

St. Matthew AME Church  
Orange, New Jersey  
Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor

Women's Bible Study  
February 14, 2026  
9 am -10 am

**Winter Series: "The Wonder of Amazing Grace"**

Series Scripture: "From the fullness of His grace, we have all received one blessing after another."

John 1:16 NLT

**Session II: "Look What Grace Does"**

*"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16*

**I. Review of Session I: Because of Jesus".**

"For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17

Grace isn't just a theological concept. It is the very heartbeat of how God relates to us. It is also the model for how we extend love to others.

Grace means giving a person something he/she doesn't deserve.

The power to live this Christian life is the grace of God. His inexhaustible supply of goodness by which He does for us what we could never do for ourselves.

Some of us live under the misconception that we have the power to pull off this Christian life. Living the Christian life in your own power nullifies the grace of God. If you try to pull yourself up spiritually by your own good works, by positive thinking, or by sheer determination, you cancel out God's grace.

God has supplied every true believer with a magnificent/amazing provision: grace. We can't earn it, but God has made it abundantly available. If it were not for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we would have been wiped out in judgment. But Christ's death on the cross freed God to shower us with His grace rather than pour out His holy and justly deserved wrath on us.

The reason we worship the Lord Jesus Christ is that, because of Him, God's grace was unleashed. We worship Christ because He dealt with the one thing that kept God from extending His grace to us: our sin.

God lavishes His forgiving love on us after we have thoroughly blown it.

We are never outside God's grace.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Ephesians 2:8-9 teaches that our salvation has nothing to do with our works. Salvation is a gift that we receive.

Grace starts and finishes with God. Grace is not something that we work up or even something we work on. We serve God because we love Him and because of a heart of gratitude.

” For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” John 1:17

Law and grace are both aspects of God's nature that He uses in dealing with us. Moses emphasized God's law and justice, while Jesus came to highlight God's mercy, love and forgiveness. Moses could only be the giver of the law, while Christ came to fulfill the law.

## II. **DON'T TAKE GRACE FOR GRANTED!**

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?” Romans 6:1, 2

Paul anticipates a misunderstanding. Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? People often make the mistake of seeing grace as license to do whatever they want. If more sin means more grace, why not just sin on purpose? Why not just live it up? This is why some people come to Communion on Sunday, hoping to get just enough of God to cover their debauchery (excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures, wild parties with heavy drinking, promiscuous sex, lavish spending and neglecting duties for instant gratification, often characterized by a lack of self-control) on Monday-Saturday.

But no judge shows mercy to a criminal so that he can go out and commit more crimes.

Paul had absolutely zero patience with this kind of nonsense. “Keep sinning because of grace?” ABSOLUTELY NOT! HOW CAN WE WHO DIED TO SIN STILL LIVE IN IT? The fundamental issue here is one of identity. Anyone who says that salvation makes him/her free to sin has totally misunderstood his new identity in Christ. When we battle sin, we usually try to do it in our own power, fighting the flesh with the flesh. But Paul knows that won't work. So instead of giving us principles for stomping on the flesh. Paul reminds us we are dead to what once controlled us.

### III. Session II: “Look What Grace Does”

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

#### 1. *Grace brought us to the Savior, often when we rejected God on many occasions.*

“I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.” I Timothy 1:12-14

Paul reflected on the grace of God in his own life. Even though Paul was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor of the church, and an arrogant man, he received mercy from Jesus. Not only did Christ extend mercy to Paul in his unbelief, but He went further than that, appointing him to the ministry.

Grace-God’s unmerited favor-was not merely sprinkled on Paul. It overflowed into his life (1:14). God’s grace is more than sufficient; it is greater than all your sin. And sufficient for all of life’s needs. (2 Cor. 9:8) If Saul, the persecutor, could become Paul, the evangelist, anyone else can be similarly transformed. Like Paul, you should never forget the love and grace shown to you. No matter where you came from or what you did, if you trust in Jesus as your substitutionary sacrifice, you have a testimony of grace to proclaim.

#### 2. *Grace brings us back to God when we fail.*

“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

II Chronicles 7:14

” But in your great mercy, you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.” Nehemiah 9:31

Israel was devastated by times of intense rebellion and sin. Yet when the people repented and returned to God, He delivered them. God puts no limit on the number of times we can come to Him to obtain mercy, but we must come to Him to obtain mercy, recognizing our need and asking for help. The miracle of grace should inspire us to say, “You are a gracious and merciful God! “If there is a recurring problem or difficulty in your life, continue to ask God for help, and be willing and ready to make changes in your attitude and behavior that will correct that situation.

