

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

GRACE, THE MYSTERY OF GOD, IN CHRIST

God created man.

Genesis 1:26-27), (26) And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (27) So God created man in his {own} image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

God gave man a law.

(Genesis 2:16-17) (16) And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: (17) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Satan deceived Eve.

(Genesis 3:1-6) (1) Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: (3) But of the fruit of the tree which {is} in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. (4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: (5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. (6) And when the woman saw that the tree {was} good for food, and that it {was} pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make {one} wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

God confronted man.

(Genesis 3:9-13) (9) And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where {art} thou? (10) And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I {was} naked; and I hid myself. (11) And he said, Who told thee that thou {wast} naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? (12) And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest {to be} with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. (13) And the Lord God said unto the woman, What {is} this {that} thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

God cursed the serpent and promised a savior.

(Genesis 3:14-15) (14) And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou {art} cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: (15) And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

God made a promise to Abram.

(Genesis 12:1-3) (1) Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land

that I will shew thee: (2) And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: (3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

This was a mystery and no one understood it.

(1 Peter 1:10-12) (10) Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace {that should come} unto you: (11) Searching what, or what manner of time the spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. (12) Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

(Ephesians 3:3-5) (3) How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, (4) Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) (5) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

(Ephesians 3:9-11) (9) And to make all {men} see what {is} the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: (10) To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly {places} might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, (11) According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

(Colossians 1:26-27) (26) {Even} the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: (27) To whom God would make known what {is} the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

(Romans 16:25-26) (25) Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, (26) But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

If they had known the mystery they would not have crucified Christ.

(1 Corinthians 2:7-8) (7) But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, {even} the hidden {wisdom}, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: (8) Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known {it}, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Christ is that seed.

(Galatians 3:16-19,29) (16) Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. (17) And this I say, {that} the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. (18) For if the inheritance {be} of the law, {it is} no more of promise: but God gave {it} to Abraham by promise. (19) Wherefore

then {serveth} the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; {and it was} ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator..... (29) And if ye {be} Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Christ lived a perfect life.

(Philippians 2:6-8) (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Christ was faithful.

(Romans 3:21-22) (21) But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; (22) Even the righteousness of God {which is} by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

(Galatians 2:16-20) (16) Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (17) But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, {is} therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. (18) For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. (19) For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. (20) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

(Galatians 3:22) But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

(Ephesians 3:12) In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

(Philippians 3:9) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Christ as a man earned salvation. He bore our sins but he did not deserve to die for he had committed no sin.

(Isaiah 53:6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

(Hebrews 2:9) But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

We all have sinned and deserve to be lost.

(Romans 3:23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

(Romans 5:12) Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death

by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

(1 John 1:8, 10) (8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

(Romans 6:23) For the wages of sin {is} death; but the gift of God {is} eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We can never earn salvation.

(Ephesians 2:8-9) (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: {it is} the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

(Luke 17:10) So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

We are saved by grace.

(Ephesians 2:8-9) (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: {it is} the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

(Acts 15:11) But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Titus 2:11) For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

(Acts 20:24, 32) (24) But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. (32) And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

- Grace is found in Christ.

(1 Timothy 1:14) And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

(Titus 3:4-7) (4) But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, (5) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; (6) Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; (7) That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

(Romans 3:24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Romans 5:15) But not as the offence, so also {is} the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, {which is} by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

(2 Timothy 1:9-10) (9) Who hath saved us, and called {us} with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (10) But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

We have access to grace by faith.

(Romans 5:1-2) (1) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Since we all deserve to be lost and can never earn salvation. How then will we be saved by grace? Only by being a part of Christ, being in him and remaining in him till we past from this life.

We can only be saved if we are in and remain in Christ.

(Romans 3:24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

(Acts 4:12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

(1 John 5:20) And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, {even} in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

(2 Timothy 2:10) Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

(Romans 6:1-6, 11, 23) (1) What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also {in the likeness} of {his} resurrection: (6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with {him}, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

(11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(23) For the wages of sin {is} death; but the gift of God {is} eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Colossians 3:3-6) (3) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, {who is} our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. (5) Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: (6) For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Being in Christ is like being in a corporation.

We remain in Christ by doing works of righteousness.

(Hebrews 5:8-9) (8) Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; (9) And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Grace then is conditional.

(Ephesians 2:10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

(1 Corinthians 15:57-58) (57) But thanks {be} to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

(Romans 16:26) But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

(Romans 10:10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

(Galatians 5:5-6) (5) For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. (6) For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

(1 Thessalonians 1:3) Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

We can sin so as to be lost.

(Galatians 5:4) Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

(Hebrews 10:25-31) (25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some {is}; but exhorting {one another}: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. (26) For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, (27) But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. (28) He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: (29) Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? (30) For we know him that hath said, Vengeance {belongeth} unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. (31) {It is} a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Why are men lost.

(2 Thessalonians 2:10-12) (10) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (11) And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (12) That they all

might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

We will make mistakes and sin but God has provided for us in his grace.

(1 John 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us {our} sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 5:16-17) (16) If any man see his brother sin a sin {which is} not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. (17) All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

These are sins that we do not intend to do, but when we realise our sin we are ready to repent and ask God for forgiveness.
Wilful sins are what cause us to fall from grace.

(Hebrews 10:26) For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

(Revelation 2:5) Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

(Galatians 5:4) Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Only those in Christ will be saved.

Read Ephesians chapters 1, 2.