

Significance of the Cross...

The authors of the gospels tell us that the Lord Jesus spoke of the cross before His death (Matt. 10:38; Mark 10:21; Luke 14:27) as a symbol of the necessity of full commitment (even unto death) for those who would be His disciples. But the major significance of the cross after Jesus' death and resurrection is its use as a symbol of Jesus' willingness to suffer for our sins (Phil. 2:8; Heb. 12:2) so that we might be reconciled (2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 1:20) to God and know His peace (Eph. 2:16).

Thus the cross symbolizes the glory of the Christian gospel (1 Cor. 1:17): the fact that through this offensive means of death (1 Cor. 1:23; Gal. 5:11), the debt of sin against us was "nailed to the cross" (Col. 2:14), and we, having "been crucified with Christ" (Gal. 2:20), have been freed from sin and death and made alive to God (Rom. 6:6-11).

The cross, then, is the symbol of Jesus' love, God's power to save, and the thankful believer's unreserved commitment to Christian discipleship. To those who know the salvation that Christ gained for us through His death, it is a "wondrous cross" indeed.

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary

DIRECT BIBLE EXTRACTS

Grace

The Holy Bible,
**New King James
Version,**
(Nashville, Tennessee:
Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.

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This booklet has been compiled from the new Topical Textbook, and the Bible extracts taken from the references mentioned in the Bible. I hope that this may become easier for you to find out His message relating to this Topic directly from the Bible, and how you could apply this to your personal life according to the world around you and your own circumstances.

Believing in the message and without doubt, one begins to realize how from the beginning of the Bible until the end, God does give us the same message, and no matter how we try to interpret it, the essence and core of our explanation comes directly from the His Word.

We will miss out on the issues relating to these extracts but I trust that these extracts will lead you to further study these circumstances and story leading to these messages.

This has been my Way of discovery, from my own personal decision to find out more about my Creator and what He wants of me. Through His Word He has revealed many insights that have excited me to keep searching for more, and this has now become a daily habit for me.

Best wishes in your discovery, through your own and personal commitment!

Enjoy your Day!

...through Jesus Christ our saviour!

Henrique Martins

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This did not happen because of any merit on Israel's part, but in spite of their unrighteousness (Deut. 7:7-8; 9:5-6). Although the grace of God is always free and undeserved, it must not be taken for granted. Grace is only enjoyed within the COVENANT—the gift is given by God, and the gift is received by people through repentance and faith (Amos 5:15). Grace is to be humbly sought through the prayer of faith (Mal. 1:9).

The grace of God was supremely revealed and given in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus was not only the beneficiary of God's grace (Luke 2:40), but was also its very embodiment (John 1:14), bringing it to humankind for salvation (Titus 2:11). By His death and resurrection, Jesus restored the broken fellowship between God and His people, both Jew and Gentile.

The only way of salvation for any person is "through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 15:11).

The grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ is applied to human beings for their salvation by the HOLY SPIRIT, who is called "the Spirit of grace" (Heb. 10:29). The Spirit is the One who binds Christ to His people so that they receive forgiveness, adoption to sonship, and newness of life, as well as every spiritual gift or grace (Eph. 4:7).

The theme of grace is especially prominent in the letters of Paul. He sets grace radically over against the law and the works of the law (Rom. 3:24, 28). Paul makes it abundantly clear that salvation is not something that can be earned; it can be received only as a gift of grace (Rom. 4:4). Grace, however, must be accompanied by faith; a person must trust in the mercy and favor of God, even while it is undeserved (Rom. 4:16; Gal. 2:16). The law of Moses revealed the righteous will of God in the midst of pagan darkness; it was God's gracious gift to Israel (Deut. 4:8). But His will was made complete when Jesus brought the gospel of grace into the world (John 1:17).

28. Not to be abused

Romans 3:8

⁸ And *why* not say, “Let us do evil that good may come”²—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.

Romans 6:1,15

¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

29. Antinomians abused

Jude 4

⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

GRACE — favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that person deserves. Grace is one of the key attributes of God. The Lord God is “merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth” (Ex. 34:6). Therefore, grace is almost always associated with mercy, love, compassion, and patience. In the Old Testament, the supreme example of grace was the redemption of the Hebrew people from Egypt and their establishment in the Promised Land.

