

# God's grace

Ephesians 2:8-10

# God is love

- His goodness and kindness shown to His creatures
- His love is unconditional and unchanging



# Jefferey Dahmer

- Serial killer of 17 young man, 1978 to 1991
- Milwaukee City in Wisconsin State, US
- Question: Should he be forgiven?



# What is Grace?

- *Charis* (Greek) .... spontaneous self-determined  
    kindness
- God's activity **operating in love towards people**

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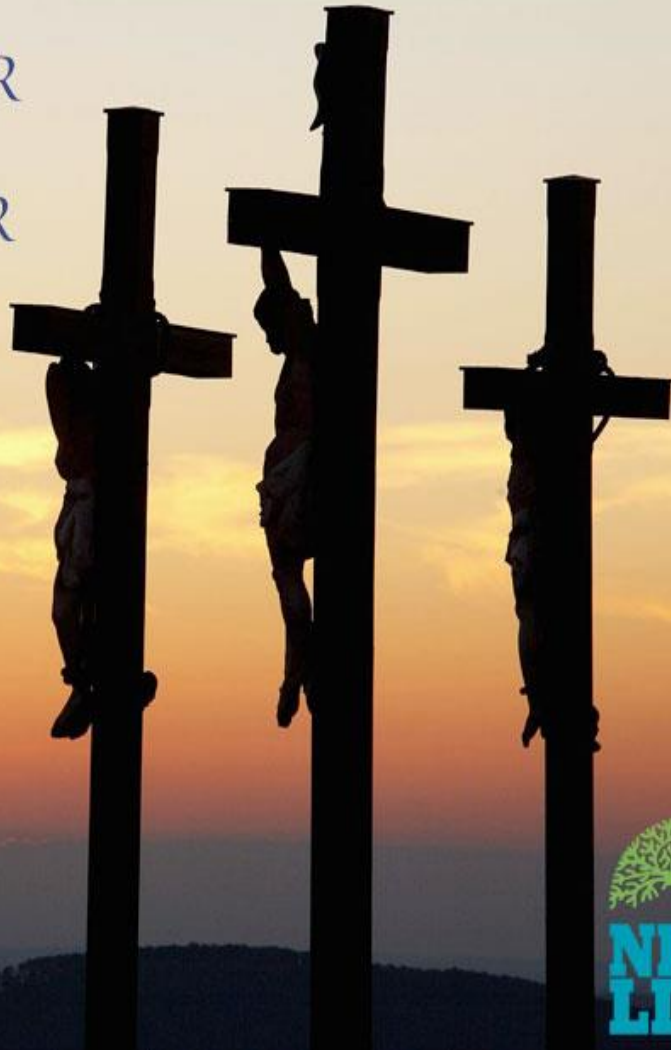
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**God's love  
for the undeserving**



# Luke 23:42-43

THEN HE SAID,  
"JESUS, REMEMBER  
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Grace shown:

- Repentant criminal given a place in paradise.
- No way he could deserve it.

- “For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by **the grace of God I am what I am**, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but **the grace of God that was with me**”

(1 Corinthians 15:9–10).

Paul acknowledged God’s grace:

- salvation
- Appointment and ministry



# Grace means

- There is nothing I can do to make God love me more.
  - There is nothing I can do to make God love me less
- 
- I am invited to take my place at the table of God's family not because I deserve it.

