

Series: A Glorious Grace: Foundations of Grace

Message: The God Of Grace: Part Two

Scripture: Selected Texts

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Part 1

1. What Does It Mean That God Is A God Of Grace?

1) God Shows Common Grace To Everyone

Common Grace

"The favor or goodness of God shown to all mankind, regardless of his relationship to God."

2) God Shows Special Grace To His Own

Special Grace

"The special favor of eternal life specifically applied only to those who put their faith in Christ."

2. Can A God Of Grace Allow Bad Things To Happen?

Amos 3:6

⁶ If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble? If a calamity occurs in a city has not the Lord done it?

Isaiah 45:7

⁷ The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these.

Part 2

3. Why Would A Gracious God Decree Bad Things?

Curt Cloninger

Even though I didn't know it then, I've been preparing for this year of grief for many, many years. I've been soaking in the sureness of the love of God. I've been reminding myself, often, that God is, no matter what, in control, and that there is a glorious reality, just beyond us, that will, in time, be revealed. And so...for the past year, and still today, I've grieved and I've hoped. That's not a bad combination.

- 1) To Administer Justice So That God's Righteousness Would Not Be Compromised.

Numbers 23:19

¹⁹" God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

- 2) To Expose Man's Sin So As To Make Him Seek God.

When God Weeps, Tada & Estes, pg. 142 & 143

The beauty of being exposed and empty is that God can then cover you. Like a surface that must be scrubbed clean before you can bond anything to it, the bonding of intimacy between God and us won't adhere until the film of dirt goes, the ambitions, the vanity, everything that sets itself up against others and God....

Affliction is the gristmill where pride is reduced to powder, leaving our souls naked, bare, and bonded to Christ. And it feels beautiful.

Paul Tripp, Whiter Than Snow

The grace that we have been given is not always comfortable grace...as sinners we all become way too comfortable with our sin...we all have a perverse capacity to be comfortable with what God says is wrong. So God blesses us with violent, uncomfortable grace. Yes, he really does love us enough to crush us, so that we would feel the pain of our sin and run to him for forgiveness and deliverance.

- 3) To Enhance The Quality Of His Followers Inner Being So As To Get Their Hearts Where They Are Designed To Be.

James 1:2-4

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

When God Weeps, Tada & Estes, pg. 202 & 204

Earth's pain keeps crushing our hopes, reminding us this world can never satisfy; only heaven can. And every time we begin to nestle too comfortably on this planet, God cracks open the locks of the dam to allow an ice-cold splash of suffering to wake us from our spiritual slumber. Suffering keeps swelling our feet so that earth's shoes won't fit....

Suffering sandblasts us to the core, removing sin and impurities so that intimacy with Jesus is possible.

Paul Tripp, New Morning Mercies

God's care comes in many forms. He cares enough to break your bones in order to recapture your heart. I wish your care was always easy, predictable, safe. A cool drink. A soft pillow- but you are too wise, too loving, too committed to your work of transforming grace. So your gracious care comes to me in uncomfortable forms: the redeeming care of disappointment, the unexpected trial, suffering, loss. These things don't tell me you're cold-hearted, absent, uninvolved. No, each is a sign of zealous grace, redeeming love. I struggle to grasp how much you care, so I struggle to rest in that care. You care enough to give me what I need, not what I want. You care enough to break my bones, in order to recapture my heart.

CH Spurgeon

The greatest earthly blessing God can give us is health – with the exception of sickness. Sickness has frequently been of more use to the saints of God than health is.

Unknown

“When I knew nothing of God, I was indifferent to Him; When I knew a little of Him, I mistrusted and complained of Him. When I knew much of God, I trusted Him and loved Him.”

Augustine

My Father, I do not understand Thee, but I trust Thee.