

A Promise Is A Promise



5 December 2021

GOLDEN CHAIN of GRACE (PART 4)

2 Corinthians 1:19-24; Titus 1:1-2; Romans 8:28-30

Genesis 15:1-16; Jeremiah 31:31-37

Do You Know God? The very first two things that God revealed about Himself:
Do You Know Yourself?

God's GRACE

- ① God's grace is HIS transforming power bestowed on those who are absolutely **helpless** (Romans 5:6; Luke 18:26-27) and **undeserving** of His kindness.
- ② God's grace is a **GIFT**. God **gives** His gifts - He does not **offer** His gifts.
- ③ God's giving comes purely from within Himself and is not influence by anything outside of Himself. (Deut 7:6-8; Heb 6:17-20; Titus 1:2)
- ④ God's grace belongs to Him and He bestows it as it pleases Him. (Matt 20:1-26; 11:25; Exod 33:19; John 17:2; Rom 9:15-24; 1 Cor 4:7; Eph 1:11; James 1:18)

The GOLDEN CHAIN of Grace (Romans 8:28-30)

- (v. 28) Do you love God? (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14)
- (vv. 29-30) THE GOLDEN (Amazing) CHAIN of God's Grace!

- ① **HE** foreknew . . .
- ② **HE** predestined . . .
- ③ **HE** called . . .
- ④ **HE** justified . . .
- ⑤ **HE** glorified . . .

HE

To Understand GRACE . . .

- One must go back in time to when there was no time.
- BEFORE there was time, space and matter.
- (Isaiah 57:15) ONLY GOD - our minds cannot comprehend this! Therefore, we can ONLY believe what is revealed. Anything else is just our imaginations!
- Before time began . . .
 - All of God's plan centered around Jesus Christ. Paul says, "... according to the **eternal purpose** which He accomplished **in Christ Jesus our Lord**" (Ephesians 3:11)

- God chose His special people and put them *into Christ* - or gave them to Christ. (1 Peter 2:9; John 10:27-29; Eph 1:3-4; 2 Thess 2:13-14)
- God wrote those names into His Book of Life of *the Lamb*. (Revelation 13:8; 17:8)
- God promised eternal life to His people *in Christ Jesus*.. (Titus 1:1-3; Romans 6:23)
- God gave His people grace before time began *in Christ Jesus*. (2 Timothy 1:9)
- God laid *on Christ* all the sins of His people before time began. (Isaiah 53:6)
- In God's mind, He crucified His own Son, so that His people would be saved - in God's mind this happened in eternity "past". (1 Pet 1:18-20; Isaiah 53 - remember the verb tense from our sermon two weeks ago)

GOD Foreknew (Chose)

- In **eternity**, when there was ONLY God (meditate on this), God **decided** (desired) what would be and what would not be. (Isaiah 41:22, 26; 44:6-8; 43:9-12; 45:21; 46:9-10; 48:3-8; **Acts 15:18**)
- (Romans 8:29; 1 Peter 1:2) God's choice is/was based solely on His foreknowledge that comes from *within* Himself and influenced by *nothing* outside of Himself. His foreknowledge is His will, plan, purpose, counsel, and desire.
- God **does** all that He desires! (Job 23:13; Psa 115:6; 135:6; Isaiah 14:24-27)
- God knows because He is ETERNAL and has purposed everything that will happen! Even His people's salvation.
- God **established** a covenant with His Son and **that** covenant is the bases of ALL that God does.
- (Hebrews 8:6) "*established*" (**PERFECT TENSE**) is νομοθετέω meaning "legally established" or "established by law". This **new** and **better** covenant is established by the **authority of GOD**.

God Entered Into An Everlasting Covenant (Jer 31:31-37; Heb 8:10-12)

- God entered into a covenant (promise) with His Son in eternity past.
- It was a TWO WAY covenant - between GOD, the Father and GOD, the SON.
- Since Christ was appointed/anointed to the FEDERAL HEAD of His people one could say that this was a covenant made with God's chosen ones.
- The covenant was conditioned on TWO THINGS:
 - ① Christ was to live a perfect life **for** His people.
 - ② Christ was to die for the sins of His people.
- Christ came to do the will of the Father. (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38-39; 9:4; 17:4)
- Seven Points of God's New Covenant (Hebrews 8:10-12)

① **I WILL PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR MIND.**

- Our darkened understand will be enlightened. (Ephesians 4:18; 5:8)
- By this we will be able to understand the things of God. (1 Cor. 2:14)
- The Law of God becomes the RULE of LIFE. (Psalm 1:1-3)
- The carnal mind is enmity against God and is NOT subject to God's law. (Rom 8:7)
- By having the Law in our minds *it is ever before us!*

