

**“What’s so Amazing about Grace?”****1. Intro:**

1.1. During the *Spanish-American War*, **Clara Barton** was overseeing the work of the **Red Cross** in **Cuba**. One day **Colonel Theodore Roosevelt** came to her, wanted to **buy** food for his sick and wounded **Rough Riders**. **But she refused to sell him any**. Roosevelt was perplexed. His men needed the help and he was prepared to pay out of his own funds. When he asked someone why he could not buy the supplies, he was told, **“Colonel, just ask for it!”** A smile broke over Roosevelt’s face. Now he understood—**the provisions were not for sale**. All he had to do was **simply ask** and they would be **given freely**.

1.2. Here comes another long sentence by Paul (vs.1-10).

**2. WHAT WE WERE! (1-3)** [Without Life; Without Freedom; Without Hope]

2.1. A look at our former life shows we didn’t have **“life”** at all!

2.1.1. Our past life is summed in one word...**“dead”!**

2.1.2. **Illustration:** The smell of death! (rat in attic)

2.2. **WITHOUT LIFE!** (1)

2.3. **Dead** – Lost sinners are not simply **sick people** needing **help**; they are **dead people** needing **life**.

2.4. **Dead in trespasses & sin** – Lost

2.4.1. **Trespasses** – wrong steps taken, deliberate breaking of the law.

2.4.2. **Sin** – to miss the mark.

2.4.2.1. These both **aren’t isolated acts**; they speak of **“a way of life”** or **“a pattern of conduct”**.

2.5. **WITHOUT FREEDOM!** (2)

2.6. **Walked** – Our **personal** walk. Our individual life.

2.6.1. **Life** is a walk, an **active process** that moves along step by step.

2.7. **When you followed the ways of this world** – the pressures of **society & culture** led them *away from* God.

2.8. **The prince of the power of the air** –

2.8.1. There is a superhuman, spiritual power of evil(Satan) that generates a **spirit of disobedience** in people.<sup>1</sup>

2.8.2. **Air** = spiritual realm.

2.9. **Sons of disobedience** – a Hebraic expression indicating their chief characteristic is that of “disobedience”. (LKGNT)

2.9.1. **And this disobedience** is a matter of choice.

<sup>1</sup> Shepherd’s Notes; pg.27

- 2.10. **WITHOUT HOPE!** (3)
- 2.11. **Conduct ourselves** - Our **public** walk. (diff from vs.2)
- 2.12. They gratified(fulfilling) the desires of their sinful nature.  
 2.12.1. **And this involves both the body(flesh) & mind.**  
 2.12.1.1. Or, our “*desires & thoughts*”.
- 2.13. What a **description** of the human condition! - What an **indictment** against us!  
 2.13.1. Dead in sin; influenced by Satan; controlled by lust; & under God’s wrath. ☹️
- 2.14. **Note:** World(2a); Devil(2b); & Flesh(3).

### 3. **WHAT WE ARE! (4-6)** [He Loved Us; He Liberated Us; He Lifted Us]

- 3.1. Now we get to look at the **polar opposite!**  
 3.1.1. Rom.5:20b,21 “**where sin abounded, grace abounded much more**”.
- 3.2. And Paul starts this contrast with “**but God!**”!  
 3.2.1. These words signal **God’s intervention** into our hopeless, sinful condition.  
 3.2.2. He is not a God of **wrath** only; he is also a God of **Mercy!**
- 3.3. **HE LOVED US!** (4)
- 3.4. **Mercy** – (LKGNT) The word indicates the **emotion aroused** by someone in need & **the attempt to relieve** the person & **remove** his trouble.  
 3.4.1. God’s emotions were aroused by seeing **your need**. And desires to relieve & remove **your trouble!**
- 3.5. He is “**rich in mercy**” & His mercy is rooted in His “**great Love**” for us!  
 3.5.1. That was shown in what He has **done in Christ**.
- 3.6. **HE LIBERATED US!** (5)
- 3.7. **Made us alive** – Can also mean “*raised, to keep alive, to preserve life, quickened, granted a new spiritual life*”.
- 3.8. **Saved** – The **perf. tense** points to the “**completed action w/a continuing result**”, thus emphasizing the continual state or condition.  
 3.8.1. “By grace you **are converted**; are **being kept**, & by grace **will go** home to be w/the Lord.” (Justin Alfred)
- 3.9. **HE LIFTED US!** (6)
- 3.10. **Raised us up together** – believers not only **receive life**, but they **experience a resurrection**.  
 3.10.1. This **being raised** is **with Christ** – we have been **united** with Him in **His resurrected life**.

- 3.11. “Made us *alive*”, “raised us”, “seated us” – means that, *get this*, what happened to **Christ WILL** happen to us! 😊
- 3.11.1. The believer’s **resurrection, ascension, & enthronement** must await complete fulfillment; **but spiritually** this has **already happened!**
- 3.12. God did not **give you life & leave you** in the cemetery. He **lifted you up to sit on the throne with His victorious Son!** (www)
- 3.12.1. So, we are **brought back to life** from our spiritual death; then **raised** to the presence of God; then **seated** in heaven.

