The Truth About The Grace Of God

Intro: We generally define grace as unmerited favor or a free gift. In that definition there could be various gifts from various persons. However, we are concerned with God's grace. There can even be different aspects in a discussion of God's grace. We will not concern ourselves, in this lesson, with God's grace regarding physical matters (the sun, rain, food, etc.) We will discuss God's grace relating to salvation. By its very nature there are four things (areas or aspects) relating to a gift.

I. A GIFT.
A. Salvation.
   1. Eph. 2:4-5, 8 “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)... 8For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
   2. Tit. 2:11 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”
   3. Psa. 51:1 “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.”

B. This salvation is manifest in two ways.
   1. Forgiveness or remission of past sins.
      a. Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
      b. Acts 16:31 “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”
      c. 1 Pet. 3:21 “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”
   2. Eternal life in heaven.
      a. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
      b. 1 Pet. 1:9 “Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”
      c. Heb. 9:28 “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

C. That salvation comes by the blood Christ shed in His death on the cross.
   1. Rom. 5:9-10 “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”
   2. Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”
   3. Heb. 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”
   4. 1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
   5. Rev. 1:5 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”
II. A GIVER.

A. Grace is the Bible term for that which God (the giver) did through Christ.

B. God is the source of our salvation.
   1. The phrase “grace of God” is found 24 times in the New Testament.
   2. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
   3. Rom. 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
   4. Tit. 2:11 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”
   5. 2 Cor. 9:15 “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.”

III. A RECEIVER.

A. Man is the recipient of the grace of God.

B. God was doing for man what man could not do for himself.
   1. Man could not find his own way.
      a. Prov. 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”
      b. Jer. 10:23 “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”
      c. Isa. 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
   2. Man committed sin.
      a. Rom. 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
      b. Gal. 3:22 “But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”
   3. As a sinner, man deserves to die.
      a. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
      b. Jam. 1:15 “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
   4. Man could not devise a way to save himself nor earn his salvation.
      a. Could not devise his own way: 2 Tim. 1:9 “Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”
      b. Could not earn his salvation:
         (1) Eph. 2:8-9 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ‘Not of works, lest any man should boast.”
         (2) Tit. 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
         (3) Rom. 3:27 “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.”

IV. CONDITIONS.

A. The giver and conditions.
   1. He may place conditions upon the reception of the gift.
   2. He may give a gift without any conditions.
   3. This is left up to the discretion of the giver.
4. In either case it is still unmerited and a gift; Luke 17:10 “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.”

B. God (the giver) has placed conditions upon our reception of His gift of salvation.

1. Upon hearing His Word we must believe.
   a. Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
   b. John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

2. Upon that belief, we must repent.
   a. Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
   b. Acts 17:30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”

3. We must confess our faith in Jesus as God’s Son.
   a. Rom. 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
   b. Acts 8:37 “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

4. We must be immersed in water for the forgiveness of our sins.
   a. Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   b. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
   c. Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

5. For salvation in heaven; we must live faithful to death.
   a. Mat. 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”
   b. 1 Cor. 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
   c. Tit. 2:11-14 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

Conclusion: God’s grace is available to all men everywhere. However, only those who meet the conditions that the Giver (God) has placed upon man will receive the gift God bestows, salvation. If you have not obeyed those conditions do so now.