3. *Grace lavishes us with all the things we need to live for Him.*

“Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.” II Peter 1:2-3

Many believers want an abundance of God’s grace and peace, but they are unwilling to put forth the effort to get to know Him better through Bible study and prayer. To enjoy the privileges God offers us freely, we have the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. Peter’s purpose in fostering spiritual growth and a greater experience with God in this life is underscored by his prayer that grace and peace would be multiplied to them through the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ. Spiritual growth can be a reality for every believer because God has already given us everything required for life and godliness. The spiritual blessings we need are already available to us.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realm with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3

Believers are present in two places at the same time: we’re physically located on earth but operate from heavenly places. God wants our position there to dictate our activity on earth. Only by operating from a spiritual perspective will we have access to God’s kingdom and provision to deal victoriously with life in the physical realm.

4. *Grace implores us to do good works out of sheer gratitude*

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:17

- Doing “all in the name of the Lord Jesus” means bringing honor to Christ in every aspect and activity of daily living. As a Christian, we represent Christ at all times-wherever you go and whatever we say. Doing something in the name of Jesus is like authorizing a contract with His signature. We are doing everything under the authority of Jesus, making sure He approves of your action. Jesus’s name signed at the bottom of your day, means His power is behind your life. We are to do all things with His reputation in mind.

“ For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast, For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:8-10

- We become Christians through God’s unmerited grace, not as a result of an effort, ability, intelligent choice, or an act of service on our part.
- However, out of gratitude for this free gift, we will seek to help and serve others with kindness, love, and gentleness, and not merely to please ourselves.
- Although we are not saved by good works, we are saved for good works.
- When it comes to your salvation, God is crafting your life into a piece of art. He is working on you and doing something with you.
- A good work is a divinely prescribed action that benefits others in such a way that God is glorified.
- God saved you for His purposes and pleasure. Many Christians are unfulfilled and miserable because they’ve never gotten around to the work God has for them.
- When you understand the grace with which God saved you, gratitude will drive your response to it.
- The purpose for your life has already been designed. You don’t have to come up with it. God prepared ahead of time for us to do good works. THE CANVAS DOES NOT DICTATE TO THE PAINTER; THE PAINTER DICTATES TO THE CANVAS.

5. *Grace provides a way out of temptation.*

“So, you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand under it.”

I Corinthians 10:12-13

- Paul didn’t want the Corinthians to fall like Israel had done in the past, so they needed to be careful (10:12) Temptations of sin and trials to develop us come to all Christians alike. No matter what temptation confronts you, know for certain that you are not alone. You have encountered except what is common to humanity(10:13)
- Wrong desires and temptations happen to everyone, so don’t feel you have been singled out.
- Others have resisted temptation, and so can you.
- Any temptation can be resisted because God will help you resist it. God helps you resist temptation by helping you: recognize those people and situations that give you trouble, run from anything you know is wrong, choose to do only what is right, pray for God’s help, and seek friends who love God and can offer help when you are tempted.
- No temptation or trial will prove overpowering because Christians are no longer slaves to sin; we have the freedom to choose what is good.
- God will provide a way out; He will grant you the strength so that you may say “no” to sinful temptation (10:13). Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have the ability to withstand the temptation and pass the test.

6. *Grace is more than what we need when we suffer.*

“Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness, “Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” II Corinthians 12:8-9

- God answered Paul’s prayer, but it wasn’t the response he was looking for: My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness. We see the example of Paul, that when you suffer, you should tell God what you want in prayer.
- Nevertheless, once you’ve said what you want to say to God, you have to be willing to listen to and accept God’s answer. The Lord had determined not to remove Paul’s thorn in the flesh. What he did do, however, was grant divine grace that was sufficient for Paul’s needs.
- God’s sufficient grace is the inexhaustible supply of goodness that we cannot earn and do not deserve, but that keeps on coming. No matter how bad Paul’s thorn got, God promised that His grace was more than enough because His “power is perfected in weakness.”
- If not for the weaknesses that God allows us to endure, we would lack opportunities to seek His sufficient grace and experience His perfect power.

7. *Grace superabounds when sin abounds.*

“The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.” Romans 5:20

Anyone who has a deep understanding of his/her own sin knows this from experiencing that the more we see our sin as a violation of God’s perfect law, the more we stand in awe of God’s grace toward us. God’s grace, Paul says, is stronger than our sin. Sin is simply not strong enough to overpower grace. Between sin and grace, in fact, grace wins every time. This is why it is essential for all believers to grow in their understanding and appreciation of the magnificent grace of God.

Grace doesn’t pick favorites.

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.”

Titus 2:11

8. *Grace invites us to a throne where we find One to help in times of need.*

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

Prayer is the divinely authorized method of accessing heavenly authority for intervention on earth.

Prayer is the believer's passport into the spiritual realm.

When you are tempted to give up, that temptation is actually an invitation to draw near to the King's throne so that we may receive mercy and find grace.

Prayer is our approach to God, and we are to come "with confidence."