

THE GRACE OF GOD

1. SAUL - THE ENEMY OF THE LORDS' DISCIPLES.
 - A. **ACTS 8:1-3** AND SAUL WAS THERE, GIVING APPROVAL TO HIS DEATH. ON THAT DAY A GREAT PERSECUTION BROKE OUT AGAINST THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM, AND ALL EXCEPT THE APOSTLES WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT JUDEA AND SAMARIA. ²GODLY MEN BURIED STEPHEN AND MOURNED DEEPLY FOR HIM. ³BUT SAUL BEGAN TO DESTROY THE CHURCH. GOING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, HE DRAGGED OFF MEN AND WOMEN AND PUT THEM IN PRISON.
 - B. **ACTS 9:1-4** MEANWHILE, SAUL WAS STILL BREATHING OUT MURDEROUS THREATS AGAINST THE LORD'S DISCIPLES. HE WENT TO THE HIGH PRIEST ²AND ASKED HIM FOR LETTERS TO THE SYNAGOGUES IN DAMASCUS, SO THAT IF HE FOUND ANY THERE WHO BELONGED TO THE WAY, WHETHER MEN OR WOMEN, HE MIGHT TAKE THEM AS PRISONERS TO JERUSALEM.
 - I. YOU WOULD THINK THIS MAN WOULD BE FOREVER AN ENEMY OF THE LORD'S DISCIPLES.
 - II. SAUL SPEAKS OF HIMSELF.
 - (1) **PHILIP. 3:5-6** CIRCUMCISED ON THE EIGHTH DAY, OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, OF THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN, A HEBREW OF HEBREWS; IN REGARD TO THE LAW, A PHARISEE; ⁶AS FOR ZEAL, PERSECUTING THE CHURCH; AS FOR LEGALISTIC RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAULTLESS.
2. SAUL CHOSEN OF GOD - HIS ELECT!
 - A. ACTS 9: ³AS HE NEARED DAMASCUS ON HIS JOURNEY, SUDDENLY A LIGHT FROM HEAVEN FLASHED AROUND HIM. ⁴HE FELL TO THE GROUND AND HEARD A VOICE SAY TO HIM, "SAUL, SAUL, WHY DO YOU PERSECUTE ME?"
 - I. ALL MEN ARE CALLED TO BE GODS' CHOSEN OR ELECT.
 - (1) **MATTHEW 11:28-30** "COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. ²⁹TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU AND LEARN FROM ME, FOR I AM GENTLE AND HUMBLE IN HEART, AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰FOR MY YOKE IS EASY AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT."
 - (2) **EPHESIANS. 1:4** FOR HE CHOSE US IN HIM BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD TO BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS IN HIS SIGHT. IN LOVE
 - (3) **2 THESSALONIANS. 2:13** BUT WE OUGHT ALWAYS TO THANK GOD FOR YOU, BROTHERS LOVED BY THE LORD, BECAUSE FROM THE BEGINNING GOD CHOSE YOU TO BE SAVED THROUGH THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE SPIRIT AND THROUGH BELIEF IN THE TRUTH.
 - (4) **1 TIMOTHY. 2:4** WHO WANTS ALL MEN TO BE SAVED AND TO COME TO A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.
 - (5) **TITUS 1:1** PAUL, A SERVANT OF GOD AND AN APOSTLE OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE FAITH OF GOD'S ELECT AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH THAT LEADS TO GODLINESS—
 - (6) **1 PETER 1:2** WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN ACCORDING TO THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD THE FATHER, THROUGH THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE SPIRIT, FOR

OBEDIENCE TO JESUS CHRIST AND SPRINKLING BY HIS BLOOD: GRACE AND PEACE
BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE.

3. ALL MEN COME TO GOD BY HIS GRACE.
 - A. ETERNAL GRACE WAS PLANNED BEFORE IT WAS EXERCISED
 - I. **2 TIM. 1:9** WHO HAS SAVED US AND CALLED US TO A HOLY LIFE--NOT BECAUSE OF ANYTHING WE HAVE DONE BUT BECAUSE OF HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE. THIS GRACE WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF TIME,
4. GRACE IS FREE
 - I. **ROMANS 3:24** AND ARE JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS GRACE THROUGH THE REDEMPTION THAT CAME BY CHRIST JESUS.
5. GRACE RULES OVER ALL OTHER THINGS
 - I. **ROMANS 5:21** SO THAT, JUST AS SIN REIGNED IN DEATH, SO ALSO **GRACE MIGHT REIGN THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS TO BRING ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.**
 - II. **HEBREWS 4:16** LET US THEN APPROACH THE **THRONE OF GRACE** WITH CONFIDENCE, SO THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP US IN **OUR TIME OF NEED.**
6. GRACE IS THE UNMERITED FAVOR OF GOD, THEREFOR IT MUST BE EXERCISED IN A **SOVEREIGN MANNER.**
 - I. **EXODUS 33:19** AND THE LORD SAID, "I WILL CAUSE ALL MY GOODNESS TO PASS IN FRONT OF YOU, AND I WILL PROCLAIM MY NAME, THE LORD, IN YOUR PRESENCE. I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I WILL HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I WILL HAVE COMPASSION.
7. AND WHO ARE THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY THE GRACE OF GOD?
 - A. **1 CORINTHIANS. 6:9-11** DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THE WICKED WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD? DO NOT BE DECEIVED: NEITHER THE SEXUALLY IMMORAL NOR IDOLATERS NOR ADULTERERS NOR MALE PROSTITUTES NOR HOMOSEXUAL OFFENDERS ¹⁰NOR THIEVES NOR THE GREEDY NOR DRUNKARDS NOR SLANDERERS NOR SWINDLERS WILL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD. ¹¹AND THAT IS WHAT SOME OF YOU WERE. BUT YOU WERE WASHED, YOU WERE SANCTIFIED, YOU WERE JUSTIFIED IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND BY THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOD.