

GRACE INSTEAD OF GRACE

Part 2

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 2:4-10, 3:1-2

INTRODUCTION

“Amazing Grace” was written by John Newton, a man who knew he needed God’s grace to be saved from his sins.

God’s grace became more amazing as it transitioned from its OT character to its NT character.

After the finished work of the cross, God’s grace was provided for all three tenses of salvation. Not only for initial salvation, but also for the believer’s present and future tenses of salvation

THE TRANSITION OF GOD'S GRACE IN THE O.T. TO HIS GRACE IN THE N.T.

- Grace in the “gospel era” - Jn 1:14-17
 - 3x in John's gospel explain this transition
 - 10x in Luke's gospel, 7x noun, 3x verb
 - Mary found favor (grace) with God – Lk 1:30
 - Jesus experienced grace from the Father in the realm of His human nature – Lk 2:40, 52
 - Many blind were graced with sight by Jesus - Lk 7:21

THE TRANSITION OF GOD'S GRACE IN THE OT TO HIS GRACE IN THE NT (continued)

- Grace AFTER the death and resurrection of Christ -- (beginning with the transitional history in the book of Acts)
 - Great grace upon the Church its beginning – Acts 4:33
 - God's grace witnessed upon the Gentiles – Acts 11:22-23
 - Encouragement to continue living by God's grace (not the Law) – Acts 13:43

THE CONCLUSION OF THE TRANSITION FROM OT GRACE TO NT GRACE: **THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE**

- Our household rule of grace established – Eph 3:2
 - What the Ephesian believers had heard about a life of grace – Eph 2:5-8a
 - **Made alive together**
 - **Raised together**
 - **Seated together**
 - **IN CHRIST**
 - **CAUSED TO BE SAVED BY GRACE**
 - With continuing results of that salvation – Eph 2:5b 8a

THE CONCLUSION OF THE TRANSITION FROM OT GRACE TO NT GRACE: **THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE**

- Grace cannot be earned because of our works (Eph 2:8-9) but is provided through the cross work of CHRIST ALONE!
- But God's grace can produce good works THROUGH us – Eph 2:10
- We now live under the household rule of grace, NOT any longer under the household rule of Law – Rom 6:14

CONCLUSION

All of Paul's 14 NT letters begin and end with "grace is to you" (i.e., your advantage). His letter to Hebrew Christians does not begin with his usual grace introduction. He is gradually encouraging these Jewish Christians to move from life under law, to life under grace. BUT he concludes in 13:25 "**grace is with you all!**"