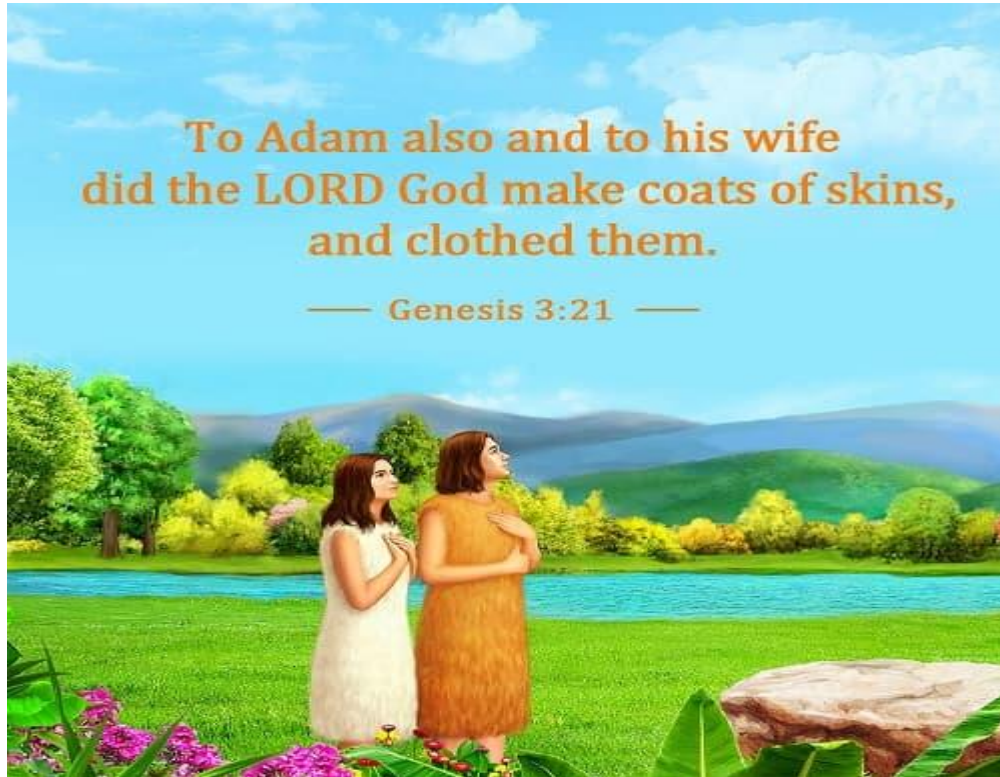
# God's grace

- Grace in the bible
- What is the problem?
- What should be the response ?

