



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD
CHRIST THE LORD PARISH
LAGOS PROVINCE 20
LEKKI PHASE 1

DIGGING DEEP: TUESDAY 30TH JUNE 2026

THEME: DIVINE VISITATION

TOPIC: DIVINE GRACE

TEXT: ROMANS 11:2-6

INTRODUCTION

The concept of grace is critical to the Christian faith. It is important that a believer understands what it is in running their Christian race. A clear understanding of the concept will not only relieve the believer of avoidable burdens but will also guide them in their prayer life. Grace plays a central role in man's relationship with God. Salvation comes by grace through faith. In other words, you must have faith to receive grace and you need grace to have salvation. Therefore, understanding grace is essential for every Christian who desires to walk closely with God. Ephesians 2:8 says: *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."*

OUTLINE 1.

1. Meaning of Grace:

- The word "Grace" is traceable to the Latin word: "*gratia*", which meant "pleasing quality, favor..."
- But Grace in Christianity means the free and undeserved kindness, or unmerited favour of God. Romans 11:5-6 KJV *Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise, grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise, work is no more work.*

2. Grace, Works, and Mercy

It is by grace that we enjoy certain benefits from God despite our shortcomings. Grace is God giving us what we do not deserve. Grace is the opposite of works. While we neither work for nor deserve the benefits we receive from God by grace, the benefit for works however is an entitlement. An employee that works through the month is entitled to their wages as of right and not by grace. **Romans 4:2-5** Grace is based on the generosity of God. It is a gift freely given by God. It is not a gift we worked for. No one worked to receive sunlight, rains, and the air that we breathe. Grace cannot be purchased through offerings. We see this in Acts 8:18-24 where Simon the sorcerer attempted to purchase the power of the Holy Spirit with money, and Apostle Peter rebuked him, saying: *"May your silver be destroyed with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money!"*. **Ephesians 2:8-9**: Paul emphasizes that grace is an unmerited gift from God: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

WORKS

Works, on the other hand, refer to human efforts, and actions, including religious activities. It must be understood that salvation is not earned through good behaviour, religious activities, or moral living. **Titus 3:3-5**. When, however, we are saved, we do good works but it has to be understood that it is not the good works that bring salvation to us. Grace brings salvation and salvation enables us to do good works. So, good works are the fruits of salvation. We receive grace through faith and not through good works. Luke 23:39-43 clearly demonstrates the concept of grace as distinct from works. There, you will find that one of the criminals, the malefactors, who were crucified along with Jesus had no opportunity to perform good works, yet he received salvation through grace when he placed his faith in Christ. Also, in Hebrews 11:31 we are told that ³¹*by faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace*. You

will find a clear example of Works and its reward in Exodus 20:12 which says: *Honour thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee*, Deuteronomy 5:16, Ephesians 6:2. Also, when Hezekiah was sick unto death, he called on God to remember his works and God answered him with a prolonged life as can be seen in Isaiah 38:2-5.

MERCY

There is a distinction between Grace and Mercy. The concept of *Mercy* connotes the withholding or remission of a deserved punishment or termination of ongoing punishment or penalty. Ephesians 2:4-5 KJV. Mercy implies that the beneficiary has committed some transgression. We all need mercy because according to **Romans 3:23** all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, **Lamentations 3:22**. It is by the mercy of God that our sins are not remembered but forgiven. Psalm 25:6-7 KJV. Psalm 51:1 KJV. Romans 9:15-16 KJV. Where the law rules, we need mercy but with grace, sin will not have dominion over us. Romans 6:14 KJV ¹⁴

OUTLINE 2

What Can Deny One of Grace?

Even though we enjoy grace as a free gift, some attitudes and conduct can hinder a person from experiencing its fullness.

- **Pride:** Let us practice humility and shun pride. **James 4:6**. Tells us that pride shuts the door to grace because it causes a person to depend on self rather than God.
- **Unbelief:** Unbelief in the gospel is an unpardonable sin: Mark 3:28-29. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit occurs when one denies the declaration of the Holy Spirit that Jesus is the son of God: **Luke 3:21-22**. The children of Israel did not enter God's spiritual rest and grace because of unbelief: **Hebrews 3:18-19**. Jesus could not do much mighty work in Nazareth because of their unbelief: **Mark 6:5-6**. Also, **Hebrews 4:2-3** explains that the good news of grace did not profit those who heard the message but did not believe.
- **Failure to recognise the finished work:** Reliance on the flesh by attempting to overcome sin through your own willpower, striving to meet the requirements of the law forgetting that if you are operating under the law, as opposed to grace, then you must keep ALL the laws, living under self-condemnation and forgetting that Jesus paid for ALL our sins, striving by works to earn God's favour: all of these deprive one of grace: **Matthew 11:28-30**, **2 Corinthians 5:17-19**, **James 2:10**, **Galatians 3:10**, **Romans 6:14**.
- **Self-Righteousness:** Those who believe that they are righteous and have no sin deny themselves of grace. This is evident from the story where the Pharisees saw Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners in Matthew's home and questioned his action which they found objectionable by their own self-righteous standards. The response of Jesus in Luke 5:32 was that: *"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* See also **Luke 19:10**.
- **Living in sin:** Living in sin hinders spiritual growth. "Living in sin" is a perpetual lifestyle of sin as opposed to occasional sins in the life of a believer. Galatians 5:19-21, Hebrews 10:26-29. Grace is not a licence to sin but frees the believer from the spirit of perpetual sin such that if he occasionally commits a sin, he becomes conscious of it and moves away from it: Romans 6:1-2, Romans 6:14-16.

OUTLINE 3: Some Personalities in the Bible that enjoyed Grace:

- Noah: Gen. 6:8, Rahab: Joshua 2: 1-21, Joseph: Gen 41: 38-46, David: Psalm 103:3 Mary: Luke 1:30, Paul: Acts 9:1-6.

CONCLUSION

Romans 6:23 says:

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." By law, the wages of sin, is death, but the benefit of grace is salvation. Under the law, all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Christ then came to reconcile us with God and through Him we receive grace. So, by grace our sins are not imputed to us. All believers must constantly ask God for His grace. The power to grant grace to man exclusively belongs to God. The power of God works best in he who acknowledges his own weakness. 2Cor. 12:9 says *⁹And 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.* May the grace of God abide with us all the days of our lives.