

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

Women's Bible Study

March 14, 2026

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

Session III: "Can You Give Me A Little Bit Of Grace?"

"Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?"

Matthew 18:33

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

- 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.
- Before Christ came, people could only know God partially. God became visible and tangible in Christ.
- Jesus was God in the flesh. He became the perfect teacher, perfect example, and perfect sacrifice.
- The power to live this Christian life is the grace of God. God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
- Through Jesus, God has supplied every true believer with a magnificent/amazing provision. His inexhaustible supply of goodness called grace.

- Without God’s grace, no person can be saved.
- We can’t do anything to make God love us anymore, and we can’t do anything to make God love us any less.
- We are never outside God’s grace.
- God will provide believers with a never-ending supply of “grace upon grace.”

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

- People often make the mistake of seeing grace as license to do whatever they want.
- Paul anticipates a misunderstanding. Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply?
- If forgiveness is guaranteed, do we have the freedom to sin as much as we want?
- Paul’s forceful answer is: by no means! Such an attitude, deciding ahead of time to take advantage of God, shows that a person does not understand the seriousness of sin.
- God’s forgiveness does not make sin less serious; His Son’s death for sin shows us the dreadful seriousness of sin. Jesus paid with His life so we could be forgiven. The availability of God’s grace must not become an excuse for careless living and moral laziness. Paul had absolutely zero patience with this kind of nonsense.
- Paul reminds us we are dead to what controlled us.

III. Review of 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

- God’s grace was not merely sprinkled on Paul. It overflowed into his life.
- No matter where you came from or what you did, if you trust in Jesus Christ as your substitution sacrifice, you have a testimony of grace to proclaim.

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

“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

- 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.
- We must be willing and ready to make changes in our attitude and behavior that will correct that situation.

3. Grace lavishes us with all the things we need to live for God. “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

“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 are physically located on earth but operate from heavenly places.

4. Grace implores us to do good works out of sheer gratitude. “For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not for 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.” Ephesians 2:8-10

- Although we are not saved by good works, we are saved for good works.
- Out of gratitude for this free gift of grace, we will seek to help and serve others with kindness, love, and gentleness, and not merely to please ourselves.
- God saved you for His purposes and pleasure.

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

- Temptations of sin and trials to develop us come to all Christians. No matter what temptation confronts you, know for certain you are not alone.

- Any temptation can be resisted because God will help you resist it. God will grant you the strength so that you may say “no” to temptation. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have the ability to withstand temptation and pass the test.

6. Grace is more than 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’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 so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.” Romans 5:20

1. 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, grace 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.

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.

Session III:” Can You Give Me A Little Bit Of Grace”

“Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?” Matthew 18:33

- We don’t earn grace, and we don’t deserve grace; we simply receive it as God’s loving gift and then share it with others.

- Remember, grace means giving a person something he/she doesn't deserve.
- Grace can be defined as God's favor toward the unworthy.
- Grace can be defined as a gracious unmerited gift.

“Grace will follow us even when we are going the wrong way.” – Ricky Maye

A Story About Grace, Mercy, and Forgiveness

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.” Matthew 18:23-24

- After emphasizing that his followers must always be prepared to forgive, Jesus illustrates with a story. He compared the kingdom of heaven to a king settling accounts with his servants. One owed his master ten thousand talents. A talent was the largest unit of currency. Ten thousand talents would be equivalent to an incalculable (immeasurable) amount of money today. The point was that the servant owed a debt that was impossible to pay, just like the sin debt we owe to God.

“The servant fell on his knees before him. Be patient with me, he begged,” and I will pay back everything.” The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt, and let him go.” Matthew 18:26-27

- Since there was no chance the servant could ever repay the debt, the master commanded that he, his family, and his property be sold (18:25). So, the servant did the only thing he could do: he begged for mercy (18:26). As a result, his master had compassion (grace) and forgave him the debt. (18:27)

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. Pay back what you owe me.” Matthew 18:28

- Here's the twist in the story. That same servant went to one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and demanded that he pay back what was no small amount. However, the amount was child's play compared to what he owed the king.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, Be patient with me, and I will pay you back. But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.” Matthew 18:29-31

- The second servant begged for mercy, just as the first had done. But the lender was unwilling to show the same compassion he'd been granted. The king denounced him as a wicked servant and asked the obvious question:” Shouldn't you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?”

- When we don't show grace/mercy to others, we are setting ourselves outside and above Christ's law of love.
- Realizing how completely God has distributed grace to us should produce a free and generous attitude of grace and mercy toward others.
- We must recognize that the very thing(grace/mercy) we ask of God, and that we receive from God, that's the very thing that others desire from us.
- Our debt to God is infinitely greater than our brother's/sister's debt to us.