# Grace at work in Bible

- Before Christ
- In Christ
- After Christ

# Before Christ

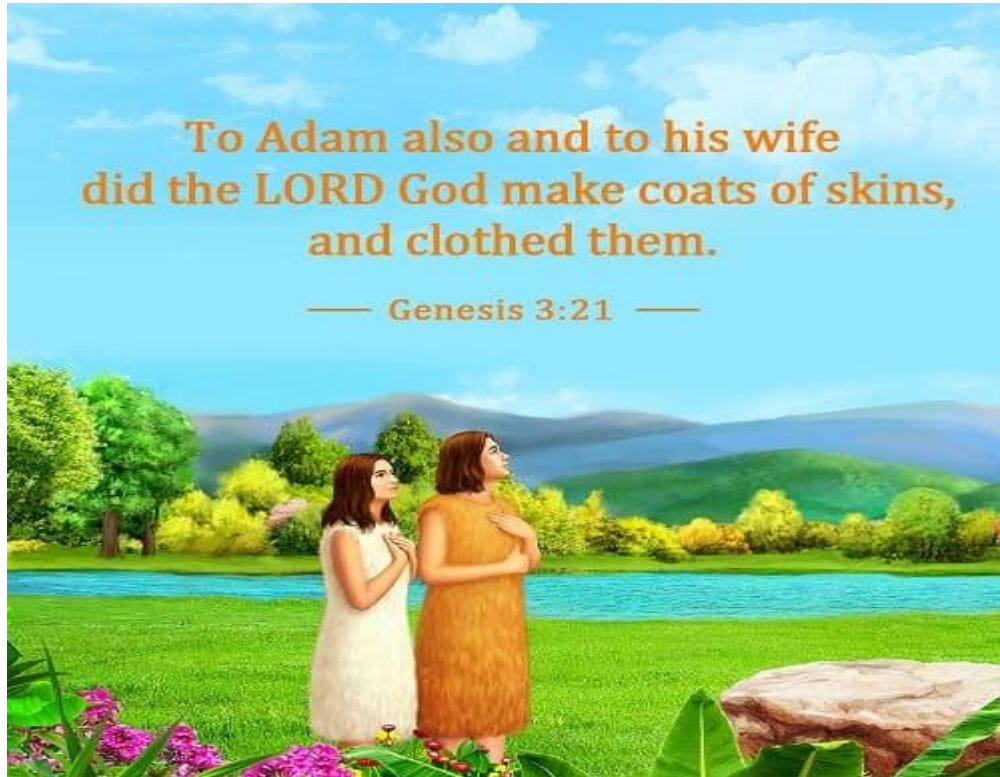


- First animal sacrifice

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

**Genesis 3:21**

# Before Christ



- First animal sacrifice
- Seed of salvation

*And **I** will put enmity  
Between you and **the woman**,  
And between your seed  
and **her Seed**;  
**He** shall bruise your head,  
And you shall bruise **His** heel.*

*Genesis 3:15*

*NKJV*

RevealedTruth.com

# The Flood (Genesis 6:9-9:29)



- Creation 2.0, a restart
- Chose Noah even though undeserving

# Abraham's call: underserving



heathen background  
(Acts 7:2-3)

.....Childless



Bible for Children  
presents

## JACOB THE DECEIVER



- Deceived Esau of birthright as firstborn and stole his father's blessing



Bible for Children  
presents

## JACOB THE DECEIVER



Grace to the deceiver:

- Encountered with God at Bethel
- ‘rehabilitated’ in Haran
- Name changed to Israel at Peniel

# Joseph the spoilt son



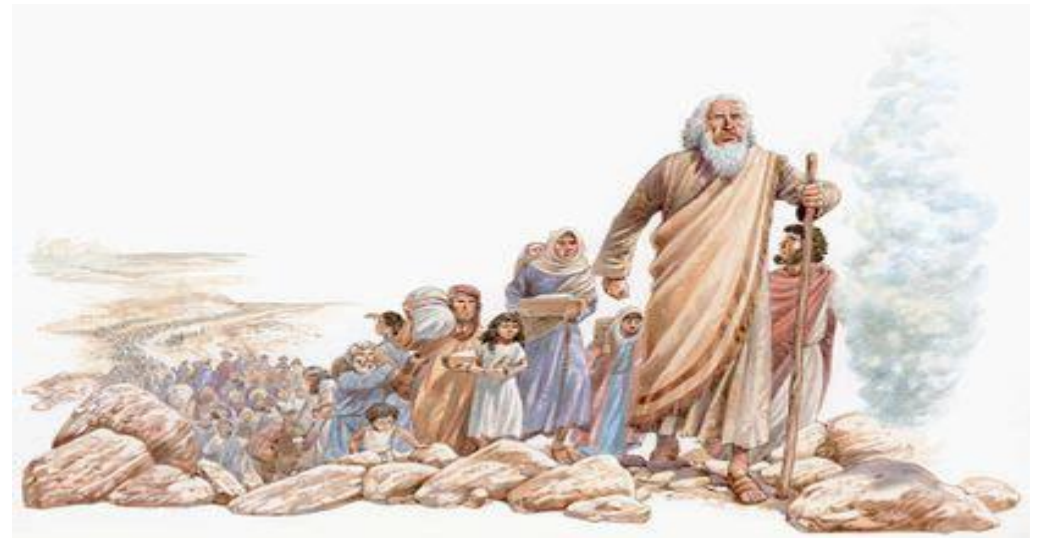
- God showed him kindness when imprisoned unjustly in Egypt
- Became PM in Egypt to save the family.
- God's plan, through slavery and imprisonment, to show kindness to Israel and family

