

# A Full Display of God's Grace

## What God is Doing During the Church Age

### **Ephesians 2:1-19**

Ephesians 2:4–7 (NKJV): 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come **He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 4:13–16 (NKJV): 13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, 15 because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 **Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace**, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all....

Grace is the basis of faith, we would not have faith if we did not know God's unmerited favor.

Ephesians 2:4–5 (NKJV): 4 **But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,**

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**),

1 John 4:9–10 (NKJV): 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, **not that we loved God, but that He loved us** and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

He came to Abraham and Sarah, who were unable to have children without God's intervention.

He sent His angel to proclaim to lowly shepherds: Luke 2:8–14 (NKJV):

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, **“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”** 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Romans 1:18–32; Romans 2:1–5

God has graciously called;

1 Corinthians 1:26–29 (NKJV): 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.

Colossians 1:21 (NKJV): 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

Titus 3:4–5 (NKJV): 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

God is graciously preserving;

1 Peter 1:4–5 (NKJV): 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Philippians 4:7 (NKJV): 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:25 (NKJV): 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Colossians 1:11 (NKJV): 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

1 Corinthians 15:57–58 (NKJV): 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Peter 5:8–11 (NKJV): 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

God is graciously glorifying:

Romans 8:29–30 (NKJV): 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV): 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV): 12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

God's wisdom is being fully displayed:

Ephesians 3:10–11 (NKJV): 10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in

the heavenly places, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

### The Seven Periods within the Church Age

Revelation 1:20 (NKJV): 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:11–2:1 (NKJV): 11 saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, **“What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”**

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. **And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.** 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

**20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.**

2:1 “To the **angel** of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

## angel: messenger

Revelation 2:2–4 (NKJV): 2 “**I know your works**, your labor, your **patience**, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. **And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars**; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.

4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Matthew 24:12–14 (NKJV): 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

1 Corinthians 13:1–4 (NKJV): 13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Deeds in the name of love without grace (unmerited favor) being communicated are worthless.

It was the hearing of the gospel preached by the apostles that made the hearers aware of their need for the grace of God

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;

Revelation 2:5–7 (NKJV): 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. 6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” ’