Cecil and Lisa Paxton Ministries February 2022



But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.



Dear Partners and Friends,

Putting God First

There are many different types of physical problems, relational problems, financial problems—all possible areas of need.

We live in a need-based world where there will always be areas of need. When needs in our lives are met, eventually other areas of need will always come along, whether they are personal problems or the needs of the people we care about. PO Box 50555 Colorado Springs CO 80949 Phone: 719-243-4100 Website: www.clpmi.org

Heaven is the total opposite of life on earth, as there is no lack, only abundance. We will be at home in our heavenly Father's presence, where even the streets are made of gold!

As believers, we are to relate to this life differently than unbelievers.

Philippians 4:19 (KJV) But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

All our needs were met at the cross, in Christ, before we were born. This means we receive from our heavenly position in Christ, which is a place of abundance.

Ephesians 2:6 (KJV) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

When we identify with the earthly need instead of identifying with our heavenly position in Christ, issues of unbelief always arise. This causes us to make receiving about us in relationship to our problems, instead of receiving being about Jesus.

Concerning areas of need, Jesus said that we are to *"take no thought"* (Matt. 6:25, 31).

We are not to worry or be anxious over needs. The only way we will consistently relate to life in this manner is if our hearts are purposely established in putting God first.

Jesus told us the way for all our needs to be met: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33, KJV).

It is very beneficial to establish our hearts by putting our focus on God first in worship, instead of on our need. When we relate to God from a place of need, it keeps us from coming to know and experience the fullness of who God is.

There is an old saying that you can give a man a fish and feed him for a day or teach him how to fish and feed him for a lifetime. Putting God first opens us up to know His ways in His Word and experience the help of the Holy Spirit. This results in us walking out the revealed truth as a way of life in Christ.

What Is Grace?

The word *grace* can be defined simply as the unmerited favor of God, but grace in a practical manner can manifest and express itself in our lives in so many ways. Each of the ways it is manifested gives such a clear image of grace, like looking at the different facets of a diamond.

This unmerited favor—grace—is manifested out of the love of God toward His creation. Over time, we come to know who a person is by coming to know the heart of that person. First Peter 3:4 (KJV) speaks of this as the *"hidden man of the heart,"* as who we are is not just an outward expression alone but also the heart motive behind our actions. In 1 John 4:8, we are told that God is love. He does not just possess love or choose to express love, but no, love is the expression of who He is.

Out of our heavenly Father's great love came grace in the person of Jesus Christ, who is holy and sinless and became sin for all mankind—an expression of the unmerited favor of God toward His creation.

First John 4:10 (KJV) says, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation [the atoning sacrifice] for our sins" (brackets mine).

An expression of this kind of love practically manifests itself, as it says in 1 John 4:9, in how we are not just saved from being sinners but in how Jesus has become our source of life, that we now might live through Him.

At salvation, we are a new creation in our spirits (2 Cor. 5:17), spiritually alive to God and now in a personal love relationship with our Creator.

Our Meeting with a College in Dumfries, Scotland

A number of attendees have commented on how peaceful they felt while listening to the anointed teaching, and a lady from Wales said that as a result of the teaching, she has more confidence in speaking to the issues challenging her. Praise God. Everyone was so blessed to be part of the Zoom call. Romans 5:8 (KJV) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Grace is what brought about this relationship, as it was not our love toward God that motivated Him but His love toward us. We deserve hell, but we were given heaven.

Grace is a holy God loving a corrupted creation so much that His love was expressed through grace. Grace is a love that is given when the creation does not deserve it, has not earned it, and is unworthy of it. This is an unconditional love full of goodness and kindness in which He has great favor toward His creation. It is a love that desires personal relationship, wanting to be involved in every aspect of our lives in such a way that it enhances our lives with quality and value.

What is grace? It is a continual, relational, personal revelation of our heavenly Father's love, displayed in so many ways, like the facets of a diamond.

Thank You!

Lisa and I are very grateful to you, our friends and partners of this ministry, as together we are seeing lives changed. We believe that you, our partners, are greatly prospering—spirit, soul, and body—as you experience increase in the seed you have sown multiplying and increase in the fruits of your righteousness. God's richest blessings in Christ are already yours. Believe and establish this truth in your hearts and have open hearts to receive all that God has given you in Christ Jesus.

Love and blessings,

Cecil + qua

Testimony: Letter from a Partner

I just wanted to write to you all and tell you how much I love you! I do not know what it is, but there is something special about your newsletters. I'm so eager to open them when I receive them because they always minister right to my heart and on time with what God is speaking to me.

I'm so grateful! Thank you for showing me in the August newsletter where my giving goes. It blesses me to hear about the different Bible colleges and ministries involving children. I am beginning Bible college this fall and am also a child of God, so I feel strongly about giving back to these areas.

Anyway, you are a blessing, and my heart was so touched, I had to let you know.

May God continue to prosper you personally and your ministry even as your soul prospers.

Grace, peace, and strength to you in Christ.



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