

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 18 (#912198)
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 18 – You Are Saved By Grace

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Today we want to study about grace. And I want you know grace is not a blue-eyed blonde. Grace is that which absolutely liberates you. Grace is that which gives you life. Grace is that which gives you forgiveness of sins. It is “...by grace [that] you are saved through faith...” (Ephesians 2:8a) We’re going to look at the grace of God. And I pray O Beloved, that He pours His grace all over you.

PART ONE

The grace of God is something that you literally cannot live without. And this is why it is such an important topic today. It is why it becomes front and center stage in the epistle to the Ephesians at this point. Because it’s grace, Beloved, that takes you from death to life. It is grace that takes you from the

power of sin to the forgiveness of sins. It is grace that takes you from the condemnation of the Law to the life of the Spirit in Christ Jesus. It is incredible. Now so many times as a child of God we memorize this verse. And it’s a good verse to memorize. **“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God [it is] not of works lest any [one] should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV)** So what we’re going to talk about today is a pure gift, Beloved. You’re going to learn about God’s gift to you. The word for grace, let’s just get down that Greek word. It’s in the study guide. And by the way we do have a free study guide for you and all you have to do is go to preceptsforlife.com and you can download that. All right the word for grace is “c-h-a-r-i-s”, “c-h-a-r-i-s”. All right now as we look at it I want you to see the context. So once again I’m going to start in Ephesians chapter 2 verse 1. **“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.” (Ephesians 2:1-2)** I want you to stop for just a minute and we mentioned this verse. I quoted it, but we did not look at it in our last lesson and I want you to look at it. And it’s 1 John chapter 5 and it’s verse 19. And it says **“We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” (1 John 5:19)** And so what he’s just shown us in Ephesians is a perfect match with this because everyone who is not of the kingdom of God lies in the power of the evil one. It says, **“The whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” (5:19b)** You need to remember that. And they lie in the power of the evil one not because they can’t get out of there by their own efforts, but because they refuse the grace, the unmerited unearned favor of God. They refuse the “charis”, of God, the grace of God. Well let’s go back to Ephesians chapter 2. So it says **“Among them...,”** among these people that are dead in trespasses and sins, among you Gentiles, **“...we too...,”** we Jews **“...all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh...,”** not only living in

them, but “...indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and [we] were by nature...,” this is the way we were born, we “...were by nature children of wrath...” (Ephesians 2:3) Now I want you to know that if you don’t experience the grace of God you are going to experience the wrath of God. It is either wrath or grace and you make the choice. You can either choose life or you can choose death. And you choose life by believing in Jesus Christ. And when you believe the grace of God is poured out on you. He wants you to understand that He doesn’t want you to live this way. We were all living this way. But it says “**But God...**,” verse 4 “...being rich in mercy...” (2:4a) Now what does it mean to be rich in mercy? Well to be rich in mercy means that I look down at you in your absolutely pitiful state. I mean you are in such great need. You are filthy. The stench of death is on you. The filth of sin covers you. You are cowering and you have no power and you have no strength. And it’s like the devil is over you with his lash and beating you down and he’s telling you lies and he’s demeaning you and he’s using other people in his kingdom to destroy you and you’re down there like that. And God who is rich in mercy... Mercy means that I look at you in that absolutely pitiful state and I have the means to help you and I come down and I move to help you in mercy. It means that you are sitting there in a wretched state and here is God who is so rich in mercy that He can’t stand to see you that way. And so God who is rich, I mean lavish, I mean He’s got it all. He’s got all the mercy that you would ever need and you would ever want and much more left over. Now watch what it says. It says “**But God** [who is] **rich in mercy...**,” Now watch and listen carefully, Precious One, just listen, “...because of His great love with which He loved us.” (Ephesians 2:4) And see that’s why I call you Beloved. That’s why I often refer to you as Beloved, because you are beloved to God. I mean some people think O that’s syrupy. O that’s southern. Listen, it is not Southern, it is not syrupy. It is biblical. God, seeing you in that pitiful state, who is rich in mercy because of the great love with which He loved you... You know

