

Grace?

Is God's policy for dealing with man on the principle of non-meritorious blessing?

The Christian life is based on understanding the sufficiency of God's provision

- 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NKJV)
- 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,
- 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,
- 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Orienting our thinking to Grace

Grace or confidence in our own resources: "but not both"

False apostles have transformed themselves into ministers of righteousness, through deceptive words, were attempting to lure the Corinthian church into believing a lie:

- 2 Corinthians 10:1-18 (NKJV)
- 1 Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.
- 2 But I beg you that when I am present I may not be bold with that confidence by which I intend to be bold against some, who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.
- 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.
- 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,
- 5 casting down arguments and **every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God**, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,
- 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.
- 7 Do you look at things according to the outward appearance?
- 8 If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he is Christ's, even so we are Christ's.
- 9 For even if I should **boast** somewhat more about my authority, **which the Lord gave us** for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed—
- 10 I seem to testify to you by letters.
- 11 For his letters," they say, "are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."
- 12 Let such a person consider this, that what we are in word by letters when we are absent, such we will also be in deed when we are present.
- 13 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.
- 14 We, however, will not **boast** beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you.
- 15 For we are not oversteering ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ;
- 16 not **boasting** of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere.
- 17 To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to **boast** in another man's sphere of accomplishment.
- 18 But **he who glories, let him glory in the Lord**—
- 19 For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

- 2 Corinthians 11:1-33 (NKJV)
- 1 Oh, that you would bear with me a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me.
- 2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.
- 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
- 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!
- 5 For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles.
- 6 Even though I am untrained in speech, yet I am not in knowledge. But we have been thoroughly manifested among you in all things.
- 7 Did I commit sin in **humbling** myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you free of charge?
- 8 I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.
- 9 And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep myself.
- 10 As the truth of Christ is in me, no one shall stop me from this **boasting** in the regions of Achaia.
- 11 Why? Because I do not lose you? God knows!
- 12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, **that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be untrained just as we are in the things of which they boast**.
- 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming themselves into apostles of Christ**.
- 14 And no wonder! For **Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light**.
- 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.
- 16 I say again, let no one think me a fool. If otherwise, at least receive me as a fool, that I also may **boast** a little.
- 17 What I speak, I speak not according to the Lord, but as I seem, foolishly, in the confidence of **boasting**.
- 18 Seeing that many **boast** according to the flesh, I also will **boast**.
- 19 For you put up with fools gladly, since you yourselves are wise!
- 20 For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one deceives you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.
- 21 To our shame I say that we were too weak for that! But in whatever anyone is bold—I speak foolishly—I am bold also.

Relying on the sufficiency of God supply:

- 2 Corinthians 11:33-33 (NKJV)
- 33 Are they deceived? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I.
- 34 Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.
- 35 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.
- 36 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;
- 37 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils in the heat, in cold and nakedness—
- 38 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.
- 39 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not bring him into bondage with indignation?
- 40 If I must **boast**, I will **boast** in the things which concern my infirmity.
- 41 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.
- 42 In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascus with a garrison, desiring to arrest me;
- 43 but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

- A paradox** **Contextual interpretation:**
Verses 2 through 5 must, and can only be understood in the context in which it is needed!
- 2 Corinthians 12:1-13 (NKJV)
 - 1 It is doubtless not profitable for me to **boast** I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:
 - 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.
 - 3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—
 - 4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.
 - 5 Of such a one I will **boast**, yet of myself I will not **boast**, except in my infirmities.
 - 6 For though I might desire to **boast**, I will not be a fool, for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.
 - 7 And **lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.**
 - 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

- Grace is the supply of God for the present or circumstance.
- Faith relies on the promise, principle and necessities that God has provided by grace.
- 5457 τελειος (teleios)
- LN 12.128 τελειος⁴ teleios⁴ teleios⁴ says I TO CRUISE to happen for some end result—"to make happen; to lead to fulfill; to accomplish, fulfillment."
- 68.23 τελειος^d, α. ov: pertaining to that which is fully accomplished or finished—complete, finished
- Galatians 3:3 (NKJV)
- 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit **are you now being made perfect by the flesh?**
- 2200 επιτελειω (epiteleiō)
- 68.22 επιτελειω (epiteleiō) v3 = 57 says TONT 8.40—1. LN 68.22 complete, finish, attain a goal (Ro 15:28; 2Co 7:1; 8:6, 10¹⁻⁴; Gal 3:3; Php 1:6; Heb 9:6-7); 2. LN

- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NKJV)
- 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming themselves into apostles of Christ**.
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- Grace: what is it? Is a God's policy for dealing with man on the principle of non-meritorious blessing
- Aligning our thinking with God's gracious abundant provisions
- Orienting our thought processes to reality, not the amargue of human will or human abilities
- Grace is the outpouring of the unearned loving kindness and favor of God toward man.
- Only due to God's love:
- John 3:16 (NKJV)
- 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- It has to do with the character of God:
- Psalm 89:14 (NKJV)
- 14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; **Mercy and truth go before Your face**.
- The opposite of dependence on God's **grace** at salvation is:
- Self-righteousness / good deeds

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Grace teaches us to rely on God's provisions which are outlined in the mandates, the principles, the promises, in the doctrines of Scripture