



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014

THE POWER TO DO IT

A Study of Biblical Grace

A Three Part Series

Presented by Eric Ludy



The Church at Ellerslie

Sunday Morning
October 19, 2014

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SESSION ONE

IT'S SO MUCH MORE

Understanding the manifold wonder of Grace

Grace

What is it?

The Four Fantastic Ingredients

1. It's free and unmerited; a blessing of magnificent proportions; a gift from God to the undeserving
2. It's power to do that which would otherwise be impossible
3. It renovates the inside of man
4. It transforms the outside of man

The Distortion of Grace

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, **turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness**, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 1:4

Beware of the ungodly agenda of . . .

turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness (KJV); into lewdness (NKJV); into a license for immorality (NIV); into sensuality (ESV); into licentiousness (NASB)

The Snuggle of Grace

Taking One Ingredient and Forgetting the Other Three

So, What Exactly is Grace?

- Grace is an action, a super-heroic action - but it is more than an action
- Grace is a power, an extreme power - but it is more than a power
- Grace is a mercy, an extreme mercy - but it is more than a mercy
- Grace is a kindness, an unmerited kindness - but it is more than kindness
- Grace is a virtue, an exemplary virtue - but is more than a virtue
- Grace is an historic event, an event that is central to all history - but it is more than an historic event
- Grace is a gift, an unspeakable gift - but it is more than a gift
- Grace is a work, a legal work of atonement, propitiation, justification, redemption, forgiveness, and adoption - but it is more than a legal work
- Grace is a life, a quickening, transforming life - but is not an impersonal life
- Grace is more than an action, a power, a mercy, a kindness, a virtue, an event, a gift, or a legal work. Grace is a Person.
- Grace is Jesus Christ - the loving action, the unstoppable power, the extreme mercy, the unmerited kindness, the exemplary virtue, the unspeakable gift, and the perfect rescuing work of God upon the Cross (the historic event of all historic events). Grace is the Abundant Life of God made available in the Person of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is Grace.

Grace in the Old Testament

The Foreshadow of the Unmerited Gift to Come

Chen - Hain

favor and acceptance; unmerited favor

Surely He scorneth the scorers: but He giveth grace unto the lowly.

Proverbs 3:34

Thus saith the LORD, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.

Jeremiah 31:2

Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

Zechariah 4:7

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Zechariah 12:10

Grace in the New Testament

The Person of Grace Strides on the Stage of Time and Reveals to us the Power of Grace

Charis

The unique make-up of the word

Ingredient #1 - a gift

unmerited and unearned, a favor offered, an act of mercy hallmarked by sacrifice on the part of the giver and rescue/redemption on the part of the recipient.

Ingredient #2 - power to do

Ingredient #3 - an inward springing upward

*from chairō - to rejoice, to be moved with gratitude, thanksgiving, and joy
So, charis contains this nuance of something that enables joy, thanksgiving, and gratitude within*

Ingredient #4 - an outward shine, a loveliness, a glow of beauty

Charis also is leveraged in the greek language to show that something is lovely, appropriate, right, and agreeable.

The Four Fantastic Ingredients

1. It's free and unmerited; a blessing of magnificent proportions; a gift from God to the undeserving
2. It's power to do that which would otherwise be impossible
3. It renovates the inside of man
4. It transforms the outside of man

The Many Shades of Grace

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of **the manifold grace of God.**

1 Peter 4:10

1. The God of all Grace (1 Peter 5:10)
2. The Gospel of Grace (Acts 20:24)
3. The Gift of Grace in Christ (Romans 5:15)
4. The Dispensation of Grace (Ephesians 3:2)
5. The Minister of Grace (Ephesians 3:7)
6. The Work of Grace (Galatians 5:18,22-23)
7. Empowering Grace (1 Corinthians 15:10)
8. The Throne of Grace (Hebrews 4:16)
9. The Spirit of Grace (Hebrew 10:29; 2 Corinthians 5:5)
10. The Purpose of Grace (2 Thessalonians 1:12)

Unlocking the Manifold Wonder of Grace

The God of all Grace (1 Peter 5:10)

Jesus - Grace incarnate (He lived by Grace, revealed the Power and Perfection of Grace, purchased us the access to the Throne of Grace, and then ultimately will make every knee bow before the God of all Grace)

The Gospel of Grace (Acts 20:24)

The Suffering, The Cross, The Burial, The Resurrection, The Ascension, and The Dispensation (God Breaks Through!)

