

How God's Grace Shapes Our Lives

Attributes of God #8 Noah Largent 4/8/18

ATTRIBUTES

*A series exploring the attributes of God and
discovering what they tell us about knowing Him*

Ephesians 1:1-10 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

We refer to a ballet dancer as having *grace*. We say *grace* at meals. We talk about the queen of England bringing *grace* to events she attends. Grace can mean coordination or movement, it can mean prayer, it can refer to dignity and elegance. Most importantly, ***grace can mean unmerited favor*** - *extending special favor to someone who doesn't deserve it, who hasn't earned it, and can never repay it.* -"David" - Charles Swindoll. pg. 277

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Ephesians 1:1 "To God's holy people"

The word "Holy" refers to something that is set apart. Paul reminds us that it was God's work alone to set us apart and it was his pleasure to do it! God has adopted us into his family and that means that He has set us apart to enjoy Him both now and for eternity!

Ephesians 1:1 "the faithful in Christ Jesus"

Faithfulness is never a means to earn salvation. Faithfulness naturally flows from an understanding of how absolutely necessary God's grace is and the infinite cost of it. Faithfulness is also the natural reaction to realigning our lives under God's rightful rule in our life.

Take some time, as you ponder Paul's letter, to reflect on the what it meant for him, in prison, to write in praise of the God who has set us free. -N.T. Wright *"The Prison Letters"* page 10

Notes:
