

# BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

## *The Grace of God (1): Common Grace*

October 17, 2024

### Preliminary

Note: The words 'grace' and 'mercy' have different meanings.

Mercy: The granting of compassion or forgiveness to someone who is in a position to inflict harm or punishment... Ps 51:1; Lk 18:13; 1 Tim 1:16

➤ As a form of help or goodwill towards troubled hearts... Mt 15:22; 17:15; Rom 12:6f

Grace: The granting of favor to those who do not deserve it (unmerited favor).

Point: God does not only extend mercy but He also bestows blessings on the undeserving.

Reflection: Every human experience is linked to God's grace

Eph 2:8-9 = *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast*  
v.v. 4:7 = *grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift*

### Grace As a Gift

Note 1: A gift is different from a debt

➤ A debt is incurred but must be repaid

➤ A gift is given with no expectation of return or any payment

Point: The recipient pays nothing; the giver covers the cost

➤ God the Father gives gift to humanity through the Son... Jn 3:16

➤ Christ Jesus paid our debts through His death on the Cross... Rom 5:8; 2 Cor 5:21  
Romans 6:23 = *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

➤ The blood paid for salvation demands no repayment from humanity – the grace of salvation is a free gift from God... Rev 22:17; Isa 55:1-9; 2 Cor 8:9.

Note 2: The gift is fully owned by all who receive it.

➤ God's gift is permanently enjoyed by the recipient... Jn 5:24; 6:47; 10:28, 29; Heb 7:25; Rom 8:38-39.

**Common Grace:** God's favor towards humanity – for both believers and non-believers

#### 1. Natural Gifts of Grace

Psalm 145:9 = *The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made*

➤ God provides for every human need... e.g., sunlight, water, air, food, etc.

Texts: Mt 5:45; Lk 6:35; Acts 14:17.

#### 2. Grace that Restrains Sin and Evil

Note: God has given laws that restrain sinful actions

(a) Parents: The first authorities over their children, teaching obedience to laws... Deut 6:5-9; Prov 22:6; Eph 6:1

(b) Government: Maintains order and protection in society... Rom 13:1-5

(c) God's Law written on human hearts, affirmed by conscience...

Texts: Jer 31:33; Rom 2:12-16; Heb 10:16.

Point: Even non-believers do good in society and towards others due to the law written on their conscience.

➤ Those who haven't heard the gospel respond to God's law written on their conscience... Rom 2:14-16.

➤ They know there is a God; it's wrong to kill; it's wrong to steal... etc.

#### 3. God's Mercy and Kindness that Delays Immediate Punishment...

(a) The completed work of Christ serves as propitiation to the Father, delaying God's judgment... Rom 3:25; 1 Jn 2:2; 4:10.

1 John 2:2 = *He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

1 John 4:10 = *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins*

(b) God is patient so that others may repent of their sins... Rom 2:4.

2 Peter 3:9 = *God is patient – not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

Romans 2:4 = *Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*

(c) For the sake of God's Name and glory – the delay of punishment glorifies God  
Isaiah 48:9 = *For my name's sake I defer my anger; for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, that I may not cut you off*

### Common Grace for Judgment

Note: Common grace does not save but can be used by God for the judgment of those who do not value it... Rom 1:18-22; 28-32.

Point: Common grace is appreciated only by those who have received *special grace* from God... [next discussion]... cf. Eph 1:6-12; James 1:17; Ps 7:17; 9:1.

### Challenges:

(a) Be grateful for God's daily gifts to us... 1 Tim 4:4; 2 Cor 4:15; Ps 9:1.

(b) All grace received from God is His unmerited favor toward us; let us be humble before Him. ...

James 4:6 = *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble*

(c) As recipients of grace, let us also be gracious to our neighbors ... Mt 22:37-39; 1 Pt 4:10.

(d) Forgive and show goodwill to those who have wronged us...

Ephesians 4:32 = *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you*

Colossians 3:12-14 = *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive... Cf. Mt 6:14-15*