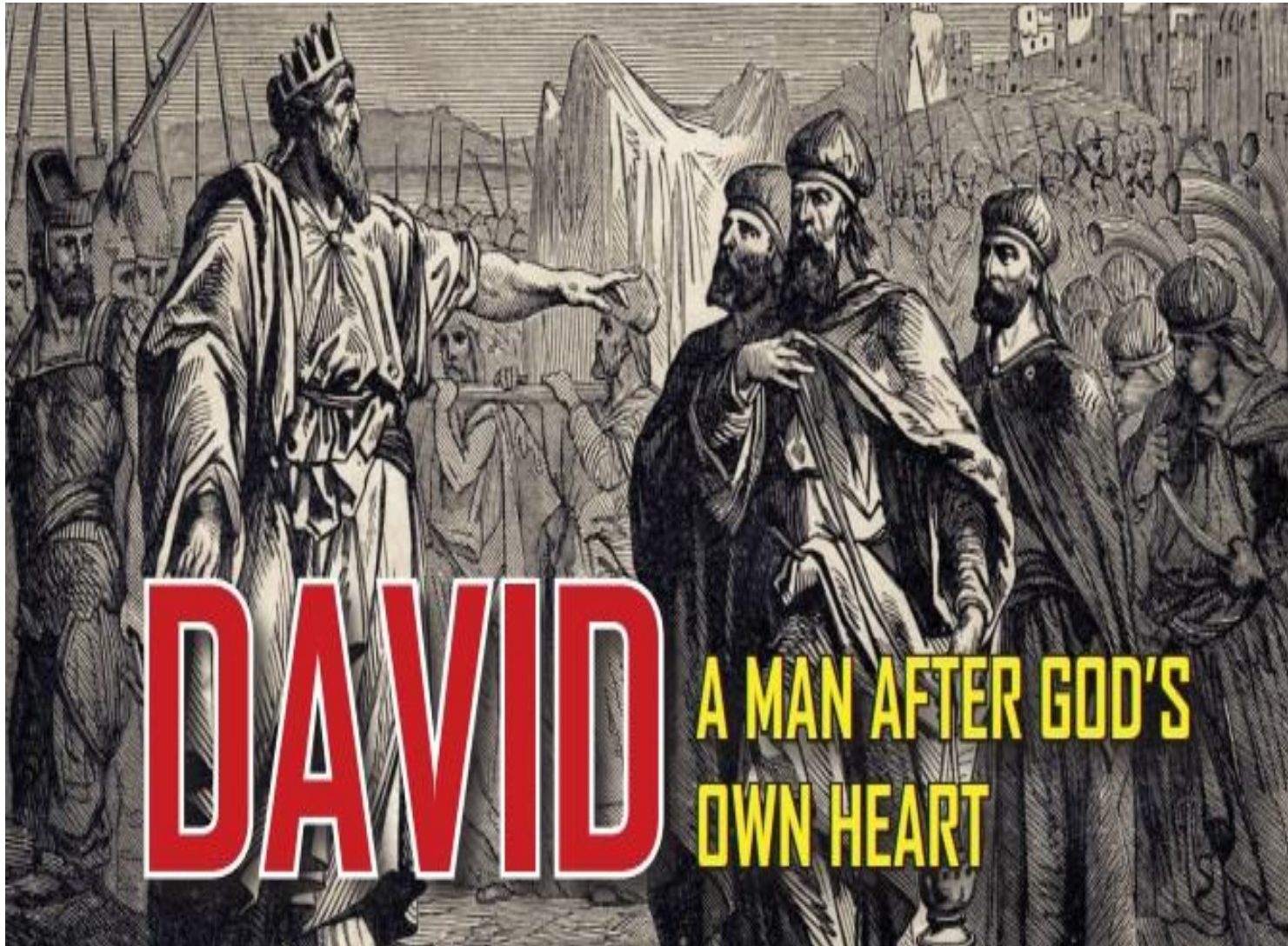


## Baby Moses

Bible story for kids

- Saved as baby .. infanticide.
- Period of retraining (shepherd)
- Exodus...deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt

