

# The Meaning of Grace

## ?? **Introduction**

- ?? Probably the biggest area of contention in the church today.
- ?? “**Unmerited** favor” (Genesis 6:8; Luke 2:52)
- ?? We need to know this important concept

## I. **Grace does *not* mean...**

- A. ... that all men will be saved (Matthew 7:13-14, 21)
- B. ... that there are no “works” for us as Christians to do
  1. Seeming contradiction (James 2:24-26 and Ephesians 2:9)
  2. Excluded works
    - a. merit (Ephesians 2:9)
    - b. human devising (Romans 10:3)
    - c. works of the Mosaic covenant (Romans 4)
  3. Required works
    - a. obedience (Romans 1:5)
    - b. righteousness (Acts 10:35)
    - c. faith (John 6:28-29)
- C. ...that men can be saved without obedience to the Lord’s will
  1. Jesus’ obedience served as our example (Hebrews 5:8-9)
  2. Obedience will be a basis of judgment (II Thessalonians 1:7-9)
- D. ...that in judgment, God will disregard His will
  1. We will be judged by the law of Christ (John 12:48)
  2. To teach that grace extends to all...
- E. ...that the gospel plan of salvation involves no law
  1. Some pervert Romans 6:14
    - a. Paul **can’t** be saying **any** law (John 12:48)
    - b. In context, it’s the Mosaic law (Romans 7)
  2. Paul later describes this new law (Romans 8:2)
  3. James calls it “the perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25)

## II. **Grace *does* mean**

- A. God was not obligated to man (Colossians 1:21; Romans 5:8)
- B. God has provided for man’s salvation (Romans 3:21-24; Titus 2:11; John 3:16-17)
- C. We have the Word of God (II Timothy 3:16-17; Acts 20:32)
- D. We must labor for the cause of Christ
  1. Grace demands a life of labor (I Corinthians 15:10)
  2. Christianity demands a total change to a new life (Galatians 2:20-21)
- E. We have the more-than-sufficient gift from God (Romans 5:15; I Timothy 1:15)
- F. We have the needed instruction—both negative and positive (Titus 2:11-12)

## **Conclusion:**

- ?? We need to discard the idea that grace and law are incompatible
- ?? We need to discard the idea that grace and works are incompatible
- ?? We must accept and obey God’s plan that He has **graciously** provided for us
- ?? We must obey if we want the blessings of grace