② **I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS.**

- The “heart” is distinguished from the “mind” and is the seat of affections and the will.
- First, our understanding is enlightened and then our hearts are reformed and inflamed with passion.
- Our desires, affections, emotions and our DOINGS are regulated by the LAW which is written on our hearts.
- We have a genuine desire to please God. (Psalm 42:1; 63:1; 2 Timothy 2:3-4)
- We become *zealous for good works*. (Titus 2:14)

③ **I WILL BE TO THEM A GOD.**

- This is an expression of a covenant relationship.
- Unbelievers live “without God, and without hope.” (Ephesians 2:12)
- **See Genesis 15:1; Psalm 144:15.**
- God promises to be their Lawgiver, Counselor, Protector, Keeper, Guide, Comforter, King and all that is GOD.

④ **I WILL MAKE THEM MY PEOPLE.**

- We are a PURCHASED people. We belong to God. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- We are HIS PECULIAR people - belonging exclusively to ONE - God. (1 Peter 2:9)

⑤ **I WILL CAUSE THEM TO KNOW ME.**

- The **ONLY** way to intimately KNOW God is for Him to reveal Himself to us. (Matthew 16:16-17)
- Christ reveals the Father to whomever He desires/wills. (Matt 11:27)
- It is a GREAT PRIVILEGE to KNOW God! (1 John 5:20)
- Salvation (eternal life) is KNOWING GOD. (John 17:3; 6:45)
- One can only know God as He has revealed Himself in His Word.

⑥ **I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**

- “merciful” is ἵλεως hileos {hil'-eh-ocē} which means “propitious”
- God will be merciful only to those for whom Christ was a PROPITIATION. – Rom 3:24, 25; Heb 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10

⑦ **I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE.**

- God SAVES for His own sake! (Isaiah 43:25)
- God has promised to FORGIVE our sins **and** to FORGET them.
 - This is the meaning of PARDON. (Jeremiah 33:8)
 - Only God can FORGIVE and FORGET! (Mark 2:7)

- God PROMISED through the prophet Micah to cast all of our sins into the sea! (Micah 7:19)
 - The Gospel message is FORGIVENESS of SINS – Acts 13:38 and “by Him” (Christ) we are JUSTIFIED (declared righteous; pardoned) for ALL things – Acts 13:39.
- ★ ALL OF GOD’S PROMISES ARE **IN CHRIST JESUS!** (2 Corinthians 1:20)

Because God Chose (Elected) He Predestined!

- Whatever God predestines happens!
- God predestined that everyone He chose, in eternity past, would be conformed into the image of Son.
- This HE accomplishes through grace and His Spirit working in His people. (2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:23; Colossians 3:10)

Christ Created the World (Ephesians 3:9-11)

- Since God’s plan centers on Christ Christ became the Creator of the world so that God’s **eternal purpose** could be accomplished through Him, Christ.
 - John 1:1-3; Col 1:15-19; Heb 1:1-3, 10; 2:10; Isa 44:24; 1 Cor 8:6; Eph 3:9.

God Calls Those Who Are His (Romans 8:28, 30)

- (John 10:26-29) Christ taught, “My sheep (the ones given Me by the Father, in contrast to v. 26) hear My voice, and I know them (in contrast to Matt 7:23), and they (all of them) follow Me. And I give them eternal life (Q & Q), and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.” (See John 10:4, 6, 11, 14, 15-16, 18)
- The call of God is not small calling –
 - It is a **HOLY** calling. (2 Timothy 1:9)
 - It is a **HIGH** calling. (Philippians 3:14) God’s calling takes His people to His very throne. (Ephesians 2:6)
 - It is a **HEAVENLY** calling. (Hebrews 3:1) It is a call OUT of the world into citizenship in God’s kingdom. (Philippians 3:20)
 - It is **IRRESISTIBLE, IRREVOCABLE, UNCHANGING** because it is the call of the **SUPREME BEING** of the universe. (Romans **9:19-25**; 11:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Philippians 1:6) **IT IS THE POWER of GOD.**

God’s Business and Our Business (Deuteronomy 29:29)

- God’s business: ELECTION; PREDESTINATION; CALLING; GRACE.
- Our business:
 - ① Continually REPENT of our daily sins. (Mark 1:14-15)
 - ② Continually BELIEVE (TRUST) God. (Mark 1:14-15)
 - ③ REMEMBER