:15**), "... HE WAS MARVELLOUSLY HELPED, UNTIL HE WAS STRONG." (**V. 5**)

(**V. 5**), "... As long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper. . . . {16} But **WHEN HE WAS STRONG, HIS HEART WAS LIFTED UP TO HIS DESTRUCTION: . . .**"

- S **WHAT HAPPENED WAS:**
(**V. 19 NIV**), "... **WHILE HE WAS RAGING** at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the Lord's temple, **LEPROSY BROKE OUT ON HIS FOREHEAD.**"

(**V. 20**), "... **BECAUSE THE LORD HAD SMITTEN HIM.**"

- S **GOD RUINED UZZIAH'S SUCCESS.** He had been **SUCCESSFUL UNTIL** he lifted up his heart in **PRIDE**.

[#2]. GOD RESISTED KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR

- S **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** was king of Babylon. According to the Book of Daniel, one day he was walking through his garden **bragging** about what he had done.

(**Dan 4:30**), "... Is not this **great Babylon**, that **I have built** for the house of the kingdom by the might of **my power**, and for **the honor of my majesty?**"

WHILE THE WORDS WERE STILL IN THE KING'S MOUTH, A VOICE FELL FROM HEAVEN **AND SAID**

(**Dan 4:31**), "... O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee."

God immediately struck Nebuchadnezzar with **INSANITY** so that he **SPENT THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS** eating grass with the beast of the fields.

- S **IN A SPLIT SECOND**, he went from sitting on the **THRONE** of the greatest kingdom on earth to **EATING GRASS** with the beasts of the field. **GOD REMOVED HIS STATUS**.

[#3]. GOD RESISTED KING SAUL

- S **KING SAUL** spent the major part of his ministry **RESISTING THE WILL OF GOD**.

S As a result **GOD RESISTED** King Saul. *GOD RESISTED* King Saul **BY REFUSING TO SPEAK TO HIM.**

(1 Sam 28:6), “. . . When **SAUL** inquired of the LORD, the LORD **ANSWERED HIM NOT**, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.”

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- **(James 4:6)**, “. . . God **RESISTS** the proud, . . . ”
(1 Pet 5:5), “. . . God **RESISTS** the proud, . . . ”
 - Proud people **ALWAYS PLAN FOR SUCCESS, BUT PRIDE ALWAYS FAILS.** It has **FLAWS IN ITS FOUNDATION.**

(Prov 16:18), “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

#1. THE ENEMY OF GRACE — **PRIDE**

#2. THE CONDITION FOR GRACE

S THE CONDITION FOR GRACE IS **HUMILITY**

- **(1 Pet 5:5)**, “. . . God resisteth the proud, and **GIVETH GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**” (James 4:6)
- **(Prov 3:34)**, “. . . **HE GIVETH GRACE UNTO THE LOWLY.**”

S **WHAT IS HUMILITY?** It comes from an O.T. root word that means **“TO BEND THE KNEE.”** It carries the idea of **SUBMISSION.** We will **never experience** God’s grace **apart from** SUBMISSION to God. That is why the Scripture is so **ADAMANT** about humility and submission to God.

- **(1 Pet 5:5)**, “. . . **BE CLOTHED** with **HUMILITY:** . . . ”
- **(James 4:10)**, “**HUMBLE YOURSELVES** in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”
- **(2 Chr 7:14)**, “**IF MY PEOPLE,** which are called by my name, shall **HUMBLE THEMSELVES,** and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

S THE **CONDITION OF GRACE IS HUMILITY**

- **JESUS** is the **SUPREME EXAMPLE** of **HUMILITY.** Philippians 2 tells how He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has given Him a name which is above every name (Phil 2:6-11).
- **SATAN** is the **SUPREME EXAMPLE** of **PRIDE.** Satan exalted himself and sought to overthrow God (Isa 14:12-14). It is little wonder that God will cast Satan down to hell.
- **(Luke 14:11)**, “For everyone who exalts himself will be

humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'"

- S Considering that GOD'S **CONDITION** FOR GRACE IS **HUMILITY**, isn't it strange that society says so little about humility?

JOHN PIPER

"Humility is **not a popular trait** to find in the modern world. It's **not touted** in the talk shows or **celebrated** in valedictory speeches or **commended** in diversity seminars or listed with corporate core values. And if you go to the massive self-help section of your sprawling mall bookstore, you won't find many titles celebrating humility.

"The basic reason for this is not hard to find: humility can only survive in the presence of God. When God goes, humility goes. In fact you might say that humility follows God like a shadow. We can expect to find humility applauded in our society about as often as we find God applauded" (*Future Grace*, John Piper, p 85)

#1. THE ENEMY OF GRACE — **PRIDE**

#2. THE CONDITION FOR GRACE — **HUMILITY**

#3. AN AGENT OF GRACE - SUFFERING

GOD SOMETIMES ALLOWS **SUFFERING** to bring us to a place where we can be recipients of His grace.