The Gift of Grace in Christ (Romans 5:15)

That which was legally purchased on the Cross - that which clothes the sinner in the legal righteousness of the Person of Grace and makes a way for them to access the Throne of Grace in order to partake of Grace for help in Time of Need.

Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2 Timothy 1:9

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:1

The Dispensation of Grace (Ephesians 3:2)

The Sacred Entrustment of Grace (That which is given to the Saints to carry out the assignment of bringing the "Gospel of Grace" to the nations and to thusly reveal the glory of "The Person of Grace" - Jesus Christ)

The Minister of Grace (Ephesians 3:7)

The chosen steward. The one entrusted with the "Talent(s)" of Grace. The ones responsible to dispense the Grace in all its manifold wonder unto the Glory of the God of all Grace.

The Work of Grace (Galatians 5:18,22-23)

The fruition of Grace laboring in the life of a believer in Jesus Christ. Such grace produces Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, and Self-Control. The Work of Grace is the revelation of the Person of Grace that all the universe might behold His Glory.

Empowering Grace (1 Corinthians 15:10)

The enabling power of God to carry out the impossible errands of God on planet earth.

The Throne of Grace (Hebrews 4:16)

The Holy of Holies, the Place of God, the Seat of His Presence and Kingly Authority, the Shadow of the Almighty, the Place for Help in Time of Need. The Place of the Person of Grace.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

The Spirit of Grace (Hebrew 10:29; 2 Corinthians 5:5)

The deposit, the earnest, the guarantee of the Promise. The Holy Spirit of God. Grace in Spirit form. The Life of Jesus Christ imparted.

The Purpose of Grace

That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:12

The Preparations for Grace

... the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ ...

Galatians 3:24

... the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto (The Power to Do It) ...

Galatians 3:24

The Name “Jesus”

The I AM + Saves

The One that IS, the One that WAS, and the One that IS TO COME - Did it, Does it, and Will Always Do it

The Power to Do It Revealed

But **by the grace of God** I am what I am: and **His grace** which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but **I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

1 Corinthians 15:10

SESSION TWO

THE INVISIBLE HAND

Introducing the One Who Does It

Grace

God Did it, God Does it, and God will Always Do it

God Does It

The small “s” that is often missing in most of our lives

For by grace are ye saved through faith . . .

Ephesians 2:8

S and s

Big “S” Salvation - Rescue from the coming judgment

You are saved [from the coming judgment] through [believing that **He Did It!**]

Small “s” salvation - rescue in the moment-by-moment battle while here on earth

You are saved [in the moment-by-moment battle while here on earth] through [believing that **He Does It!**]

Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwells in me, **He does the works** . . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

John 14:10,12

The Invisible Hand

Built to do it all



Advertising copy:

It's amazing! It can lift, push, carry, pinch, mold, point, poke, break, hold, massage, slather, stroke, squeeze, drop, wipe, pick, turn, brush, pet, punch, throw, shoot, whack, shake, and a thousand more things besides. It's the all-purpose, all-in-one, do-it-all tool. It makes things happen!

The Hand . . . it can do it all!

The Work Glove

Built to reveal the Invisible Hand that does it all



Advertising copy:

It's made in the image and shape of the Invisible Hand. And it fits the Invisible Hand perfectly. In and of itself, it can't do anything but flop. But stick the Invisible Hand inside it and whamo - it comes to life and it suddenly can do everything the Invisible Hand can do. With the Invisible Hand living inside it, it can make visible the perfect actions of the Invisible. It can lift, push, carry, pinch, mold, point, poke, break, hold, massage, slather, stroke, squeeze, drop, wipe, pick, turn, brush, pet, punch, throw, shoot, whack, shake, and a thousand more things besides. Remember, by itself it can do nothing. But, with the Hand dwelling inside it, it can change the world.

The Work Glove . . . built to reveal the Hand that CAN do it all!

Where Did the Work Glove Go Wrong?

It believed the lie that it could function by itself, without the indwelling Invisible Hand. But when it left the Hand, it instantly lost its life and it was emptied of the power to do all things. For in and of itself, it can do nothing.

