

## **AMAZING GRACE (Ephesians 2:8-10)**

### **Introduction:**

1. **“Amazing Grace” is the most popular hymn in the English language.**
  - a. **It has appeared in more than 1,000 hymnbooks.**
  - b. **It is sung millions of times every year.**
2. **“Amazing Grace” was written by John Newton in 1772.**
  - a. **Before he became a believer, Newton led a very wicked life.**
  - b. **He was a captain on a ship carrying slaves from Africa to America.**
  - c. **At one point, he himself was sold into slavery.**
  - d. **The hymn expresses that one as undeserving as he could be saved.**
3. **The Bible teaches that salvation is by grace.**

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. GOD’S GRACE IS THE VERY BASIS OF OUR SALVATION.**

- A. **Our GOD is a holy, righteous GOD (Lev. 11:45; Isa. 6:3; Hab. 1:3).**
  1. **GOD has revealed His will to mankind.**
  2. **When man transgresses GOD’s law, he is guilty of sin (1 John 3:4; Gen. 2:16,17; 3).**
  3. **All accountable souls have sinned (Rom. 3:23).**
  4. **Our sins alienate us from GOD (Eph. 2:1, 4,5; Rom. 6:23).**
- B. **Man is unable to save himself from his sins:**

**“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the High GOD? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with ten thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul” (Micah 6:6,7)?**

**“But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags” (Isa. 64:6).**

1. **GOD has no obligation to do anything other than to punish us for our sins.**
2. **However, He loves us and wants to forgive us:**

**“But GOD, Who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ {for by grace you have been saved}” (Eph. 2:4,5).**

- 3. GOD sent His Son to die for our sins (John 3:16).**
  - a. GOD’s justice was satisfied by the death of Christ.**
  - b. GOD’s mercy was satisfied by the death of Christ.**

## **II. THERE IS MUCH FALSE TEACHING ABOUT THE GRACE OF GOD.**

### **A. Some teach we are saved by grace alone.**

- 1. We are “saved by grace through faith” (Eph. 2:8)**
- 2. Grace is GOD’s part; faith is man’s response to GOD’s grace.**
- 3. Grace is the ground of our salvation which makes it possible.**
- 4. We must accept GOD’s grace on His terms to be saved.**
- 5. If salvation were by grace alone, then a just GOD would save all, but all are not saved for all will not accept GOD’s grace.**

### **B. Some teach a child of GOD cannot fall from grace.**

- 1. They quote Jesus: “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:28).**
- 2. Argument: Since Jesus has given us eternal life we cannot lose it or it would not be eternal. Answer: We have eternal life, not as a present possession, but in promise (1 John 2:25) and in hope (Tit. 1:2; Rom. 8:24, 25).**
- 3. Argument: No one can snatch the saved out of the Lord’s hand. Answer: No one can take you from the Lord, but you can let go of His hand (1 Cor. 10:12).**
- 4. “You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace” (Gal 5:4).**

### **C. Some teach that grace excludes any acts of obedience (works).**

- 1. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of GOD, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which GOD prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:8-10).**
- 2. We are saved by grace (GOD’s part) through faith (man’s part).**
  - a. We are not saved by works of human merit (Titus 3:4-7).**

- b. We are not saved by works of the Law of Moses (Rom. 3:20).
- c. We are saved by works of faith (Gal. 5:6; Jam. 2:14-26).

**D. Some teach grace is a license to sin.**

- 1. **Argument:** Since grace is sufficient to cover all man's sins, let us sin the more, so there will be more grace.
- 2. Paul answered this very argument in Romans six:

**“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:1-4).**

**E. Some teach the Old Testament is all law and the New is all grace.**

- 1. They cite John 1:17: **“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”**
- 2. They say, we are not under any law today, therefore we are free to follow the Spirit's leading in worship, etc. (cf. Jude 4).
- 3. John is using “law” and “grace” to designate the two covenants, the first and the second (Heb. 8:7), the old and the new (Heb. 8:13; 2 Cor. 3).
- 4. **“Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Gen. 6:8).**
- 5. Paul taught we are under law to Christ: **“...to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward GOD, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law” (1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2).**

**Conclusion:**

- 1. Grace is getting what we need, not what we deserve.
- 2. Grace is someone else paying a debt we could never pay.
- 3. A boy asked a preacher, **“What must I do to be saved?”** The preacher replied, **“You're too late.”** **“What?”** exclaimed the boy, **“I'm too late to be saved?”** **“No, you're too late to do anything for Jesus has already done it all.”**
- 4. Peter on Pentecost (Acts 2), Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), and the jailor at Philippi (Acts 16) answered the question, **“What must I do?”**

