

Unmerited Favor

For the first four thousand years of human history, from Adam to Christ, grace was never “unmerited favor.” The first time the word “grace” is used in the scripture says, “*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD*” Genesis 6:8. The next verse tells why God showed favor to Noah; “*Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God*” verse 9. If God had shown “unmerited favor,” no one would have died in the flood. God “favored” the man who was “righteous” and who “walked with God.” This was only possible because Noah, as Abraham after him, “*believed God.*”

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews gives a list of men and women in the Old Testament who “*believed God*” and did great exploits in obedience to God. Each of these were very highly favored by God because they believed God and obeyed his voice Genesis 22:11. The apostle Peter says, “*God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble*” 1 Peter 5:5. “Unmerited” favor would require God’s blessing upon the proud as well as the humble, and upon the “unbeliever” as well as the “believer.” With these things in mind, where did the idea of “unmerited favor” come from?

The first manifestation of “unmerited favor” was the incarnation, when He who was “*in the beginning with God and was God,*” the creator of all things, became a “*meek and lowly*” man, “*the man, Christ Jesus*” 1 Timothy 2:5. Over thirty three years before His humiliation on the cross, the eternal Christ “*humiliated Himself*” to become a man Philippians 2:6-7, which is actually spoken of as “*His humiliation*” Acts 8:33. That He who was God became a man to redeem us to God, is “unmerited favor.”

The first manifestation of “unmerited favor” was the incarnation...

The second manifestation of “unmerited favor” is when the man, Christ Jesus, “*...humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*” The sufferings and death of Christ were certainly “unmerited favor.” There was nothing about man that Christ should die for us. He “*died for the ungodly*” Romans 5:6; He died for sinners verse 8; and He died for His enemies verse 10. To do such is most definitely “unmerited favor,” but “*Why did Christ die for us?*”

It does not suffice to say Christ died to “take the penalty for our sin.” Where is the verse of scripture that confirms that belief? Neither did Christ die to “take our punishment,” or to “pay our sin debt.” Again, which of the apostles told us such a thing? John the Baptist says He “*...taketh away the sin of the world*” John

1:29. The apostle Paul says “*...He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself*” Hebrews 9:26. The apostle John says, “*...ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins*” 1 John 3:5, and “*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil*” verse 8.

The same day sin entered into the world through Adam’s disobedience, God promised “*the seed of the woman*” would “*bruise the head of the serpent*” Genesis 3:15. Christ, the creator of heaven and earth, came into the world as “*the seed of the woman,*” who was “*born of a virgin.*” His mission to earth was to “*destroy the devil*” by “*bruising the head of the serpent,*” which He did through His death on the cross Hebrew 2:14. The death of Christ had nothing to do with His being punished, taking a penalty, or paying a debt. His death had everything to do with the destruction of sin and Satan, bringing an ultimate end of the old creation in His death, and bringing in a “*New Creation*” with His resurrection from the dead.

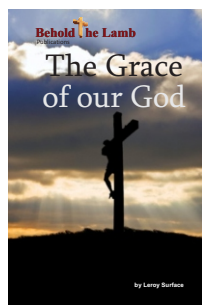
The erroneous belief about “unmerited favor” says we are still sinners, but Jesus gives us a “covering” to hide us from God and take us to heaven when we die. Such thinking is the modern day equivalent of the “*fig leaves*” which Adam and Eve used to hide their nakedness from God. “Unmerited favor” cannot cover sin, because “unmerited favor” offered Christ upon the cross to “*take sin away,*” out of the heart and nature of everyone who believes the truth and trusts in Christ. This is the “*gospel of Christ*” that is “*the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes it.*” Anything less can only leave its believer in a lifetime religious struggle that will at the end leave them in their sins and lost.

“Unmerited favor” cannot cover sin, because “unmerited favor” offered Christ upon the cross to take sin away...

The apostle Paul spoke of the righteousness of God, which comes “*by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe*” Romans 3:22. “*Unto all*” is unmerited favor because it is offered unto everyone through the sacrifice of Christ. “*Upon all that believe*” is NOT “unmerited” favor because only those who believe the gospel of Christ enter into “*this grace*” Romans 5:2 of God’s full salvation.

God’s unmerited favor was given unto you almost two-thousand years ago when he offered Jesus Christ upon a cross to destroy Satan and deliver you from the power and presence of sin. But you will never stand in this “favor” until you believe the truth of the gospel and trust in Christ. “*Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*” Ephesians 1:2

FREE BOOK OFFER!



If grace is always unmerited favor, why is it that only those who believe God receive it? In this message, Leroy Surface does an in-depth study of the scriptures and finds that God has always been “*merciful, and gracious*” to those who trust in Him, and

“*forgiving*” to those who turn from sin to trust in Him. Christ coming into the world to “*take away the sin of the world*” is God’s “unmerited favor.”

To order visit cochurch.org, or write to:
Behold the Lamb Publications
PO Box 750 Porter TX 77365