The Trash Can

It's the place where floppy, lifeless, empty right-handed work gloves (that have rejected the Invisible Hand) end up

Glove-Righteousness

A work glove attempting, in its own calf-skin power, to demonstrate the ability and action of the Invisible Hand

The Divine Want-Ad

Published by the Father



Wanted:

Dirty, rumpled work glove that perfectly fits my right hand. Very dear to me. Will give up everything in order to get it back.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

The Mission of the Hand

To seek and save that which was lost (the dirty, rumpled work glove buried in the trash can)

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10

The Law of the Invisible Hand

the Invisible Hand is revealed only through a work glove



No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him (revealed God to us; has made Him known; has explained Him).

John 1:18

He that hath seen me hath seen the Father . . .

John 14:9

Jesus Became a Work Glove

And He functioned perfectly, the way a work glove ought to function

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The Son can do nothing of himself**, but what he sees the Father do: **for whatsoever things He does, these also does the Son likewise.**

John 5:19

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, **but the will of Him that sent me.**

John 6:38

Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is **not mine, but His** that sent me.

John 7:16

. . . **I do nothing of myself**; but as my Father has taught me, I speak these things.

John 8:28

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, **He gave me a commandment**, what I should say, and what I should speak.

John 12:49

The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but **the Father that dwells in me, he does the works.**

John 14:10

He was a glove who never removed Himself from the Hand, but maintained a perfect dependence upon it. When the Hand pointed, the glove pointed. When the Hand gripped, the glove gripped. When the Hand waved, the glove waved. He was in perfect harmony with the movements of the Hand, never once leaving the Hand to explore the possibilities of Self-gloveness, or Glove-righteousness.

The Great Trash Can Retrieval

The roaring of the garbage truck can be heard rumbling down the street - glass bottles shattering, milk cartons crushing, pop cans collapsing. There is no time to lose. The Hand leaps to action; puts on the Work Glove, and opens the lid to the trash bin. The smell is awful, the appearance even worse. No well respecting Hand would ever venture in there. The trash man leaps from the truck to grab the trash bin. The trash man grabs ahold of the garbage bin and begins to lift it. The Hand (clothed in the Perfect Work Glove) dives in. Through the spaghetti sauce He searches. Through the rancid grass clippings He sifts. Through the dirty diapers He searches, and even through the moldy muffins. And, finally . . . there it is. He finds the beloved work glove (us), covered in filth. He covers it in his Hand and yanks it out of the debris, just as the trash man throws the remainder of the garbage into the truck.

The Perfectly Behaved Glove has rescued me. He, in perfect submission to the Invisible Hand, has reached down into my morass and pulled me out of the filth. Because He was perfectly yielded to the Hand, He had the power to grip me, pull me up, hold me in the hollow of that Hand, and even clean me off.

IN the Grip of the Perfect Glove

Prepared for the Invisible Hand to Enter Me

SESSION THREE

The Enabling Power

The Awe-Inspiring Gospel of Grace

The Perfect Work Glove

It becomes invisible that the Invisible Hand might be seen



Glove Impotence

. . . without me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

. . . without (*the Invisible Hand in you*), you can do nothing.

John 15:5

. . . without (*grace*), you can do nothing.

John 15:5

. . . without (*the power to do it*), you can do nothing.

John 15:5

God Power

. . . verily I say unto you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed . . . nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 17:20

Nothing shall be impossible to those who yield themselves to the Invisible Hand and let Him function inside them as only the Invisible Hand can.

A Message from the Invisible Hand

Dear Redeemed Work Glove,

I sent forth My Only Son to rescue you from the Trash Can, not only so that you could be lifted out of the garbage can and spared the incinerator, but so that you could have my Life in you, animating you, and doing the Heavenly work of the Invisible Hand in and through you.

*I stand at the door of your glove and knock,
Your Beloved Rescuer*

The Two “Ins”

The Power of Grace Revealed

But **by the grace of God** I am what I am: and **His grace** which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but **I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

1 Corinthians 15:10

**Grace is given that we might
labor more abundantly.**

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:

2 Corinthians 9:8

**Grace is given that we may
have sufficiency in all things.**

**Grace is given that we may
abound to every good work.**

By whom **we have received** grace and apostleship, **for obedience to the faith** among all nations, for his name:

Romans 1:5

Grace is given for obedience to the faith.

