

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF CHRISTIANITY IS GRACE

(Paihia Family Church – 21/5/00 – EKB)

Scriptures: *Jn 1:14, Rom 5:17, 2Cor 9:8, 2Cor 12:9, Eph 2:8,9, Heb 4:16.*

1. **“Grace” means the unmerited favour of God** from which flows God’s mercy, forgiveness, acceptance and blessing to all who believe in Jesus Christ. **This grace is given freely** without the necessity of earning or meriting God’s favour, *Eph 2:8,9, Tit 3:5,6,7*
2. **We “believe”:** Jesus died for our sins, *1Cor 15:3, 1Pet 2:24*, and was raised from the dead three days later as Lord of all, *1Cor 15:4, Heb 1:3*.
3. **In dying for our sins**, he became our **Saviour**, *Tit 2:13,14*, and in **rising from the dead** to God’s Throne, He is **our Lord**, *Heb 1:3, Phil 2:9-11*. When we believe in Jesus Christ we are receiving Him as Saviour from our sins and as the Lord whom we obey.
4. **No person can earn** or merit God’s grace, which is His **mercy, acceptance and blessing**. When we believe in Jesus, God **forgives** us, **accepts** us, and **blesses** us with every blessing of heaven, *Eph 1:3*.
5. **All religions of the world except one** believe that God forgives, accepts and blesses us because we do good works, e.g. Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism etc. **Biblical Christianity is the only exception** and believes that God **forgives, accepts and blesses** us as we put our faith and trust in Christ, *Tit 3:5,6*.
6. **“Grace”** is God giving us what we do not deserve, as we believe in Jesus. **“Mercy”** is God not giving us what we do deserve.
7. **God’s grace: forgives us** *1Jn 1:9* as we believe,
saves us *Eph 2:8* as we believe,
heals us *Mat 8:3* as we believe,
changes us *Lk 19:8* as we believe,
takes us back *Lk 15:20* as we believe,
baptises us with His Spirit *Ac 2:1-4* as we believe,
sets us free from sin *Rom 6:14* as we believe,
gives us strength *2Cor 12:9* as we believe,
and much more.

God’s grace is always sufficient for us to meet every need as we believe the promises of His Word, 2Cor 12:9, 2Pet 1:3,4.

8. As God has extended abundant grace to us **He requires us to extend abundant grace** to those around us.

God says, **“Be kind** one to another, **tender-hearted forgiving** one another, as God, for Christ’s sake has forgiven you,” *Eph 4:32, Mk 11:25,26, Mat 18:32-35.*

Jesus said, **“Do not judge**, (pass sentence and condemn), another person, for with the same judgment you have judged another, you will be judged.” *Mat 7:1,2, Rom 14:4, Jam 4:11,12, Jn 8:11.*

Jesus said that **when an offence occurs** between you and another believer, **go to them in humility, honesty and openness and seek to come to a place of agreement and peace**, between the two of you, *Mat 18:15, Mat 5:23,24*.

The Bible says that we are to **accept one another** in the same way that Christ has accepted us to the glory of God, *Rom 15:7, Eph 1:6(KJV)*.

Jesus said that we are to **treat others in the same way, as we want them to treat us**. He said this includes our enemies, those who speak strongly against us, or strike us, *Lk 6:27-38, Lev 19:18, Mat 7:12*.

We are here to be a channel of blessing to others right through from our friends to our enemies, *Mat 10:8*.

We are to bless, help, support and encourage. In Jesus' teaching He described "the Good Samaritan" who cared for the Jewish man left lying half-dead and naked by robbers on the Jericho road.

The Samaritan: [who was despised and avoided by Jews]

saw him,
had compassion on him,
went to him,
bandaged up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine,
set him on his donkey,
brought him to an inn,
took care of him,
left money with the innkeeper to pay for all expenses until the Jewish man was well again, *Lk 10:30-37*.

Jesus says to all of us, **"Go and do likewise,"** *Lk 10:37*.

9. **You don't receive God's grace before you need it.** When a need arises cry out to God in faith, by His promises, and you will receive His grace, *Heb 13:5,6, Josh 1:9*.
10. **The cry needs to be desperate.** Really mean it, *Lk 18:39, Ps 34:4,6*.
11. **Do not cry out in fear but in faith,** *Is 43:1-3, Rom 10:13, Ps 50:15*.
12. **Never give up!** God is faithful but for some reason it may take time, *Heb 6:12, 10:36*.
13. **Return all praise and thanks to God** for the grace He gives, *Lk 17:15,18, Lk 18:43*.