#### 4. **WHY HE DID IT! (7)**

- 4.1. He did it so that he might display us as **trophies** of his grace.
- 4.2. You have seen a **painter** with his **palette** on his finger, & he has **ugly little daubs of paint** on the palette. **What can he do with those spots?** Go in & see the picture. **What splendid painting!** - In an even wiser way does Jesus act toward us. He takes us, **poor smudges of paint**, & He makes the blessed pictures of His grace out of us. It is neither the **brush** nor the **paint** He uses, but it is **the skill of His own hand** which does it all. (Spurgeon)

#### 5. **HOW HE DID IT! (8-10)** [Through His Favor; Through Our Faith]

- 5.1. This is one of the best *summaries of the gospel* in the NT.
- 5.2. **Saved** – General term that includes (justification, reconciliation, adoption)
- 5.2.1. The tense is that which **has been accomplished** in the **past**, & **continues to have results** in the **present**.
- 5.3. **THROUGH HIS FAVOR!** (8a)
- 5.4. **Grace/favor** – (12 x’s in Eph) “pleasantness, favor, & gratitude.”
- 5.4.1. Early Christians brought more significance to this word by describing “the **utter generosity** that God gives to sinners...even though they **don’t deserve it.**”
- 5.4.2. **It isn’t only the forgiveness** of sin, but **includes** the gift of **God’s power** in our lives (which brings about a **new kind of life**).
- 5.4.3. Spurgeon, I could wish that every time the clock struck, it said, “**By Grace** are you saved.”
- 5.4.3.1. I defy my **free will** to *fling away* what it never brought to me. What God has given, **created, introduced, & established** in the heart, He will **maintain** there! (Spurgeon)
- 5.5. **THROUGH OUR FAITH!** (8b)
- 5.6. **Through faith/trusting** – this indicates **the channel** through which salvation comes.
- 5.6.1. It means more than simply **agreeing w/an idea**. It refers to a **total openness to letting God give the benefits** of salvation & to **obeying the will of God**.

- 5.6.2. Faith is **not** viewed as a **positive work** or **accomplishment** of the individual.
- 5.6.3. Included in this **grace** is the **gift** of having enough faith to believe the Good News of Jesus.
- 5.7. **It is the gift of God** – It’s a gift!
- 5.8. When a person works an 8-hour day and receives a fair day’s pay, that’s a **wage**. When a person competes with an opponent and receives a trophy for his performance, that’s a **prize**. When a person receives appropriate recognition for his long service or high achievements, that’s an **award**. **But when** a person is not capable of earning a **wage**, can win no **prize**, and deserves no **award** - yet receives such a gift anyway - that is a good picture of **God’s unmerited favor!**
- 5.9. (9) **Not of works/actions** –
- 5.10. I read about an **instant cake mix** that was a **big flop**. The instructions said all you had to do was **add water and bake**. The company couldn’t understand why it didn’t sell—until their research discovered that the buying public felt uneasy about a mix that **required only water**. Apparently people thought it was **too easy**. **So** the company altered the formula and changed the directions to call for **adding an egg** to the mix in addition to the water. The idea worked and sales jumped dramatically
- 5.10.1. Isn’t this how **some people react to the plan of salvation**? To them it sounds **too easy** and **simple** to be true. They **feel** that there is **something more they must do**, something they **must add** to God’s “recipe” for salvation.
- 5.10.2. **Unlike the cake-mix manufacturer, God has not changed His “formula” to make salvation more marketable.** The gospel we proclaim **must** be free of works, even though it may sound too easy.

## 6. **FOR WHAT PURPOSE? (10)**

- 6.1. **FOR GOOD WORKS!** (10)
- 6.2. **His workmanship** – We are a **work of art** God is in process of designing!
- 6.3. **Created** – The word points to God’s **new creation** in Christ.
- 6.3.1. Now God is working **in you & through you** to accomplish His great purposes. (www)
- 6.4. **In Christ** (35 x’s) we have been **redeemed, raised, reconciled, & recreated** for a new purpose: to be **the agency** through which God can show the “**exceeding riches of His Grace**” & **accomplish the work** He has predestined us to do for Him.
- 6.5. **For Good works** – We are **saved from** (negative) a lot that is negative & destructive; but we are being **saved to** (positive) good works!
- 6.5.1. **Illustration of wick & oil.** If the oil runs out, the wick burns out. As long as there is oil, the wick doesn’t burn. **Question: What’s burning?**
- 6.6. When we are **trusting**, God can mold us, so that we become **of God’s making**, able to carry out the **good actions** already prepared by God for us to do.

Message Bible - It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah. - Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.