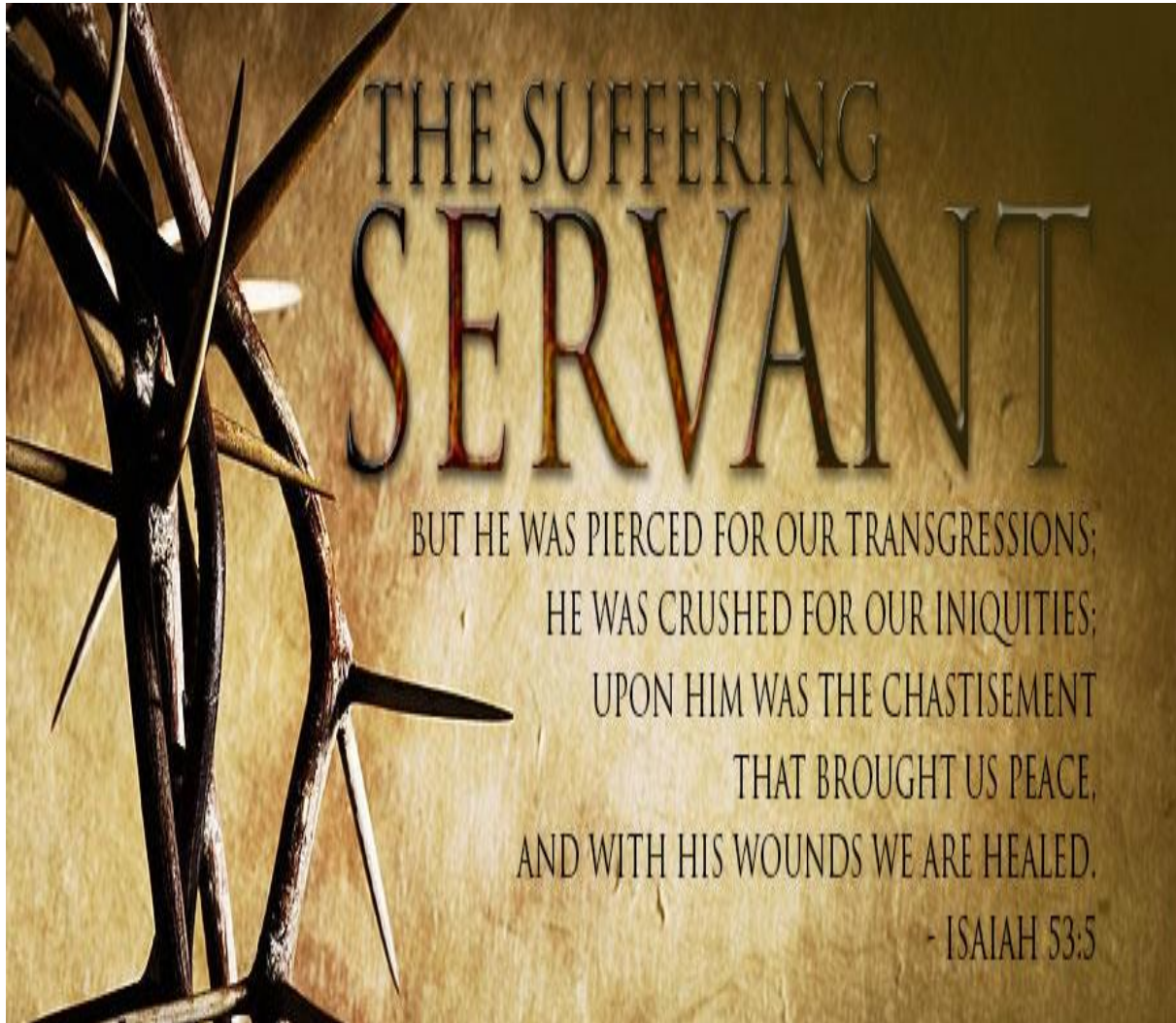




Undeserving:

- David was an adulterer and murderer
- Repentance.....  
....Psalms 51

# Prophets



## Prophecies:

- Declared God's judgement on the sins...led to exile
- Promise of restoration.
- God's plan to send a Messiah (Isaiah 53:5)

# Grace in Jesus Christ

for by **grace** you have been  
**saved** through **faith**.

and this is not by your own doing;  
it is **the gift of God**, not a result  
of works, so that no one may boast.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

# Salvation .... by grace

- by grace ....received by faith
- A gift, not by our works
- Undeserved ... no reason to boast in it

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Salvation is by grace only



# Ephesians 2

- As for you, you were **dead in your transgressions and sins**, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time..... Like the rest, we were **by nature deserving of wrath**.