what is one of the attributes of God besides God being holy? Well I want you to go to 1 John again. 1 John is an awesome awesome epistle. As a matter of fact I ought to teach it to you sometime because it is so wonderful, because 1 John was “...written...that you [might] **know that you have eternal life.**” (1 John 5:13b) But in 1 John what I want you to see is how much God loves you, 1 John chapter 4, and it says in verse 7, “**Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God....**” (1 John 4:7a) In other words I’m to love you if I’m a child of God because love is from God and because I’m the son of God. I’m a child of God. And it says because, “...love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”(4:7b) Now listen to this. “**The one who does not love does not know God....**” (4:8a) So if you say that you’re a child of God and you treat your wife like dirt and your kids like dirt and you’re constantly demeaning them or you’re constantly cutting down other people and there are people that you just hate, hey, you probably have a religion but not a relationship. It says “**The one who does not love does not know God...**” Now I didn’t say that, God said that. So if you’ve got an argument go to God. And it says “...for God is love, God is love.” (1 John 4:8) The very essence of God’s being is love. You can’t take love out of God. You say well then explain to me why the wrath of God is on people that are refusing to know God. It’s because God is holy. It’s because God is righteous. And the reason that you don’t understand it, Precious One, and I don’t mean to be rude, so please know I’m not being rude. But the reason that you don’t understand it is because you don’t know the whole counsel of God because you have thoughts and your concepts of God and you say well, if I were God. O let’s give thanks that you’re not and let’s give thanks that I’m not. But it’s not what you think about God. Rather it is who is God? And what you’re to think about God is what God says about Himself. Let God define Himself. So watch. It is so good. All right in John chapter 4, 1 John chapter 4 verse 9. It says “**By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent**

His only begotten Son into the world ... that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us....” (1 John 4:9-10a) He’s rich in mercy and because of His great love with which He loved us. I mean here we are down here in this absolutely pitiful state unable to look up, like a beggar begging and and so brought low that we can’t even raise our head. And here is God who is rich in mercy and who is motivated by this great love with which He loved us. How great is that love? That love is so great Precious One that God sent His Son to die on that cross for us. That is how great His love is. Now watch. It says **“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation...,”** the satisfaction, the satisfactory payment, **“...for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we...ought [also] to love one another.” (1 John 4:9-11)** All right so God is love. And this is what He says in 1 John. He says **“God is love”. (4:8a)** And you and I need to understand that. So because of His great love with which He loved us, because He is rich in mercy, what did God do? What did He do? I’ll tell you right after the break.

PART TWO

Welcome back loved one, beloved of God. I mean I hope, I pray, Precious One, that you would see that you are precious, that you are so precious to God because He loves you. And because He loves you He gave His Son for you, God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us. Now catch verse 5, of Ephesians 2, verse 5. **“Even when we were dead...,”** remember that’s my that’s my thing for dead, **“Even when we were dead in our transgressions....” (Ephesians 2:5a)** Our “transgressions” means hey, we went off the path. Hey, this was right and we decided we weren’t going to do right. This was moral and we decided we

were going to be immoral. This was fair and we decided we weren’t going to be fair. This was truth and we decided we weren’t going to walk in truth. We were going to walk in a lie. This was honesty and we decided I’m not going to be honest because it’s going to hurt me. I’ll be dishonest so that I can take care of me. This is what he’s saying. He says **“Even when we were dead in our transgressions...,”** He loved us. And He **“...made us alive together with Christ...,”** And then he has to say **“...(by grace [you’re] saved).”** (Ephesians 2:5) By grace you’re saved, by charis, “c-h-a-r-i-s”. By that you were saved. What he wants you to understand is that salvation is of God. It is God that does all the work in order to take you, this pitiful creature and take you out of death into life, to take you out of sin and all of it’s filth and to bring you and to wash you in the precious blood of the Lamb of God so that He might present you before Him holy and blameless and He might do that in love. This is what he’s saying and he wants you to understand right from the beginning. In Ephesians chapter 1 in verse 3, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in...heavenly places...just as He...,”** [“God, before the foundation of the world”], **“...chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world, [so] that we [could] be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons...,”** This is what He did. He gave us forgiveness of sins. He did all of this **“...according to the kind intention of His will.”** (Ephesians 1:3-5) We didn’t choose Him. He chose us. This is what he’s saying. Do you realize how loved you are? Do you realize that He did it when you were dead in your trespasses and sins? I want you to go for just a minute to Romans. Oh I love teaching that book. What we do is every other year we go to Rome. We take a teaching tour to Rome and we teach the whole book of Romans in Rome. I mean you talk about an experience. We teach it on site and what happens is as we study that book all of a sudden people say hey, I understand. This is the constitution of my faith. This is the basis by which we live. Well in Romans chapter 5, and by the way if you

