

# Outline of the Messages for the Thanksgiving Blending Conference

November 28—December 1, 2024

## GENERAL SUBJECT: LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE AND CHURCH LIFE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD FOR THE ECONOMY OF GOD

### Message Five Grace in Peter's Epistles

RA Hymns: 312, 497

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 1:2b, 10, 13; 2:19-20; 3:7; 4:10; 5:5, 10, 12;  
2 Pet. 1:2; 3:18

- 1 Pet 1:2b ... Grace to you and peace be multiplied.
- 1 Pet 1:10 Concerning this salvation the prophets, who prophesied concerning the grace that was to come unto you, sought and searched diligently,
- 1 Pet 1:13 Therefore girding up the loins of your mind and being sober, set your hope perfectly on the grace being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:19 For this is grace, if anyone, because of a consciousness of God, bears sorrows by suffering unjustly.
- 1 Pet 2:20 For what glory is it if, while sinning and being buffeted, you endure? But if, while doing good and suffering, you endure, this is grace with God.
- 1 Pet 3:7 Husbands, in like manner dwell together with them according to knowledge, as with the weaker, female vessel, assigning honor to them as also to fellow heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.
- 1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.
- 1 Pet 5:5 In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- 1 Pet 5:10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.
- 1 Pet 5:12 Through Silvanus, the faithful brother, as I account him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying fully that this is the true grace of God; enter into this grace and stand in it.
- 2 Pet 1:2 Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;
- 2 Pet 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and unto the day of eternity. Amen.

### **I. Grace is Christ Himself as our enjoyment—grace is the resurrected Christ as the life-giving Spirit giving Himself freely to us, being everything to us, and doing everything in us, through us, and for us—John 1:14, 16-17; Isa. 55:1; 2 Cor. 1:8-9, 12; Gal. 2:20; cf. 1 Cor. 15:10.**

- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.
- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.
- Isa 55:1 Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, / And you who have no money; / Come, buy and eat; / Yes, come, buy wine and milk / Without money and without price.
- 2 Cor 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were excessively burdened, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of living.
- 2 Cor 1:9 Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead;
- 2 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of

God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

## **II. The multiplication of grace is the grace that multiplies in our daily life in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; the grace of God in His economy is rich, multiplying, and abounding—1 Pet. 1:2b; 2 Pet. 1:2; John 1:16; Eph. 1:6-8; 2:7; Rom. 5:17, 21; 1 Tim. 1:14; Rev. 22:21:**

1 Pet 1:2b ... Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

2 Pet 1:2 Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,

Eph 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,

Eph 2:7 That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Tim 1:14 And the grace of our Lord superabounded with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

A. Grace is multiplied to us through our sufferings, limitations, and weaknesses; grace is Christ as our burden bearer; the more burdens we have, the more opportunities we have to experience Christ as grace—2 Cor. 12:7-9; cf. 1:12, 15.

2 Cor 12:7 And because of the transcendence of the revelations, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, that he might buffet me, in order that I might not be exceedingly lifted up.

2 Cor 12:8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

2 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.

2 Cor 1:15 And in this confidence I intended to come to you previously that you might have double grace,

B. The enjoyment of the Lord as grace is with those who love Him—Eph. 6:24; John 21:15-17; 1 Pet. 1:8.

Eph 6:24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in incorruptibility.

John 21:15 Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.

John 21:16 He said to him again a second time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Shepherd My sheep.

John 21:17 He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

1 Pet 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,

- C. The enjoyment of the Lord as grace with His divine nature is by our receiving and abiding in the word of His grace, which includes all His precious and exceedingly great promises—Acts 20:32; 2 Pet. 1:4; Eph. 6:17-18.

Acts 20:32 And now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who have been sanctified.

2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

### III. The prophets in the Old Testament prophesied concerning the grace that was to come unto us—1 Pet. 1:10:

1 Pet 1:10 Concerning this salvation the prophets, who prophesied concerning the grace that was to come unto you, sought and searched diligently,

- A. The Spirit of Christ in the Old Testament prophets made them clear concerning Christ coming as grace to us through His incarnation, His sufferings in His human living and crucifixion, and His glories in His resurrection, ascension, second coming, and reigning for the application of God's full salvation to us—vv. 5, 9-10; cf. Psa. 22; Isa. 53; Dan. 9:26.

1 Pet 1:5 Who are being guarded by the power of God through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed at the last time;

1 Pet 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Pet 1:10 Concerning this salvation the prophets, who prophesied concerning the grace that was to come unto you, sought and searched diligently,

Psa 22:1 My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? / Why are You so far from saving me, / From the words of my groaning?