**Dead in sin**

**Deserve His wrath**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

**Ephesians 2:4-5**

# God's handiwork...sanctification



# Beholding the Lord

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

– 2 Corinthians 3:18; NIV



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God's handiwork:

- Transforming work of the Spirit
- Transformed into Christlikeness

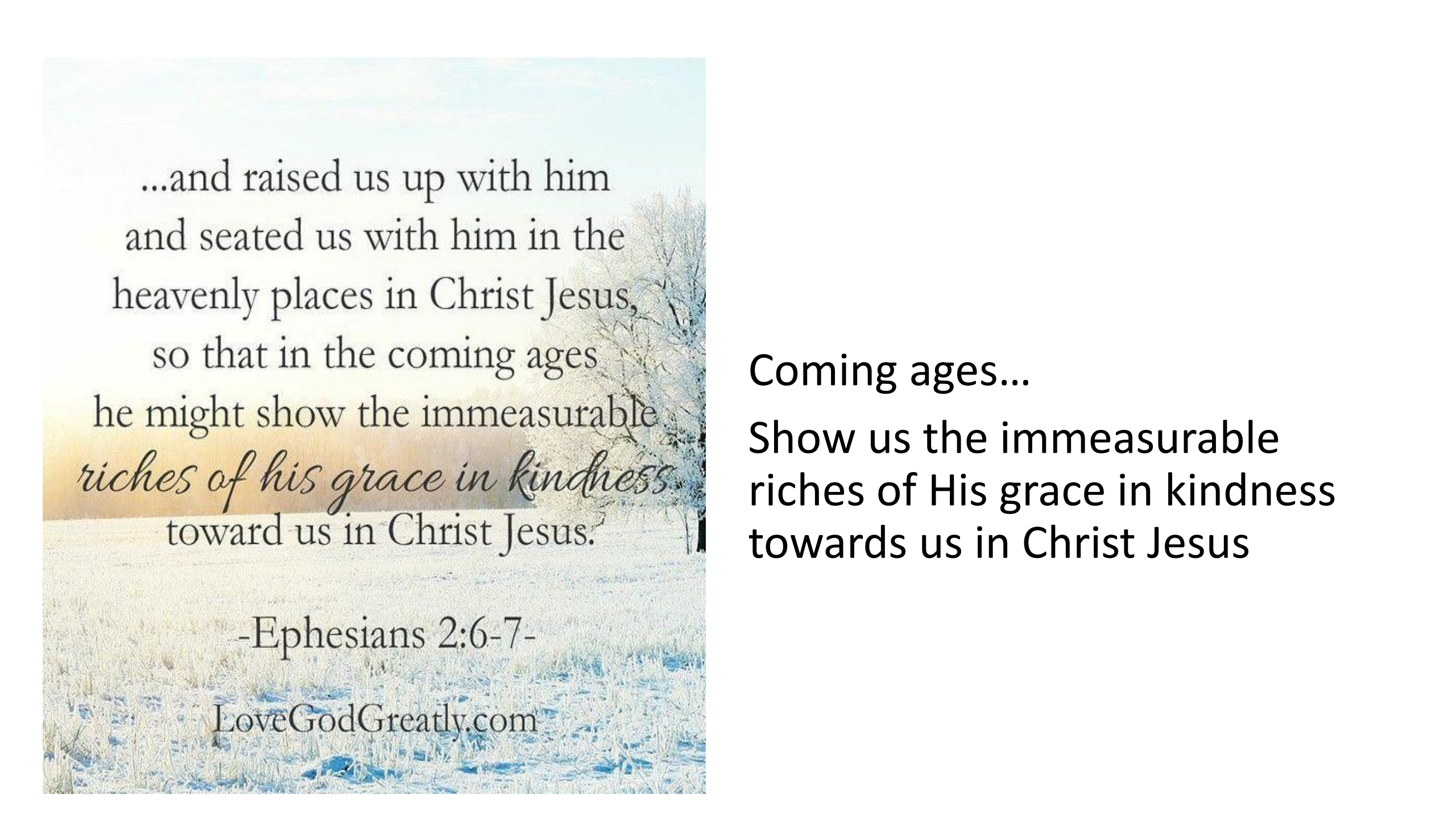
**Sanctification: work of grace by the Spirit**