ever want to go with us we would love to have you. We keep our tours small enough to be intimate enough and I’m with you the whole time and our time is with you the whole time and we’re all teaching the Word of God. All right in Romans chapter 5 this is what he says in verse 6. He says **“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”**

(Romans 5:6) And that’s what he wants you to see. He says [“Even when you were dead in your trespasses and sins Christ died for you.”]

(PARAPHRASE, Ephesians 2:1) He says **“For one [would] hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for a good man some would...even [dare] to die. But God demonstrates His own love towards us....”**

(Romans 5:7-8a) It isn’t a second hand love. When I give you love it’s a second hand love. When I give you love it is a love that comes from God through the Holy Spirit through me to you. You ought to be glad that it is a second hand love with me. But with God it is not a second hand love. I mean He’s not loving you because He has to, because you know sometimes we love people because of who they’re married to or we love people because who their sister or their brother is and that’s the way we’re going to treat them. O no, we don’t love others because we love somebody that loves them. God loves because it’s His own love. And it says here **“But God demonstrates His own love...,”** and I put a heart over it all the way through the Bible, **“...toward[s] us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”** **(Romans 5:8)** Verse 10: **“For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”** **(5:10)** And what is grace? Grace is everything that Jesus Christ is and has made available to you. All right now let’s go back or let’s go forward in verse 6 in Ephesians chapter 2. He says in verse 5 it says **“Even when we were dead in our transgressions, [He] made us alive together with Christ...,”** In parenthesis **“...(by grace you have been saved), and [He] raised us up with Him...,”** He raised us up with Jesus, **“...and seated us with Him**

in...heavenly places in Christ Jesus....” (Ephesians 2:5-6) Now we’re going to go into the depths of that a little bit later, but I want you to see that you are united with Christ. So you are united in His death. You are united in His burial. You are united in His resurrection, but not only that, spiritually in the mind and in the heart of God you are seated up here in heavenly places at the right hand of the throne of God because you’re part of Jesus Christ. Now he says all these wonderful wonderful truths and then he comes to this truth that you and I just love and we need to memorize and we put it in your study guide. Go to “[preceptsforlife](#)” and download your study guide. But this is what it says in verse 8 **“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves....” (2:8a)** That grace is not of yourself or that faith is not of yourself. It’s the conduit of getting grace into your life it’s the pipe so to speak of faith. And yet you know what? You don’t put up the pipe of faith in order to say God, pour Your grace out down through here. No, what God does is He has His grace. He then lowers the pipe of faith and the faith is a gift from God. And so because salvation is of God, God takes all of His grace, everything that unearned, unmerited favor, everything that belongs to Jesus Christ. He takes that pipe of faith and He dumps it. He lavishes you. It comes over your head and down over you and you are standing in the lavish extravagant grace of God. And it says **“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that [faith is] not of yourselves, it is a gift of God; [it’s] not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV)** He says you didn’t have a thing to do with it because if you did I just know you’d be going around saying I did it. I earned it. I merited it. I won His favor. O no, you didn’t. When you were a sinner, He poured out His precious lavish extravagant grace on you. Now stand in that grace and stand firm and know you are loved.