

## THE ULTIMATE GLORY OF HIS GRACE Part 6 of Ephesians Chapter One

Ephesians 1:6 **SLIDE**

*To the praise of the glory of His grace by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

**HERE AT THE BEGINNING OF EPHESIANS ... IN THE ETERNITY OF GOD, WE ARE IMMEDIATELY INTRODUCED TO ... 'THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST'.**

Ephesians 1:3

*Blessed be **God the Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ ...*

SO, THE FIRST THING WE REALISE IS ...

**THIS IS PRIMARILY ABOUT THE FATHER WITH HIS SON**

**THIS SETS THE TONE FOR EPHESIANS & THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH WE CAN STAND TO UNDERSTAND ...**

**THERE IS AN UNFORTUNATE LACK OF TEACHING REGARDING 'THE FATHER' ... AND WE MISS SO MANY THINGS AS A RESULT.**

FOR EXAMPLE -

The parable of the Prodigal Son is primarily about the Father –

Luke 15:11

*... A certain man had two sons ...*

**THE 'CERTAIN MAN' IS THE FATHER.**

WE ALSO SEE THE FATHER PRIORITISED IN EPHESIANS 1:2, the preceding verse, WHICH **SHOWS THERE IS GRACE FROM THE FATHER AS WELL AS GRACE FROM THE SON** -

Ephesians 1:2 **SLIDE**

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

**DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT THE GRACE OF THE FATHER?**

**This is something I've never heard emphasised or taught ...**

**As people who adhere to 'Grace Theology' we often talk about 'The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ' ... or 'The Grace of God' ...**

**It is entirely scriptural and glorious ...**

**For example: You can see in the song which we sang this morning - ('This is Amazing Grace' - see below)**

### **ALL GRACE IS ATTRIBUTED TO OUR LORD JESUS ...**

**IN BRINGING OUT THE GRACE OF THE FATHER, I AM NOT DEPRECATING 'THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS'. IT IS WONDERFUL & REVEALED EVERYWHERE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT ...**

**FOR EXAMPLE -**

**If we read the **last verse** in the **last book** of the Bible, we read ...**

**Revelation 22:21**

***The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.***

**We see the Apostle Paul signing off many of his letters with this same phrase. (Galatians / Philipians / 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians / Philemon)**

**BUT WE ALSO SEE PAUL'S GREETING IN JUST ABOUT EVERY EPISTLE 'Grace to you and peace from GOD OUR FATHER and THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.'**

**IT IS THE GRACE OF THE FATHER – WITH THE SON  
THAT WE SEE HERE IN OUR TEXT**

***'TO THE PRAISE OF ... HIS GRACE'***

**WHEN DID YOU LAST HEAR ABOUT THE GRACE OF THE FATHER?**

**We have never specifically magnified or specified **THE GRACE TO THE FATHER** of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE FATHER IS THE ORIGINATOR OF ALL THINGS. THAT'S WHY HIS GRACE IS FIRST IN THE GREETINGS OF THE EPISTLES ...**

**Jesus said, '... I am from Him and He sent me.' (John 7:29)**

(See also John 3:16)

We can see it more clearly by putting it in a more literal way -

Ephesians 1:6 **SLIDE**

*To the praise of the Glory of **The Grace of Him [the Father]** in which **He [the Father]** has graced us in 'The One being forever loved'.*

**WE WILL HAVE A MORE GLORIOUS VIEW OF OUR SALVATION WHEN WE BEGIN TO SEE IT FROM THE FATHER'S PERSPECTIVE - FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HIS SOVEREIGN GRACE.**

*We love and sing, 'This is Amazing Grace', which magnifies The Grace of Our Lord Jesus -*

**This is amazing grace** ... This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place ... That You would bear my cross  
You would lay down Your life ... That I would be set free  
**Oh, Jesus** I sing for all that You've done for me

We added a new chorus to emphasise 'The Grace of The Father'.

**SLIDE** **This is amazing grace** ... That You have chosen me  
To come before Your face ... Where I will always be  
Adopted as Your child ... For all eternity  
**Father** I sing for all that You've done for me

***BUT YOU SAY, WHAT DOES IT MATTER ...  
THIS IS NIT-PICKING?***

**It provides us** with a secure mindset that brings us into His rest ...  
Knowing He has already blessed us with every blessing ...  
**BY HIS SOVEREIGN GRACE.**

**It prevents us** from being driven to try and earn His favour ...  
Knowing we already have His favour ...  
**BY HIS SOVEREIGN GRACE** ...  
**AND IT CANNOT BE EARNED ...**

It protects us against being led astray into a 'SELF-CENTRED SPIRITUALITY' where we feel like we have to live on a spiritual high all the time ... continually confessing ... fasting ... prophesying ...

