

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“By the Grace of God”

“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God was with me.” I Corinthians 15:10 (NKJV)

Grace. It is God’s unmerited favor towards man. Grace. We can’t pay for it, and if it could be purchased, who would be able to afford it? Grace. It cannot be obtained by works, thus if that were the case, we would all be working at this precise moment. Grace. It is God in the power and dominion of His sovereignty that allows Him to look beyond our faults and meet us at the point of our most immediate need. Who we are at the moment of our salvation experience, and who we will ultimately become as God works out His purpose in us and through us will be accomplished by God’s grace and His grace alone. Nothing more and nothing less will ever provide for us such a great gift.

To really appreciate the grace of God there must be a reflection or deliberate consideration of where we were and what we were before grace found us. Noah, who was a contributor by nature to the evil, wickedness, and vile that was found upon the earth in his day knew as much. “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” Genesis 6:8 (NKJV) He obviously needed it, or God would have never made His grace available to be found. In like manner, the Apostle Paul reflects on his prior life before his Damascus Road experience. He deemed himself unworthy to stand in his current position as an apostle of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Prior to the grace of God transforming his life he was on an unrelenting mission to murder, mutilate, and massacre every believer who was a part of the first century church. “As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.” Acts 8:3 (NKJV) Thank God that grace always meets us like we are and where we are, with full consideration of what God has ultimately called us to become.

Paul understood as well we should, that the grace of God is the difference maker in the life of every believer. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of ourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) In First Peter 5:10, the Apostle Peter characterized God as the God of all grace. Whatever grace that we need whenever we need it, God is well able to provide. Not only are we saved by grace but we stand in grace. (Romans 5:2) We are strong in grace. (II Timothy 2:1) And most of all whom we are post-salvation experience, and who we are yet to become will only be possible by the grace of God. Grace is a gift to be accepted, enjoyed, and appreciated. Whatever you do, never confuse grace by thinking who you are or what you have, in some way, shape, or form you deserve it. Don’t refuse grace. It is a gift to be received and cherished. And most certainly never ever abuse grace. God is the God of all grace, but He may, at a time of His choosing based on a given set of circumstances become a God of justice. “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!” Romans 6:1-2a (NKJV)

May the grace of God that He has so graciously bestowed upon us never be in vain. Consider it an investment of unparalleled magnitude. Any wise and prudent investor always wants to get a fair and equitable return on that which he has invested in. See yourself as God’s most prized possession, and consider the extreme price He allowed His son to pay for our redemption. Consider the value of the purpose and plan He has for your life, implemented before the foundation of the world. Grace always deserves a reciprocated response. Receive it and walk in the things that God has ordained for you and appropriated for you as a result of it. Paul acknowledged that through all of the things that he had accomplished to date, and those things that he was yet to achieve, the grace of God was with him. Grace was protecting, providing,

redeeming, leading, guiding, and bringing God glory through the work that He had invested in him and in us. God grants the grace, and we work the work that He has placed in our hands to accomplish. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)