Psa 22:2 O my God, I call out in the day, but You do not answer; / And in the night, but there is no rest for me.

Psa 22:3 But You are holy, You who sit enthroned / Upon the praises of Israel.

Psa 22:4 In You our fathers trusted; / They trusted and You rescued them.

Psa 22:5 To You they cried out and were delivered; / In You they trusted and were not put to shame.

Psa 22:6 But I am a worm and not a man, / A reproach of men and one despised by the people.

Psa 22:7 All who see me deride me; / They sneer at me; they shake their heads, saying,

Psa 22:8 He committed himself to Jehovah; let Him rescue him; / Let Him deliver him since He takes pleasure in him.

Psa 22:9 But You are the One who drew me forth from the womb, / Who made me trust while at my mother's breasts.

Psa 22:10 I was cast upon You from birth; / From my mother's womb You have been my God.

Psa 22:11 Do not be far from me, / For trouble is near, / For there is none to help me.

Psa 22:12 Many bulls surround me; / The mighty bulls of Bashan encompass me.

Psa 22:13 They open their mouth at me, / Like a ravening and roaring lion.

Psa 22:14 I am poured out like water, / And all my bones are out of joint. / My heart is like wax; / It is melted within me.

Psa 22:15 My strength is dried up like a shard, / And my tongue is stuck to my jaws; / You have put me in the dust of death.

Psa 22:16 For dogs surround me; / A company of evildoers encloses me; / They pierce my hands and feet.

Psa 22:17 I count all my bones; / They look, they stare at me.

Psa 22:18 They divide my garments to themselves, / And for my clothing they cast lots.

Psa 22:19 But You, O Jehovah, be not far off; / O my help, hasten to aid me.

Psa 22:20 Deliver my soul from the sword, / My precious life from the power of the dog;

Psa 22:21 Save me from the mouth of the lion; / Indeed while I am in the horns of wild oxen, answer me.

Psa 22:22 I will declare Your name to my brothers; / In the midst of the assembly I will praise

You.

Psa 22:23 You who fear Jehovah, praise Him! / All you seed of Jacob, glorify Him! / And stand in awe of Him, all you seed of Israel!

Psa 22:24 For He has not despised nor detested / The affliction of him who is afflicted; / And He has not hidden His face from him; / But when he cried out to Him, He heard.

Psa 22:25 From You comes my praise in the great assembly; / My vows will I pay before those who fear Him.

Psa 22:26 The lowly will eat and be satisfied; / Those who seek after Jehovah will praise Him

Psa 22:27 All the ends of the earth / Will remember and return to Jehovah, / And all families of the nations / Will worship before You;

Psa 22:28 For the kingdom is Jehovah's, / And He rules among the nations.

Psa 22:29 All the flourishing of the earth / Will eat and worship. / All who go down into the dust will bow down before Him, / Even he who does not keep his soul alive.

Psa 22:30 A seed will serve Him; / That which concerns the Lord will be told to a coming generation.

Psa 22:31 They will come and declare His righteousness / To a people yet to be born, that He has done this.

Isa 53:1 Who has believed our report? / And to whom has the arm of Jehovah been revealed?

Isa 53:2 For He grew up like a tender plant before Him, / And like a root out of dry ground. / He has no attracting form nor majesty that we should look upon Him, / Nor beautiful appearance that we should desire Him.

Isa 53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men, / A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; / And like one from whom men hide their faces, / He was despised; and we did not esteem Him.

Isa 53:4 Surely He has borne our sicknesses, / And carried our sorrows; / Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, / Smitten of God and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 But He was wounded because of our transgressions; / He was crushed because of our iniquities; / The chastening for our peace was upon Him, / And by His stripes we have been healed.

Isa 53:6 We all like sheep have gone astray; / Each of us has turned to his own way, / And Jehovah has caused the iniquity of us all / To fall on Him.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed, and it was He who was afflicted, / Yet He did not open His mouth; / Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter / And like a sheep that is dumb before its shearers, / So He did not open His mouth.

Isa 53:8 By oppression and by judgment He was taken away; / And as for His generation, who among them had the thought / That He was cut off out of the land of the living / For the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due?

Isa 53:9 And they assigned His grave with the wicked, / But with a rich man in His death, / Although He had done no violence, / Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

Isa 53:10 But Jehovah was pleased to crush Him, to afflict Him with grief. / When He makes Himself an offering for sin, / He will see a seed, He will extend His days, / And the pleasure of Jehovah will prosper in His hand.