THIS TRUTH CHANGES THE WAY WE THINK, FEEL AND ACT IN LIFE HERE AND NOW.

SO, WHAT IS THIS GRACE OF THE FATHER & THE SON THAT SHINES SO MAGNIFICENTLY IN HIS GLORY?

➤ **SLIDE** THIS IS GRACE GIVEN BEFORE TIME

BEFORE YOU MET THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

AND WERE SAVED BY HIS GRACE ...

THERE WAS ANOTHER WHO HAD ALREADY Poured HIS GRACE UPON YOU ...

THIS WAS THE FATHER ...

HE Poured HIS GRACE UPON YOU BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN ...

THE GRACE OF THE FATHER – WITH THE SON,  
WAS WORKING FOR YOU ... BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

**LOOK AT WHAT THE FATHER DID FOR YOU BEFORE TIME**

Ephesians 1:2-6 **SLIDE**

- Grace [has come] to you **from God our Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ (v2)
- **This Grace [of the Father]** has graced us by blessing us with every blessing before we were even born (v3)
- **This Grace [of the Father]** has graced us by choosing us to be holy and blameless in His presence ... before we were even born (v4)
- **This Grace [of the Father]** has graced us by adopting us as His Sons ... before we were even born (v5)

**BEFORE TIME THE FATHER HAD ALL THIS PLANNED FOR US.**

## SO WHAT IS THIS GRACE THAT SHINES WITH GOD'S GLORY?

- **SLIDE** **THIS IS GRACE THAT INVADED TIME  
AND PURCHASED OUR SALVATION**

Ephesians 1:6 **SLIDE**

*To the praise of the glory of His grace by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

**AFTER FATHER'S GRACE HAD CHOSEN US ... CLEANSED US ...  
ADOPTED US ...**

**THE FATHER SENT JESUS TO RESCUE US ... TO REDEEM US ...**

- This Magnificent glory of Grace, that began before time is now seen, as the Father with the Son brings it to pass in time ...

Ephesians 2:4-5,7

*<sup>4</sup>But God [the Father], who is rich in mercy, because of His [the Father's] great love with which He loved us ...*

**SLIDE** *<sup>5</sup>Even when we were dead in trespasses, [the Father] made us alive together with Christ (by [His] grace you have been saved)*

*<sup>7</sup>that in the ages to come He [the Father] might show the exceeding riches of His [the Father's] grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

**THE FATHER'S GRACE SHOWS HIS GLORY IN -**

- HIS HEART OF GOODNESS TOWARD ALL UNDESERVING MEN
- HIS NEVER-ENDING LOVE FOR ALL REBELLIOUS PEOPLE ...
- HIS PATIENCE IN WAITING & HOLDING BACK HIS JUDGEMENT
- HIS COMPASSION IN YEARNING FOR ALL UNWORTHY PEOPLE TO BE WITH HIM
- HIS SELF-SACRIFICE – GIVING OF ALL **HE IS** & ALL **HE HAS** FOR SINFUL MANKIND

**This Grace is NOT God's response to man's desire or request;**

Nothing in Salvation is man's doing.

He is an enemy of God.

**MAN IN SIN DOESN'T DESIRE SALVATION ...**

It is entirely from God ... motivated by His own pleasure ... desire ... and love ...

**ALL OF THIS IS DONE IN US**

Romans 5:8

***But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

Divine grace is not a limp, shallow attribute, but one of glorious riches, deserving infinite praise. (Pulpit Commentary)

**AFTER THE FATHER'S GRACE PLANNED SO MUCH FOR US ...  
HE SENT HIS SON INTO TIME FOR US ...  
THIS GRACE OF THE FATHER WITH THE SON, SHINES BRIGHTER  
THAN THE SUN IN ALL ITS GLORY ...  
AND IS THE GREATEST REASON FOR PRAISE ...**

**BUT THERE IS AN EVEN GREATER REASON WHY THIS  
GRACE OF THE FATHER SHINES BRIGHTER THAN 10,000  
SUNS.**

OUR VERSE TODAY GOES BEYOND ALL THIS!!!!

**SLIDE**

➤ **THIS IS GRACE THAT PLACED US IN THE  
BELOVED**

Ephesians 1:6 **SLIDE**

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

WHY DOES PAUL USE THIS TERM ... **THE BELOVED?**

**In Ephesians 1:1-5, Paul refers to Jesus 7 times in 5 verses, calling  
Him 'Christ' or 'Christ Jesus' ...  
But here he changes it to - 'The Beloved'.**

**BECAUSE HE WANTS TO SHOW US SOMETHING AMAZING**

Beloved [One] (Ēgapēmenō)

Verb To love, wish well to, take pleasure in, long for; denotes the love of reason, esteem.