Grace from New Topical Textbook

1. God is the God of all. **1Pe 5:10.**
2. God is the Giver of. **Ps 84:11; Jas 1:17.**
3. God’s throne, the throne of. **Heb 4:16.**
4. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of. **Zec 12:10; Heb 10:29.**
5. Was upon Christ. **Lu 2:40; Joh 3:24.**
6. Christ spoke with. **Ps 45:2; Lu 4:22.**
7. Christ was full of. **Joh 1:14.**
8. Came by Christ. **Joh 1:17; Ro 5:15.**
9. Given by Christ. **1Co 1:4.**
10. Foretold by the prophets. **1Pe 1:10.**
11. Riches of, exhibited in God’s kindness through Christ. **Eph 2:7.**
12. Glory of, exhibited in our acceptance in Christ. **Eph 1:6.**
13. Is described as
 - a. Great. **Ac 4:33.**
 - b. Sovereign. **Ro 5:21.**
 - c. Rich. **Eph 1:7; 2:7.**
 - d. Exceeding. **2Co 9:14.**
 - e. Manifold. **1Pe 4:10.**
 - f. All-sufficient. **2Co 12:9.**
 - g. All-abundant. **Ro 5:15,17,20.**
 - h. Glorious. **Eph 1:6.**
14. The gospel, a declaration of. **Ac 20:24,32.**
15. Is the source of
 - a. Election. **Ro 11:5.**
 - b. The call of God. **Ga 1:15.**
 - c. Justification. **Ro 3:24; Tit 3:7.**
 - d. Faith. **Ac 18:27.**
 - e. Forgiveness of sins. **Eph 1:7.**
 - f. Salvation. **Ac 15:11; Eph 2:5,8.**
 - g. Consolation. **2Th 2:16.**
 - h. Hope. **2Th 2:16.**
16. Necessary to the service of God. **Heb 12:28.**
17. God’s work completed in saints by. **2Th 1:11,12.**
18. The success and completion of the work of God to be attributed to. **Zec 4:7.**

- 19. Inheritance of the promises by. **Ro 4:16.**
- 20. Justification by, opposed to that by works. **Ro 4:4,5; 11:6; Ga 5:4.**
- 21. Saints
 - a. Are heirs of. **1Pe 3:7.**
 - b. Are under. **Ro 6:14.**
 - c. Receive, from Christ. **Joh 1:16.**
 - d. Are what they are by. **1Co 15:10; 2Co 1:12.**
 - e. Abound in gifts of. **Ac 4:33; 2Co 8:1; 9:8,14.**
 - f. Should be established in. **Heb 13:9.**
 - g. Should be strong in. **2Ti 2:1.**
 - h. Should grow in. **2Pe 3:18.**
 - i. Should speak with. **Eph 4:29; Col 4:6.**
- 22. Specially given
 - a. To ministers. **Ro 12:3,6; 15:15; 1Co 3:10; Ga 2:9; Eph 3:7.**
 - b. To the humble. **Pr 3:34; Jas 4:6.**
 - c. To those who walk uprightly. **Ps 84:11.**
- 23. Not to be received in vain. **2Co 6:1.**
- 24. Pray for
 - a. For yourselves. **Heb 4:16.**
 - b. For others. **2Co 13:14; Eph 6:24.**
- 25. Beware lest you fail of. **Heb 12:15.**
- 26. Manifestation of, in others, a cause of gladness. **Ac 11:23; 1Jo 1:3,4.**
- 27. Special manifestation of, at the second coming of Christ. **1Pe 1:13.**
- 28. Not to be abused. **Ro 3:8; 6:1,15.**
- 29. Antinomians abused. **Jude 1:4.**

25. Beware lest you fail of

Hebrews 12:15

¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

26. manifestation of, in others, a cause of gladness

Acts 11:23

²³ When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.

1 John 1:3,4

³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

27. Special manifestation of, at the second coming of Christ

1 Peter 1:13

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

c. ...to those who walk uprightly

Psalm 84:11

¹¹ For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield;
The LORD will give grace and glory;
No good *thing* will He withhold
From those who walk uprightly.

23. Not to be received in vain

2 Corinthians 6:1

¹ We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also
plead with *you* not to receive the grace of God
in vain.

24. pray for...

a. ...yourselves

Hebrews 4:16

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.

b. ...others

2 Corinthians 13:14

¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the
love of God, and the communion of the Holy
Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.