Isa 53:11 He will see the fruit of the travail of His soul, / And He will be satisfied; / By the knowledge of Him, the righteous One, My Servant, will make the / many righteous, / And He will bear their iniquities.

Isa 53:12 Therefore I will divide to Him a portion with the Great, / And He will divide the spoil with the Strong; / Because He poured out His life unto death / And was numbered with the transgressors, / Yet He alone bore the sin of many / And interceded for the transgressors.

Dan 9:26 And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing; and the people of the prince who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end of it will be with a flood, and even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

B. Although the Spirit of Christ was constituted dispensationally through and with Christ's death and resurrection in the New Testament time (John 7:39; Rom. 8:9-11), the function of the Spirit is eternal, because He is the eternal Spirit (Heb. 9:14).

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

- Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Heb 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- C. The Spirit of Christ, in His eternal function, was in the Old Testament prophets, making them clear concerning Christ coming to the New Testament believers to be the all-sufficient and unlimited grace of God's full salvation to them for their entry into the joy of the Lord in the kingdom age, which is the salvation of their souls—John 1:17; Heb. 10:29b; 1 Pet. 1:9; Matt. 25:21, 23.

- John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.
- Heb 10:29b ... who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and has considered the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and has insulted the Spirit of grace?
- 1 Pet 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- Matt 25:21 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.
- Matt 25:23 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

- D. The Spirit of Christ applies God's full salvation as grace to us by two instrumentalities: the prophesying of the Old Testament prophets and the preaching of the New Testament apostles—1 Pet. 1:10-12; cf. Rev. 2:7a.

- 1 Pet 1:10 Concerning this salvation the prophets, who prophesied concerning the grace that was to come unto you, sought and searched diligently,
- 1 Pet 1:11 Searching into what time or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ in them was making clear, testifying beforehand of the sufferings of Christ and the glories after these.
- 1 Pet 1:12 To them it was revealed that not to themselves but to you they ministered these things, which have now been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, which things angels long to look into.
- Rev 2:7a He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. ...

#### **IV. The grace on which the believers set their hope perfectly will be brought to the believers at the revelation of Jesus Christ—1 Pet. 1:13:**

- 1 Pet 1:13 Therefore girding up the loins of your mind and being sober, set your hope perfectly on the grace being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- A. The grace being brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ refers to the salvation of the soul as the consummation of God's full salvation—vv. 5, 9-10:
- 1 Pet 1:5 Who are being guarded by the power of God through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed at the last time;
- 1 Pet 1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- 1 Pet 1:10 Concerning this salvation the prophets, who prophesied concerning the grace that was to come unto you, sought and searched diligently,
1. The grace given to us in Christ was bestowed on us before the world began—2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 2:11.
 

2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God, bringing salvation to all men, has appeared,
  2. God, who was in the beginning, became flesh in time as grace for man to receive,

possess, and enjoy—John 1:1, 14, 16-17.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.

3. The processed Triune God, who has been consummated as the all-inclusive, life-giving, and indwelling Spirit, has become the Spirit of grace with our spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17; Heb. 10:29; Gal. 6:18; Phil. 4:23.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Heb 10:29 By how much do you think he will be thought worthy of worse punishment who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and has considered the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Gal 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

Phil 4:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

- B. Day by day we should be open vessels to be continual receivers of grace and set our hope wholly and perfectly on this grace—Rom. 5:17; 1 Pet. 1:13.

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 1:13 Therefore girding up the loins of your mind and being sober, set your hope perfectly on the grace being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

## V. *Grace with God* in 1 Peter 2:19-20 refers to the motivation of the divine life within us and its expression in our living, which becomes in our behavior gracious and acceptable in the eyes of both man and God:

1 Pet 2:19 For this is grace, if anyone, because of a consciousness of God, bears sorrows by suffering unjustly.

1 Pet 2:20 For what glory is it if, while sinning and being buffeted, you endure? But if, while doing good and suffering, you endure, this is grace with God.

- A. Grace as the processed Triune God for our enjoyment becomes our inward motivation and outward expression in our intimate fellowship with God and our consciousness of God; we all have to learn how to have grace, which is to take grace, possess grace, use grace, and apply grace—Heb. 12:28.

Heb 12:28 Therefore receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us have grace, through which we may serve God well-pleasingly with piety and fear;

- B. The processed Triune God as grace received and enjoyed by us becomes visibly expressed for others to see in our holy living and church meetings—Acts 11:23.

Acts 11:23 Who, when he arrived and saw the grace of God, rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain with the Lord with purpose of heart;

- C. We have been called to enjoy and express Christ as grace in the midst of sufferings so that we may become a reproduction, a xerox copy, of Christ as our model, according to His God-man living—1 Pet. 2:20-21.