**THE BELOVED**

NB: Not 'A' beloved' but 'The' Beloved

*For example: Mary, 'the' wife of John, means John has only one wife. Whereas Mary, 'a' wife of John, means John is a polygamist.*

**THERE IS ONLY ONE BELOVED OF THE FATHER ...**

**AND THAT IS JESUS ... THE BELOVED.**

**Matthew 3:17** (At Jesus' Baptism)

***And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."***

See also [Matthew 17:5](#) on the Mount of Transfiguration.

**TO FULLY APPRECIATE THE GOOD NEWS ...  
WE MUST FIRST UNDERSTAND THE BAD NEWS**

*Good News: Church attendance rose dramatically the last three weeks.*

*Bad News: It happened when you were on holiday, Pastor.*

*Good News: Mrs Jones loves your sermons.*

*Bad News: She also loves 'Desperate Housewives', 'Goggle Box' and 'Big Brother'.*

**BEFORE WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE GLORY OF THIS GRACE ...  
WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF OUR CONDITON**

**SO HERE'S THE BAD NEWS**

**WE WERE NEVER BELOVED OF GOD ...**

**NEITHER COULD WE BE BELOVED OF GOD ...**

OUR SIN SEPARATED US COMPLETELY FROM GOD ...

***BUT YOU SAY - IT IS WRITTEN, GOD LOVED THE WHOLE  
WORLD ...***

**YES, GOD LOVED US WITH AGAPE LOVE ... (John 3:16)**

**BUT WE WERE NEVER BELOVED OF GOD AS JESUS IS.**

**WE WERE NEVER LOVED WITH PHILEO LOVE LIKE JESUS ...**

**This person is God's Loved One ...**

He is **THE ONE** on whom ALL the Father's love and affection are centred.

He is loved for all eternity ... He ever was loved ... and ever will be ... **THE ONLY ONE** ...

John 1:18 **SLIDE**

*No one has seen God at any time. **The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.***

**THIS BELOVED LOVE SPEAKS OF TENDER AFFECTION ...  
CLOSENESS ... SOMEONE ADORED ... CHERISHED ...  
TREASURED ... SOMEONE WHO IS HIS DELIGHT ...**

**Proverbs 8:30** KJV

Then I was by him, as one brought up *with him*: and **I was daily his delight**, rejoicing always before him.

JESUS WAS THE BELOVED. WE NEVER WERE.

**SO WHAT'S THE GOOD NEWS?**

**BY HIS GRACE THE FATHER ENFUSED YOU INTO HIS  
BELOVED WHOM HE LOVES ... DEARLY ... TENDERLY ...**

AND THAT MEANS ALL THE TENDERNESS & AFFECTION THE  
FATHER HAS FOR HIS SON ... HE NOW HAS FOR YOU ...  
EXACTLY!

John 17:23 **SLIDE**

*I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and **[You] have loved them as You have loved Me. (Same word as Beloved)***

**SLIDE OF PROMO**

**THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR YOU IS EXACTLY THE SAME  
LOVE HE ALWAYS HAD FOR HIS BELOVED.**

**EXTRAORDINARY!**

**THE ULTIMATE GLORY OF GRACE**

THIS IS **HIS** ULTIMATE GRACE ...

THIS IS HIS ULTIMATE GLORY ...

THE ULTIMATE GLORY OF HIS GRACE ...

THAT WE BE IN THE BELOVED ...

➤ The grace of forgiveness is glorious ...



- The grace of adoption is glorious ...
- The grace of being made holy and blameless is glorious ...
- BUT THE GRACE THAT HAS **PUT US IN THE BELOVED-ONE** SURPASSES THEM ALL & SHINES BRIGHTER THAN ALL ...

**THIS GLORY IS MAGNIFIED IN THE FACT THAT ...**

**WE WHO WERE ABJECT SINNERS ... ENEMIES OF GOD ...  
HATERS OF GOD ...  
HAVE BEEN PLACED INTO THE MOST PRECIOUS THING TO HIM -  
'IN HIS BELOVED SON' ...**

**SO WE OURSELVES BECOME HIS BELOVED**

Romans 1:7 **SLIDE**

*To all who are in Rome, **beloved of God**, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Colossians 3:12

*...The elect of God, holy and **beloved** ...*

**THIS IS THE ULTIMATE GLORY OF GRACE**