

WHEREON YE STAND

1 PETER 5:12 AND OTHERS

Text: 1 Peter 5:12

1 Peter 5:12

¹² By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.

Introduction:

The Grace of God; many messages have been preached, and many songs have been written about the “Grace of God.”

I suppose one of the most well know is “Amazing Grace.”

The story of John Newton is truly the story behind “Amazing Grace.” One would be hard pressed to imagine, let alone to live, a blasphemous life equal to Newton’s early years.

In his youth he became the captain of a slave ship, landing at least one load of his human cargo in Charleston, South Carolina. It is reported that at times he was so drunk and destitute that even his crew regarded him as little more than an animal. Once he

fell overboard and his ship's crew refused to drop a boat to him. Instead they threw a harpoon at him, with which they dragged him back into the ship.

The sluggish sailor was transferred to the service of the captain of the Greyhound, a Liverpool ship, in 1747, and on its homeward journey, the ship was overtaken by an enormous storm. Newton had been reading Thomas a Kempis's *The Imitation of Christ*, and was struck by a line about the "uncertain continuance of life." He also recalled the passage in Proverbs 1:24-27:

Proverbs 1:24-27

²⁴ Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; ²⁵ But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: ²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; ²⁷ When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

It was in that storm that he trusted Christ as his Saviour

For a while, Newton continued on his slave ship, but he began to treat both the slaves and his crew with a good deal more compassion. Finally, convinced that the slave trade was wrong, he left his ship and took a job onshore.

He then felt a call to the ministry, and was ordained at age forty and assigned to a church at Olney, England. He continued in ministry through the rest of his long life, even after failing eyesight made it impossible for him to read.

His hymn, Amazing Grace, is in a sense Newton's own story. It was amazing grace that saved him, and it was amazing grace that was the focus of his preaching.

But Amazing Grace is the story of every Christian.

It is amazing grace that saves us — nothing else — no works of our hands or gifts of our wealth.

It was amazing that God would love and save John Newton, but it is amazing that God would love and save any of us.

It is indeed a sweet sound to hear about it, but it is so amazing that it is hard to believe.

Believe it, because it is true.

Grace is defined as the unmerited favor of God. The word Grace is used over 170 times in the New Testament alone.

Grace is the prominent theme of the Bible.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9

2 Corinthians 8:9

⁹ *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

I want to take the letters that make up the word Grace and share with you some thoughts on why it's possible for us to stand.

Note

1. "G" SPEAKS OF GOD'S GIVING GRACE

Romans 8:32

³² *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

2 Corinthians 8:9

⁹ *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*

A. Grace Gave to the World the Greatest Person
– The Saviour

Because of grace the Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world. God the Father gave His Son so

that mankind might not perish but be saved from their sins.

John 3:16

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.

B. Grace Gives the Sinner the Greatest Portion –
Eternal Life

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eternal life is ours because of His death and resurrection.

C. Grace Gives the Believer the Greatest Promise
– A Home in Heaven

The Lord made a great and precious promise to everyone who have trusted in Him for their salvation in John 14:

John 14:1-3

¹ *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.* ² *In my Father's house are many mansions*: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

2. “R” SPEAKS OF GOD’S REJOICING GRACE

Romans 5:1-2

¹ *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:* ² *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and* *rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

WHY DO WE CALL IT REJOICING GRACE?

A. Because It Is Grace That Saves Us From All Sin

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ *For by grace are ye saved* through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:* ⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Titus 3:5

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;

Romans 5:20

²⁰ Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. *But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:*

Not only does it Save Us Form All Sin but also:

B. Because It Is Grace That Satisfies Us Will Fullness

The Lord told the Samaritan woman in John 4:14:

John 4:14

¹⁴ *But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

Not only does it Save Us Form All Sin, Because It Is Grace That Satisfies Us Will Fulness but also:

C. Because It Is Grace That Sustains Us In All Trials

No matter what we face in life GRACE will sustain us. His promise to Paul can also be claimed by us:

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹ *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most*

gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

No matter how high the mountain or how deep the valley HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT. It will sustain us!

“G” speaks of God’s GIVING Grace, “R” speaks God Rejoicing Grace:

Notice also

3. “A” SPEAKS OF GOD’S ASSURING GRACE

Hebrews 10:19-23

¹⁹ Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; ²¹ And having an high priest over the house of God; ²² Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

A. Assures Us That Christ Died For All

Romans 5:6-8

⁶ For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a

*righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. ⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.***

B. Assures Us That God Is Willing to Save All

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

1 Timothy 2:4

⁴ Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

God desires for all people to be saved and that is Grace.

C. Assures Us That God Is Able To Save All

If a person leaves this life without Christ it will not be due to the fact that God did not have the ability to save that person.

Isaiah 59:1-2

¹ Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

² But your iniquities have separated between you and

your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

If a person enters into eternity lost its because they chose that for themselves.

“G” speaks of God’s GIVING Grace, “R” speaks God Rejoicing Grace, “A” speaks of God’s Assuring Grace:

4. “C” SPEAKS OF CONSTRAINING GRACE

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

¹⁴ For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: ¹⁵ And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

What does Grace constrain us to do?

A. To Live Honorably

Many today use the grace of God as a license to sin! But was that God’s intent when He bestowed His grace on mankind?

Romans 6:1-2

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Romans 6:6-7

⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Romans 6:11-18

¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ¹³ Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. ¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? ¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Grace not only constrains us to To Live Honorably but also:

B. Give Heartily

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

Grace not only constrains us to To Live Honorably and to Give Heartily but also:

C. Serve Humbly

Whatever talents we possess and whatever gifts are at our disposal, everything we do should be for the honor and glory of the Lord and not of us.

Our attitude should be:

Psalm 115:1

¹ Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

“G” speaks of God’s GIVING Grace, “R” speaks God Rejoicing Grace, “A” speaks of God’s Assuring Grace, “C” speaks of God’s Constraining Grace notice lastly:

5. “E” SPEAKS OF GOD’S ENABLING GRACE

1 Timothy 1:11-16

¹¹ According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust. ¹² And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; ¹³ Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. ¹⁶ Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

Note What Grace Enables us to do:

A. To Suffer Patiently

1 Peter 2:20-21

²⁰ For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. ²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Someone once said:

The Cross of Christ is the pledge to us that the deepest suffering may be the condition of the highest blessing; the sign, not of God's displeasure, but of His widest and most compassionate love.

Not only does Grace enable us to Suffer Patiently but also:

B. To Overcome Temptation Completely

Temptation will come to each and every one of us.

The question is, "How will we deal with temptation when it comes to draw us away from a growing, loving, and vital relationship with our Lord?"

The only way we can overcome temptation completely is to rest fully each day in the grace of God.

James 4:5-6

⁵ Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? ⁶ **But he giveth more grace.** Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Not only does Grace enable us to Suffer Patiently, and To Overcome Temptation but also:

C. To Enter Glory Victoriously

When we daily live and rest in the grace of God we can say with Paul:

2 Timothy 4:7

⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Paul said, “I have struggled hard, and have overcome, in fight a good fight.

I have finished my course.

Close:

Every Christian here today can shout for joy because we are the recipients of God’s Grace—GIVING GRACE, REJOICING GRACE, ASSURING GRACE, CONSTRAINING GRACE, and ENABLING GRACE!

Psalm 5:11 tells us:

Psalm 5:11

¹¹ But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

There may be those here today who have not been the recipient of God's grace.

Have you *realized* your lost condition, *repented* of your sin, and received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour?

If not let me encourage you to consider doing so today.

If you're a Christian you may want to come and thank the Lord for His "Amazing Grace - Whereon Ye stand."