

To The Praise Of The Glory Of His Grace

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

Ephesians 3:6-8 (NKJV)

6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

7 of which I became a minister according to **the gift of the grace of God given to me** by the effective working of His power.

8 **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**,

God's favor- Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

By faith in the redemptive work of God through the blood of Jesus Christ we receive the righteousness of God.
Hebrews 11:5-7 (NKJV)

⁵By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken **he had this testimony, that he pleased God.**

⁶**But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

⁷By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (NKJV)

²⁰Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, = justification = through faith in His sacrifice

²¹make you complete in every good work to do His will, **working in you what is well pleasing in His sight**, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. = sanctification = through faith in a resurrected Christ, the Priest after the order of Melchizedek

Think of the difficulties Paul was able to endure because of the grace of God; by the time he penned the words 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NKJV)

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

⁷**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**

⁸**Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

He was singing the praises of the glory of the grace of God.

Acts 11:19–23 (NKJV)

¹⁹Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.

²⁰But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.

²¹And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

²²Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch.

²³When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.

Acts 13:42–43 (NKJV)

⁴²So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

⁴³Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, **persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.**

Continue in His favor/do always those things that please the Father

Romans 5:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

²¹so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

It is important to note that kindness in English indicates an activity in which an individual is kind to someone; it is essentially an event involving a particular quality. The same is true of χάρις in Ac 15:40, for this is not a mere gracious disposition, but an expectation of the Lord's showing kindness.

the gift: the ability to bear up under the the challenging circumstances that arose while executing God's call upon him (his ministry of preaching/teaching the mystery: God's opening the door of salvation to the Gentiles).

Acts 15:40 (NKJV)

40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended/committed by the brethren to the grace of God.

1 Corinthians 15:32 (NKJV)

32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

2 Timothy 3:10-12 (NKJV)

10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. Paul had to view these circumstances as invitations to lean on God's favor trust in the favor toward us in Christ