Ephesians 6:24

²⁴ Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord
Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

1. God is the God of all

1 Peter 5:10

¹⁰ But may the God of all grace, who called us
to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you
have suffered a while, perfect, establish,
strengthen, and settle *you*.

2. God is the Giver of

Psalm 84:11

¹¹ For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield;
The LORD will give grace and glory;
No good *thing* will He withhold
From those who walk uprightly.

James 1:17

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from
above, and comes down from the Father of
lights, with whom there is no variation or
shadow of turning.

3. God's throne, the throne of

Hebrews 4:16

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.

4. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of

Zechariah 12:10

¹⁰ "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Hebrews 10:29

²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

5. Was upon Christ

Luke 2:40

⁴⁰ And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

John 3:24

²⁴ For John had not yet been thrown into prison.

1 Corinthians 3:10

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

Galatians 2:9

⁹ and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we *should go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

Ephesians 3:7

⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

b. ...to the humble

Proverbs 3:34

³⁴ Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble.

James 4:6

⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
**1 "God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."**

i. ...Should speak with

Ephesians 4:29

²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Colossians 4:6

⁶ Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

22. Specially given...

a. to ministers

Romans 12:3,6

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith;

Romans 15:15

¹⁵ Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on *some* points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God,

6. Christ spoke with

Psalms 45:2

² You are fairer than the sons of men;
**Grace is poured upon Your lips;
Therefore God has blessed You forever.**

Luke 4:22

²² **So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"**

7. Christ was full of

John 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word became 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.

8. Came by Christ

John 1:17

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:15

¹⁵ But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

9. Given by Christ

1 Corinthians 1:4

⁴ I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,

10. Foretold by the prophets

1 Peter 1:10

¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you,

11. Riches of, exhibited in God's kindness through Christ

Ephesians 2:7

⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

12. Glory of, exhibited in our acceptance in Christ

Ephesians 1:6

⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

2 Corinthians 8:1

¹ Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:

2 Corinthians 9:8,14

⁸ And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work. ¹⁴ and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

f. ...Should be established in

Hebrews 13:9

⁹ Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For *it is* good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

g. ...Should be strong in

2 Timothy 2:1

¹ You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

h. ...Should grow in

2 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

b. ...are under

Romans 6:14

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

c. receive from Christ

John 1:16

¹⁶ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

d. ...are what they are by

1 Corinthians 15:10

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.

2 Corinthians 1:12

¹² For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.

e. ...abound in gifts of

Acts 4:33

³³ And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

13. is described as...

a. ...great

Acts 4:33

³³ And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

b. ...Sovereign

Romans 5:21

²¹ so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

c. ...rich

Ephesians 1:7

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Ephesians 2:7

⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

d. ...exceeding

2 Corinthians 9:14

¹⁴ and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.

e. ...manifold

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

f. ...all-sufficient

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹ And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

g. ...all-abundant

Romans 5:15,17,20

¹⁵ But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) ²⁰ Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

20. Justification by, opposed to that by works

Romans 4:4,5

⁴ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

⁵ But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

Romans 11:6

⁶ And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

Galatians 5:4

⁴ You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

21. Saints

a. ...are heirs of

1 Peter 3:7

⁷ Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

17. God's work completed in saints by

2 Thessalonians 1:11,12

¹¹ Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹²that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

18. The success and completion of the work of God to be attributed to

Zechariah 4:7

⁷ 'Who *are* you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel *you shall become* a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' "

19. Inheritance of the promises by

Romans 4:16

¹⁶ Therefore *it is* of faith that *it might be* according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

h. ...glorious

Ephesians 1:6

⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

14. The gospel, a declaration of

Acts 20:24,32

²⁴ "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ³² "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

15. Is the source of...

a. ...election

Romans 11:5

⁵ Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

b. ...the call of God

Galatians 1:15

¹⁵ But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called *me* through His grace,

c. ...justification

Romans 3:24

²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Titus 3:7

⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

d. ...faith

Acts 18:27

²⁷ And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace;

e. ...forgiveness of sins

Ephesians 1:7

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

f. ...salvation

Acts 15:11

¹¹ “But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”

Ephesians 2:5,8

⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

g. ...consolation

2 Thessalonians 2:16

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,

h. ...hope

2 Thessalonians 2:16

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,

^{16.} necessary to the service of God

Hebrews 12:28

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.