**R788\_Rumination for March 8, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **GRACE in Ephesians** berita-bethel-ung.com

The **T**ext: *For the* ***grace*** *of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men* Tit. 2:11

The **T**hots:

Intro.: **P**aul was in **P**rison. From there he **P**enned an **E**pistle to the **E**phesian Christians **E**xpounding on the **Grace of** God that God had **P**romised him earlier when he **P**leaded with God to remove *the thorn in his flesh*.

1. **The Strength that God’s Grace Gave to Paul to Sustain him. II Cor. 12:7-9**
2. When he was in **P**ain .and Satan was **P**ermitted to “buffet” him. 12:7

*Lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure*

1. He **P**leaded with God for its removal without success. 12:8

*For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

1. Instead, God **P**romised His **P**erfecting Grace that he might be able to bear it. 12:9a

*And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*

1. Thus, **P**aul bore the **P**ain to experience the **P**ower of Christ in him for **G**od’s **G**lory. 12:9b

*Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

1. In **P**rison now, he **P**enned his **E**pistle to the Christians in **E**phesus **E**mphasising the **Grace of God.**
2. **Paul Saluted them with the Grace of God. Eph. 1:2, 6**
3. **G**race be to them: 1:2

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

1. **G**lory be to **G**od:

*To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.* 1:6

* It was **G**race that had **G**athered him and them together to be in the one Body of Christ.
1. **They were Saved by Grace in Christ Jesus. Eph. 1:7**
2. By Grace, they **R**eceived **R**edemption and the Forgiveness of their sins.

*We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*

1. By Grace, they were **R**aised with the **R**esurrected Christ.

*Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* 2:5

1. Thus, *by grace are ye* ***S****aved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God*: 2:8
2. *That in the ages to come He might* ***S****hew the exceeding riches of His grace*

*in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.* 2:7

1. **Now as Saved believers in Christ we need to be Good Stewards of Grace. Eph. 3:2, ESV**
2. Because everyone has been **G**iven **G**race to Serve **G**od. 3:2

*Assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you,*

1. Paul himself was **G**ifted **G**race to be a **G**ood Steward to **G**od. 3:7

*Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me*

*by the effectual working of His power.*

1. And **G**od was **G**racious to call out **P**oor **P**aul to be a **P**reacher of the Riches His **G**race to the **G**entiles.

*Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given,*

*that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;* 3:8

1. Christ also **G**ives **G**race to all according to His will to minister unto Him., 4:7

*But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

1. **Finally Be Sincere, be Good and be Gracious to all. Eph. 4:29**
2. *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good*

*to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

1. *Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.* 6:24

**Con.**

* The **G**race of **G**od has sustained us day by day to this very day!
* Let us on this Lord’s Day remember not to forget His Gracious words – (**I Cor. 11:26, NKJV)**
*For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

*Oh, how great is Thy compassion, Faithful Father, God of grace,*

*That with all our fallen race And in our deep degradation*

*Thou wast merciful that we Might be saved eternally!*

*Thy great love for this hath striven That we may from sin be free*

*And forever live with Thee; Yea, Thy Son Himself hath given*

 ***` In His grace an earnest call To His Supper unto all.*** J. G. Olearius

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK. R. 788**

1. On the basis that we are saved by Grace and not of works (Eph. 2:9), some opined that this Sin-Forgiving Grace avails once and for all, for all time so that at any time in the future when one sins that sin is covered by that grace and there is no need to confess or repent from any committed sin any more. Grace covers all sin for all time!

Thus:

Psa. 103:12 *- As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.*

Heb. 8:12; 10:17 - *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

There is also another thought that whenever one sins, God extends grace to the sinner so that he is forgiven. On that count, comes this perversion of God’s grace. Therefore, to experience more grace, one sins the more!!

Paul encountered that argument in his time and he asked the proponents of such perverted teaching this pertinent question in Romans 6:1-2 **–**

*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

***God forbid****. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

Salvation by grace is indeed no excuse or encouragement for someone saved by grace to continue in sin or to think the more he sins, the more Gracious God will be!

In short, this thought says, a person just cannot sin any more after he has been forgiven by God’s grace, and even if he sins, the matter is taken care of by God’s Grace! Is this right? **REFLECT**

1. Now consider John’s turn to counter such related arguments. He says in I Jn. 1:8, 9 –
*If we say that we have no* ***sin****, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

Then he proffers (when we do sin) …

*If we confess our* ***sins****, He is faithful and just to forgive us our* ***sins****,*

*and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Every one has **sin** referring to one’s sinful condition that every one is born in -

*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.* (Psa. 51:5)

This sin was first committed by Adam and passed down to all men, as…

*As by one man* ***sin*** *entered into the world, and death by sin;* (Rom. 5:12a)

But every one in life also commits sin on his own, thus

*and so death passed upon all men, for that all have* ***sinned****:* (Rom. 5:12b) –

*You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.* (Eph. 2:1, 2)

The sin that we were born in, Christ bore it in His own body on the cross (I Pet. 2:24a)

and it has been forgiven and removed as far as the east is from the west.

However, in our Christian walk we still sin from day to day. It is these sins that we need to confess. When we do so, the Lord is faithful and righteous to forgive all our sins.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,*

*and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* I Jn. 1:9

Thus, while our Inherent Sin has been forgiven, our day-to-day sins need to be confessed and cleansed that we may live righteous lives. **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *Our Inherent Sin has been Forgiven by Grace.*

*Our Prevalent Sins need to be* ***C****onfessed when* ***C****ommitted.*