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 4:33

**Grace is given as power for
witnessing of the Resurrection of Jesus.**

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, **I have laid the foundation**, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1 Corinthians 3:10

**Grace is given in order that
we may lay foundations.**

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, **this grace was given, that I should preach** among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
Ephesians 3:8

**Grace is given for preaching
among the Gentiles.**

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

**Grace is given as our means
of help in time of need.**

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, **let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably** with reverence and godly fear:

Hebrews 12:28

**Grace is given whereby we
may serve God acceptably.**

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, **make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you.**

1 Peter 5:10

Grace is given to make us perfect.

Grace is given to establish us.

Grace is given to strengthen us.

Grace is given to settle us.

For **by grace are ye saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:8

Grace is given to save us.

And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

Acts 18:27

Grace is given to enable
others to believe in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians Chapter 3

Unlocking the Mystery of Grace

For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of **the dispensation of the grace of God** which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, **according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.** Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is **this grace given, that I should preach** among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory. For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;** that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, **that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that worketh in us,** Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Ephesians 3

Grace - The Gift that Keeps on Giving Doing

1. Grace is given that we might labor more abundantly

2. Grace is given that we may have sufficiency in all things
3. Grace is given that we may abound to every good work
4. Grace is given for obedience to the faith
5. Grace is given as power for witnessing of the Resurrection of Jesus
6. Grace is given in order that we may lay foundations
7. Grace is given for preaching among the Gentiles
8. Grace is given as our means of help in time of need
9. Grace is given whereby we may serve God acceptably
10. Grace is given to make us perfect
11. Grace is given to establish us
12. Grace is given to strengthen us
13. Grace is given to settle us
14. Grace is given to save us
15. Grace is given to enable others to believe in Jesus Christ

Embracing the Power of Grace

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: **Whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.**

Colossians 1:23-29

Deity indwelling men! That is Christianity in its fullest effectuation, and even those greater glories of the world to come will be in essence but a greater and more perfect experience of the soul's union with God. Deity indwelling men! That, I say, is Christianity, and no man has experienced rightly the power of Christian belief until he has known this for himself as a living reality. Everything else is preliminary to this. Incarnation, atonement, justification, regeneration; what are these but acts of God preparatory to the work of invading and the act of indwelling the redeemed human soul?

A.W. Tozer

He Ever Lives to Give Grace

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him,
seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

His Grace is Sufficient

The Laugh-out-loud Revelation

My grace is sufficient for thee:
for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:9

I have often read in Scripture of the holy laughter of Abraham, when he fell upon his face and laughed; but I do not know that I ever experienced that laughter till a few evenings ago, When this text came home to me with such sacred power as literally to cause me to laugh.

I had been looking it through, looking at its original meaning, and trying to fathom it, till at last I got hold of it this way: "My grace," says Jesus, "is sufficient for thee, "and it looked almost as if it were meant to ridicule my unbelief: for surely the grace of such a one as my Lord Jesus is indeed sufficient for so insignificant a being as I am.

It seemed to me as if some tiny fish, being very thirsty, was troubled with fear of drinking the river dry, and Father Thames said to him, "Poor little fish, my stream is sufficient for thee." I should think it is, and inconceivably more.

My Lord seems to say to me, "Poor little creature that thou art, remember what grace there is in me, and believe that it is all thine. Surely it is sufficient for thee."

I replied, "Ah, my Lord, it is indeed."

Put one mouse down in all the granaries of Egypt when they were fullest after seven years of plenty, and imagine that one mouse complaining that it might die of famine. "Cheer up," says Pharaoh, "poor mouse, my granaries are sufficient for thee."

Imagine a man standing on a mountain, and saying, "I breathe so many cubic feet of air in a year; I am afraid that I shall ultimately inhale all the oxygen which surrounds the globe." Surely the earth on which the man would stand might reply, "My atmosphere is sufficient for thee." I should think it; let him fill his lungs as full as ever he can, he will never breathe all the oxygen, nor will the fish drink up all the river, nor the mouse eat up all the stores in the granaries of Egypt.

Does it not make unbelief seem altogether ridiculous, so that you laugh it out of the house, and say, "Never come this way any more, for with a mediatorial fullness to go to, with such a Redeemer to rest in, how dare I for a moment think that my wants cannot be supplied."

Charles Spurgeon