

What's So Amazing About Grace?

Titus 2:11-14

Hymn "Amazing Grace" has enjoyed much popularity since it was written in 1779 by John Newton. Newton was former slave trader/sailor who lived a reprobate life during his early years in spite of having a godly mother who tried to teach him religious values. One night during storm at sea, after a sailor was swept overboard from the spot he had just occupied, Newton cried out to God and became convinced that God spared his life. Newton considered this to be the beginning of a lifelong religious change in him. In 1779, while contemplating **1Chronicles 17:16-17** for a sermon he was to preach, he wrote the well-known hymn.

Originally "Faith's Review and Expectation," known by opening words.

While the hymn captures the heart of many who sing it, some may be left to wonder "What's so amazing about grace?" Grace is commonly referred to as "unmerited favor" But even the world can give "unmerited favor" What is so amazing about the grace of the Bible?

Consider the Source: God

God is perfect and knows what's best for us better than we know ourselves.

For this reason, He is truly the source of every good thing: - **James 1:17**

Consider the physical: He created the world and everything in it for man's needs and comforts.

(How great is food?!?)

More importantly, consider the spiritual: Jesus – the embodiment of grace - **John 1:14-17; 1John 4:9-10**

Jesus provided what we could not: An acceptable life and thus and acceptable sacrifice. - **1Peter 1:17-21**

People live their entire lives ignorant of God's extreme measures to enable them to cast off the bonds of sin and embrace what is true life.

Consider the Accomplishments

Brings salvation - Man's greatest need.

People farm for food, build shelters, work with hands for money but neglect what is their greatest need

Man's true condition is pathetic and pitiable. All must plead guilty since **none** merit salvation.

Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:2; Isaiah 64:6-7

Sin alienates from God and has been man's scourge since the garden of Eden but God intervened!

- **Ephesians 2:1-10**

Grace has been explained as: God's Riches At Christ's expense

Instructs for life

Not only does God's grace provide for eternal salvation, it supplies practical instruction for a purposeful and satisfying life here & now.

The world teaches selfishness, deceit, and every evil thing but God's grace is education that prepares us to receive eternity. **Eph 4:17-32**

Therefore, it is entirely sufficient for our needs - **2Corinthians 12:9**

Nothing else can claim such sufficiency - **everything** we need, God has supplied by grace **but** we must accept it daily.

"A man can no more take in a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough today to last him for the next six months; or take sufficient air into his lungs at once to sustain life for a week to come. We must draw upon God's boundless stores of grace from day to day, as we need it." – D. L. Moody

Consider the Scope: All men

God owes no man anything and so is no respecter of any man. He shows no partiality no matter how extremely moral or degenerate one may be - **Acts 10:34-35; John 3:16**

When a person works an eight-hour day and receives a fair day's pay for his time, that is a wage. When a person competes with an opponent and receives a trophy for his performance, that is a prize. When a person receives appropriate recognition for his long service or high achievements, that is an award. But when a person earns no wage, can win no prize, and deserves no award – yet is offered such a gift anyway – that is a good picture of God's unmerited favor. This is what we mean when we talk about the grace of God. (GW Knight, Clip-Art Features for Church Newsletters, p 53)

Paul was amazed that such would be offered to him. - **Ephesians 3:8-10; 1Timothy 1:12-16**

Therefore, it became immensely personal to him. - **Galatians 2:20**

Remember the song:

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!"

He will save even **you!** Even **me!**

As with Paul, John Newton remained amazed that God would make available such grace to him, a man who lived such an unrestrained life.

Toward the end of his life he wrote: *"My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior."*

What an amazing grace! Even more amazing, or perhaps perplexing, is why anyone would refuse it after so much has been done by God to make it available.

Zeke Flores