- (1) THE SUFFERING OF **THE PRODIGAL** eventually led him to his senses. He repented of his sins and returned to his father and asked for forgiveness. He would likely have never come back had it not been for his suffering. He ran out of money and had to start slopping pigs to make a living. (Luke 15:11-24)
- (2) THE SUFFERING OF **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** eventually helped Him to praise God rather than resist God (Dan 4:37).
- (3) THE SUFFERING OF **KING DAVID** helped him to **OBEY** (**Psa 119:67, 71**), "Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept thy word. . . . {71} It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."
- (4) **PAUL** SUFFERING helped him to remain **USEABLE**. Paul wrote more of the N.T. than any other person. God had given him direct revelation from heaven. It would have been hard to experience so much and remain humble. **God helped** Paul to remain usable by allowing him to experience a **THORN** in his flesh that he asked God to remove three different times (2 Cor 12:7-8). Whatever that thorn was, it had to have been painful for Paul. **GOD TOLD PAUL WHY** He would not remove the thorn.
(**2 Cor 12:9**), "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. /// Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

GOD OFTEN USES SUFFERING to make us eligible candidates for

His grace. He loves us enough to allow us to hurt.

CHUCK COLSON was a point man in the NIXON ADMINISTRATION. When Nixon fell, so did Colson. He spent time in **PRISON** because of decisions he made. Gods used all those trials to humble Chuck and make him a candidate for God's grace. Chuck **BECAME A CHRISTIAN**. He is the author of several inspiring Christian books about God.

CHUCK WRITES:

"Stripped of my power and freedom, I learned that Jesus wasn't interested in my success. He wanted me. He wanted my obedience. I learned that God's victory comes through our defeats. His healing comes out of our brokenness. We find ourselves only through losing our "selves." Oh, the glorious freedom of this truth." (his newsletter 2/15/95)

(Isa 57:15), "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

- I. CLASSIFICATIONS OF GOD'S GRACE
- II. CONDITIONS FOR GOD'S GRACE

III. CONSEQUENCES OF GOD'S GRACE

(John 1:16), "And of his fulness have all we received, and **GRACE FOR GRACE.**"

- S GOD PROVIDES **GRACE UPON GRACE**. A super abundant supply of grace exists. Grace will **NEVER RUN OUT**. Grace will **NEVER RUN LOW**.
- S CONSIDER **FOUR BLESSINGS** that come as a direct result of God's grace

#1. THE GIFT OF SALVATION

(Eph 2:8), "For by **GRACE** are ye **SAVED** through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the **GIFT** of God:"

- S THE GIFT OF **ETERNAL LIFE** is the result of God's grace. Salvation is not something we earn. Salvation is something that God gives.
- S **JOHN NEWTON** was a **blasphemer** and **rebel** who later experienced God's salvation and became **A PASTOR** in England. He is the man who wrote the hymn **AMAZING GRACE**.

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me."

John Newton is truly a picture of God's amazing grace. **WRITTEN ON HIS TOMBSTONE** in **OLNEY, ENGLAND** are these words:

"John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and Libertine, a servant of slavers in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of

our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the Faith he had long labored to destroy.”

- S CHRISTIANS are not more deserving than other people, they are just touched by **GOD'S GRACE**. It is **GOD'S GRACE** that makes **GOD'S CHILDREN** stand out in a lost world. The **BUMPER STICKER** states it will — *Christians are not perfect, they are just forgiven.*

#1. THE GIFT OF **SALVATION**

#2. THE GIFT OF ENDURANCE

- S WHY DIDN'T **JESUS** QUIT? — **GRACE!** It was grace that helped Him make it through Gethsemane and through the cross.
- S WHY DIDN'T **PAUL** QUIT? — **GRACE!**
(**2 Cor 12:9**), “. . . My **GRACE** is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. . . .”
- S WHY DON'T **WE** QUIT? — **GRACE!**
(**Rom 5:2**), “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein **WE STAND**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
- S **ENDURANCE** comes through God's grace
- “Tis grace hath bro't me safe thus far, and **GRACE WILL LED ME HOME.**”

#1. THE GIFT OF **SALVATION**

#2. THE GIFT OF **ENDURANCE**

#3. THE GIFT OF A SECOND CHANCE

- S God is the author of **THE FRESH NEW START IN LIFE**
- S GOD GAVE **THE WOMAN** IN JOHN 8 **A SECOND CHANCE:**
(**John 8:10-11**), “. . . ‘Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?’ {11} She said, ‘No man, Lord.’ And Jesus said unto her, ‘Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.’”
- S GOD GAVE **PETER** **A SECOND CHANCE.** Peter denied Jesus **3X's.** God's grace gave Peter the opportunity to start all over.
- S **GOD'S GRACE OFFERS SECOND CHANCES**
(**Rom 5:20**), “Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But **WHERE SIN ABOUNDED, GRACE DID MUCH MORE ABOUND:**”
- S **THE KNOWLEDGE** that God is going to treat us with **KINDNESS** **ENDEARS** us to Him. It has **A PURIFYING EFFECT** in the lives of those who love Him and who walk by faith.
(**1 John 3:1-3**), “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath

bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. {2} Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it **DOTH NOT YET APPEAR WHAT WE SHALL BE**: but **WE KNOW** that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. {3} And every man that hath this hope in him **PURIFIETH HIMSELF**, even as he is pure."

- #1. THE GIFT OF **SALVATION**
- #2. THE GIFT OF **ENDURANCE**
- #3. THE GIFT OF **A FRESH START IN LIFE**

#4. THE GIFT OF ADVENTURE NOW and FOR ALL ETERNITY

S THAT ADVENTURE BEGINS AT SALVATION

(1 Cor 2:9), "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

S THAT ADVENTURE BEGINNING AT SALVATION LASTS FOR ALL ETERNITY

(Eph 2:4-7), "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."

JESUS WAS

(John 1:14), "... **FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.**"

(Mat 11:28-29), "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. {29} Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."