

## GOD'S GRACE

## PRECEPT

## EPHESIANS 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

<sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

(Read the rest of verses 8-10)

## PROMISE

Grace is the constant theme of the Bible. From the Old Testament to New Testament, it's all about the favour of God. Understanding this truth will change the way we live our lives; God's grace impact our lives and changes the way we live. The word grace is used and defined within scripture 155 times; 25 in the Old Testament and 130 times in the New Testament. The apostle Paul uses the word grace more than 90 times. Grace is defined as favour, blessing, or kindness. We all have sinned, and the payment of sin is death (Romans 6:23). But God chose to bless us rather than curse us as our sin deserves. Mercy withholds a punishment we deserve; and grace gives a blessing we don't deserve. In mercy, God chose to cancel our sin and debt by sacrificing His perfect Son in our place. *"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."* Titus 3:5. *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* 2 Corinthians 5:21. God goes further than His mercy, He extends grace (Romans 5:10). He offers us forgiveness (Hebrews 8:12; Ephesians 1:7), reconciliation (Colossians 1:19-20), abundant life (John 10:10), eternal treasure (Luke 12:33), the His Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13), and a place in heaven with Him someday (John 3:16-18).

Grace is God giving the greatest treasure to the least deserving person, and that's you and me. His grace is the reason that changes the course of our journey in life. His grace in Christ Jesus is the invitation for our salvation and the inspiration to persevere and continue in life. Before God grace, we were spiritually dead (verse 1), has a wordly lifestyle (verse 2), obeys the devil (verse 2), follows the flesh (verse 3), and are subject to God's anger (verse 3). *But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.* (verses 4-5). He doesn't want us to continue living a life of emptiness and misery. He loves us and has made possible for us to have reconciliation to God Himself. Mercy is the overflow of God's love—His compassion for the helpless. Because of His grace, we are made alive with Christ (verse 5), raised up with Christ (verse 6), and seated with Christ (verse 6). Colossians 3:1-4 says, *"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honour at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory."* This must be our mindset and perspective in life. Because of God's grace, we can focus our eyes on the things above for we are no longer residents of this world but of Heaven.

## PRACTICE

**1. Grace.** Take a moment and consider all the ways you've heard the word grace used. How many point back to the work of salvation offered by Jesus Christ? Why do you think we have a hard time understanding grace as the gift of God and not as payment for our work?

**2. Understanding Grace.** How does understanding God's grace make us work hard to obey Him?

## PRAYER

## I. Worship Services

- Praise God for our new comers! May we be able to help them deepen their relationship with Christ more.

## II. Church

- Pray for God's love to always grow in us by the knowledge of Him, resulting in righteousness in our lives.

## III. Families

- Pray that God would bless all families with good health. May Christ be the centre of our families.

## IV. Discipleship

- Pray for a heart of compassion and grace to disciple others and teach them Christlikeness.

## V. Faith

- Pray that we will step out in faith and depend on Christ fully for all that He wants us to accomplish.

## VI. Relationships

- Pray that we will develop good and Christ-centred relationships to the people God sends us.

## VII. Giving

- Pray for a grateful, giving, and generous heart to be a blessing to others who are in need.