Grace: Deeper Than The Ocean

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday December 17th, 2017

Text: Titus 2:11-14

### Intro

1. Titus 2:11-14: “The grace of God has appeared unto all men…”
2. Acts 11:19-23:
	1. *11:4-17:* Peter defended his preaching the gospel to Cornelius *(Acts 10),* a Gentile, when he arrived in Jerusalem by concluding: “Who was I that I could withstand God?” (NKJ)
	2. *11:18:* Jews glorified God for granting to the Gentiles, “the repentance that leads to life.”
	3. There were those who preached to the Gentiles in Antioch and many believed in Christ.
	4. The church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch, and when he “witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced” – the grace of God he witnessed was Gentiles obeying the gospel!
	5. God’s grace was a ***gift*** to the Jews *(Acts 2)* and to Gentiles *(Acts 10)* alike!
3. Eph. 2:4-5, 8: “Saved by grace” (Parallel passage – Titus 3:4-7)
	1. “Grace” = *charis [khar'-ece ] (G5485):* unmerited favor; grace (ious), benefit, gift, joy of liberality, pleasure, thank(-s, -worthy).
	2. It means it is favor granted to someone who does not deserve it.
4. “His Grace Reaches Me” (1964) by Jewell Monroe “Whitey” Gleason (1932-2007)
	1. Whitey Gleason (May 18, 1932 - June 30, 2007) was a minister, educator, and owner of a music store.
	2. He wrote hundreds of songs in his career while accompanying various gospel singing groups on the piano.
	3. He was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame as a member of the Blackwood Brothers Quartet.
5. The grace of God, through the blood of Christ, is deeper than the ocean and wider than the sea!

#### Sent By the Father

1. Stanza 1:
	* 1. “Deeper than the ocean and wider than the sea, Is the grace of the Savior, for sinners like me; Sent by the Father, and it thrills my soul, Just to feel and to know, That His blood makes me whole.”
2. Eph. 3:14-19 (esp. vs. 18-19): Can we measure the love & grace of God? *(Rom. 8:38-39)*
	1. Width — The world (John 3:16)
	2. Length — Forever (I Cor. 13:8, 13)
	3. Depth — Even death on the cross (Phil. 2:8)
	4. Height — Heaven (I Jn. 3:1-2; I Pet. 1:4)
3. Eph. 2:4-5, 8: God sent the gift of grace through Christ to save the world! (Jn. 1:29; 3:16: Consider all entailed in the word, “gave”)
4. The reason for the grace of God: Mankind is lost due to sin!
5. If grace brings salvation (Titus 2:11), there must be something to be saved from!
6. Eph. 2:1; 4:18: Sinners are “dead” people, alienated from the “life of God.”
7. God’s grace (through Christ) was given because the world was lost in sin and needed a Savior!

#### Offered At Calvary

* 1. Stanza 2:
		1. “Higher than the mountains and brighter than the sun, It was offered at Calvary for ev'ry one; greatest of treasures, and it's mine today, Tho my sins were as scarlet, He has washed them away.”

#### The method of God’s grace: Jesus Christ as revealed in the word of God!

1. Rom. 3:24; Heb. 2:9: Christ, by God’s grace, died for all.
	1. Rom. 5:6-10: Jesus died so man may be saved ***from the wrath of God!*** Man was incapable of saving himself. Man was “helpless!”
	2. *Eph. 2:5; Acts 15:11:* Salvation is by God’s grace.
	3. Christ’s death and His blood open the door for all to come into His kingdom. ***God didn’t have to!***
2. Gal. 2:21: Man could not be saved by the Law of Moses (If so, Christ died needlessly).
	* + 1. *Acts 20:32:* The word of God is the “word of His grace.”
			2. God has given the guide to life so that we will know by what we will be judged, and know the consequences to our actions.
			3. *Heb. 10:1-4:* The Law of Moses involved the blood of animals.
			4. *Heb. 10:10-14, 29:* The new covenant involves the blood of the Son of God*.* One sacrifice for all time *(Heb. 9:28; 10:12)!* ***God didn’t have to!***
	1. While the world was helpless, God’s grace provided a means for salvation!