1 Pet 2:20 For what glory is it if, while sinning and being buffeted, you endure? But if, while doing good and suffering, you endure, this is grace with God.

1 Pet 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you a model so that you may follow in His steps;

## VI. The grace of life is the inheritance of all the believers, whether strong or weak—3:7:

1 Pet 3:7 Husbands, in like manner dwell together with them according to knowledge, as with the weaker, female vessel, assigning honor to them as also to fellow heirs of the grace of life,

that your prayers may not be hindered.

- A. The grace of life is God as life and life supply to us in His Divine Trinity—the Father as the source of life, the Son as the course of life, and the Spirit as the flow of life, who flows within us, with the Son and the Father, as grace to us—John 7:38-39; Rev. 22:1.
- John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.
- John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- B. We are heirs to inherit the grace of life and vessels to contain the grace of life—1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 1:14; 2 Cor. 4:7.
- 1 Pet 3:7 Husbands, in like manner dwell together with them according to knowledge, as with the weaker, female vessel, assigning honor to them as also to fellow heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.
- Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.
- 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

## **VII. The varied grace of God indicates the riches of the grace of God in its varieties ministered by the saints one to another—1 Pet. 4:10:**

- 1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.
- A. The varied grace of God is the rich supply of life, which is the Triune God ministered into us in many aspects—2 Cor. 13:14; 12:9.
- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- 2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
- B. We need to be good stewards of the varied grace of God, speaking the words of grace as the oracles of God and ministering out of the strength and power of grace, which God supplies—1 Pet. 4:10-11; Luke 4:22; Eph. 3:2; 4:29.
- 1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.
- 1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, as speaking oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as ministering out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
- Luke 4:22 And all bore witness to Him and marveled at the words of grace proceeding out of His mouth, and they said, Is not this Joseph's son?
- Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,
- Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.

## **VIII. God gives grace to the humble while He resists the proud—1 Pet. 5:5:**

- 1 Pet 5:5 In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- A. In the church life, all of us need to gird ourselves with humility toward one another so that we may enjoy God as the Grace-giver—cf. John 13:3-5.
- John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all into His hands and that He had come forth from God and was going to God,
- John 13:4 Rose from supper and laid aside His outer garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself;
- John 13:5 Then He poured water into the basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to

wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

- B. Humility saves us from all kinds of destruction and invites God's grace, whereas pride makes us a top fool—James 4:6; Psa. 138:6; Prov. 29:23.

James 4:6 But He gives greater grace; therefore it says, "God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Psa 138:6 For though Jehovah is high, He regards the lowly; / And the haughty He knows from afar.

Prov 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, / But he who is of a lowly spirit will obtain honor.

- C. We must be willing to be made humble, lowly, under the mighty hand of God in His discipline and to throw our life with its care upon God, because He cares for us lovingly and faithfully—1 Pet. 5:5-7; cf. Psa. 55:22.

1 Pet 5:5 In like manner, younger men, be subject to elders; and all of you gird yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

1 Pet 5:6 Therefore be humbled under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time,

1 Pet 5:7 Casting all your anxiety on Him because it matters to Him concerning you.

Psa 55:22 Cast your burden upon Jehovah, / And He will sustain you; / He will never allow the righteous to be moved.

**IX. "The God of all grace"—who has called the believers into His eternal glory—perfects, establishes, strengthens, and grounds them through their sufferings; this "all grace" is the "true grace of God," into which the believers should enter and in which they stand—1 Pet. 5:10, 12.**

1 Pet 5:10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you.

1 Pet 5:12 Through Silvanus, the faithful brother, as I account him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying fully that this is the true grace of God; enter into this grace and stand in it.

**X. The true grace of God is the grace in which, together with the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the believers should grow unto His glory both now and unto the day of eternity—2 Pet. 3:18:**

2 Pet 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and unto the day of eternity. Amen.

- A. This is the concluding word of the apostle Peter's writings, indicating that whatever he has written is of, in, by, and through the grace of God.

- B. The product of the grace in God's economy is the Body of Christ as God's poem to be the New Jerusalem as the consummation of God's righteousness in the new heavens and new earth—Eph. 2:7-10; 2 Pet. 3:13.

Eph 2:7 That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 Not of works that no one should boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand in order that we would walk in them.

2 Pet 3:13 But according to His promise we are expecting new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

- C. The riches of God's grace, the riches of God Himself for our enjoyment, surpass every limit and will be publicly displayed for eternity—Eph. 2:7.

Eph 2:7 That He might display in the ages to come the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.