####  His Grace Reaches Me

* 1. Chorus:
		1. “His grace reaches me, yes, His grace reaches me, And ‘twill last thru eternity; Now I'm under His control and I'm happy in my soul, Just to know that His grace reaches me.”
	2. Acts 11:23: Barnabas arrived in Antioch and “witnessed the grace of God,” and rejoiced.
		1. Saints ought to rejoice and make it personal – God’s grace reaches us and washes away our sins *(Acts 22:16)* when we obey Him!
	3. Titus 2:11: “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men.”
		1. *Eph. 1:7-8:* “According to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.”
		2. *Eph. 2:6-8:* “Surpassing riches of His grace,” “it is the gift of God.”
		3. *Heb. 4:16:* We have confidence in the grace Jesus provides!
	4. The means of receiving God’s grace: Accept it through obedience!
		1. Eph. 2:5, 8-9: Grace is in and by Christ – that means His death (sacrifice) accomplished grace – and by God’s grace we are saved through faith!
		2. Grace is a gift. Like a gift it must be accepted and opened!
			1. Illus. Grace in a cup. Have to drink it to get it! (Sip, straw, etc.)
		3. Heb. 5:9: Jesus is the “source of eternal salvation” to those who obey Him!
		4. *Mk. 16:16:* Must obey the words of Jesus to be saved! *(Acts 20:32: “Word of His grace;” Gal. 1:6: “Called you by the grace of Christ”)*
		5. Titus 2:11-14: We must live sensibly, righteously, and godly, and be pure!
		6. *II Pet. 1:5-11:* These qualities grant to us “the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” *(I Pet. 1:4-5: Heaven).*
	5. Heaven is to be revealed as the ultimate expression of God’s grace: An eternal rest!

## Conclusion

1. Those obedient to God’s word truly receive a grace “deeper than the ocean and wider than the sea; higher than the mountains and brighter than the sun!”
	1. Saved from the wrath of God! *(Rom. 5:8-9)*
2. Grace: Not unconditional – *Col. 1:21-23:* “***if*** indeed you continue in the faith…”
	1. *Titus 2:11-12: Grace instructs us to deny ungodliness and worldliness…*
3. Grace: Conditional – *Heb. 5:9:* Jesus is the “source of eternal salvation” to those who ***obey*** Him! *(Titus 2:12: …live sensibly, righteously, and godly!)*
4. Like Naaman *(II Kings 5)* mankind is given the cure for sin, but we must accept the terms!
5. “For the grace of God has appeared” *(Titus 2:11),* so let us sing, “His Grace Reaches Me!”
6. If you are not a Christian, you are outside the grace of God. Repent and be baptized!
7. If a Christian in error, you were given the grace of eternal life! Repent & be renewed!

“His Grace Reaches Me” (1964)

By Jewell Monroe “Whitey” Gleason (1932-2007)

<http://songscoops.blogspot.com/2009/12/his-grace-reaches-me-jewell.html>

“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 3:24)

Whitey Gleason (May 18, 1932 - June 30, 2007) was endowed with the gift for song. The song he wrote in 1964, “His Grace Reaches Me” tells the story of God’s grace and makes it a personal one! And, shouldn’t we all, if we really think about the message that he conveys to us in this song? Whitey Gleason wrote hundreds of songs in his career while accompanying various gospel singing groups on the piano. He was known as “Mr. Piano.” He eventually was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame as a member of the Blackwood Brothers Quartet, but he was also well-known in several other groups, including the Gospelaires, the Sooner State Quartet, and the Jubilee Quartet. He was a minister, educator, and owner of a music store, so his reputation was established in many ways in middle America, primarily in Oklahoma and in his birth-state of Kansas, where he entered the world in 1932. Many of the songs he wrote to instruct students in geography, math, and language, so there was much more to Gleason than just mere notes on a page and pretty sounds from his fingers on a keyboard. Although we do not know the details of how “His Grace Reaches Me” came to life, Whitey Gleason’s convictions are obvious on the sheet music.

Lyrics:

1. Deeper than the ocean and wider than the sea. Is the grace of the Savior, for sinners like me; Sent by the Father, and it thrills my soul, Just to feel and to know, That His blood makes me whole. REFRAIN
2. Higher than the mountains and brighter than the sun, It was offered at Calvary for ev' ry one; greatest of treasures, and it's mine today, Tho my sins were as scarlet, He has washed them away. REFRAIN

REFRAIN:

His grace reaches me, yes, His grace reaches me,

And ‘twill last thru eternity;

Now I'm under His control and I'm happy in my soul,

Just to know that His grace reaches me.