# Grace at work after the cross



- Looking forward to His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.
- Heirs with Christ...glorified

**Glorified with Christ**



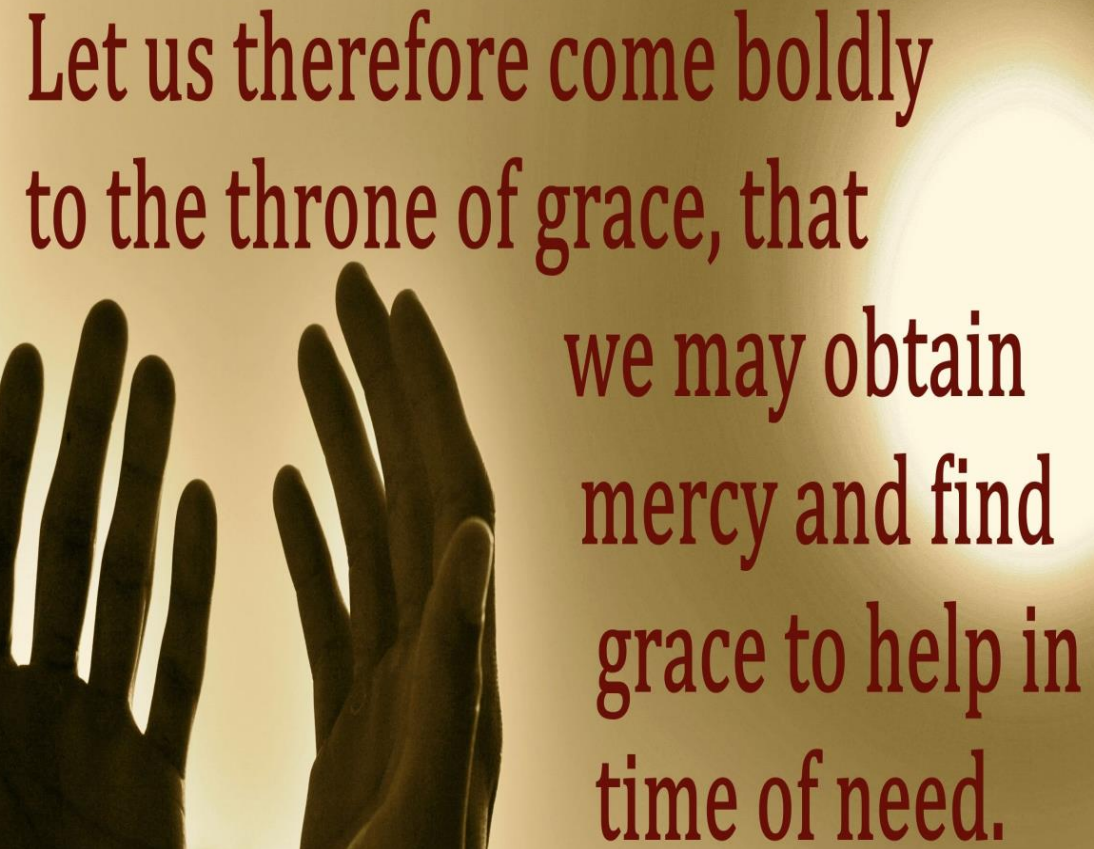
...and raised us up with him  
and seated us with him in the  
heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
so that in the coming ages  
he might show the immeasurable  
*riches of his grace in kindness*  
toward us in Christ Jesus.

-Ephesians 2:6-7-

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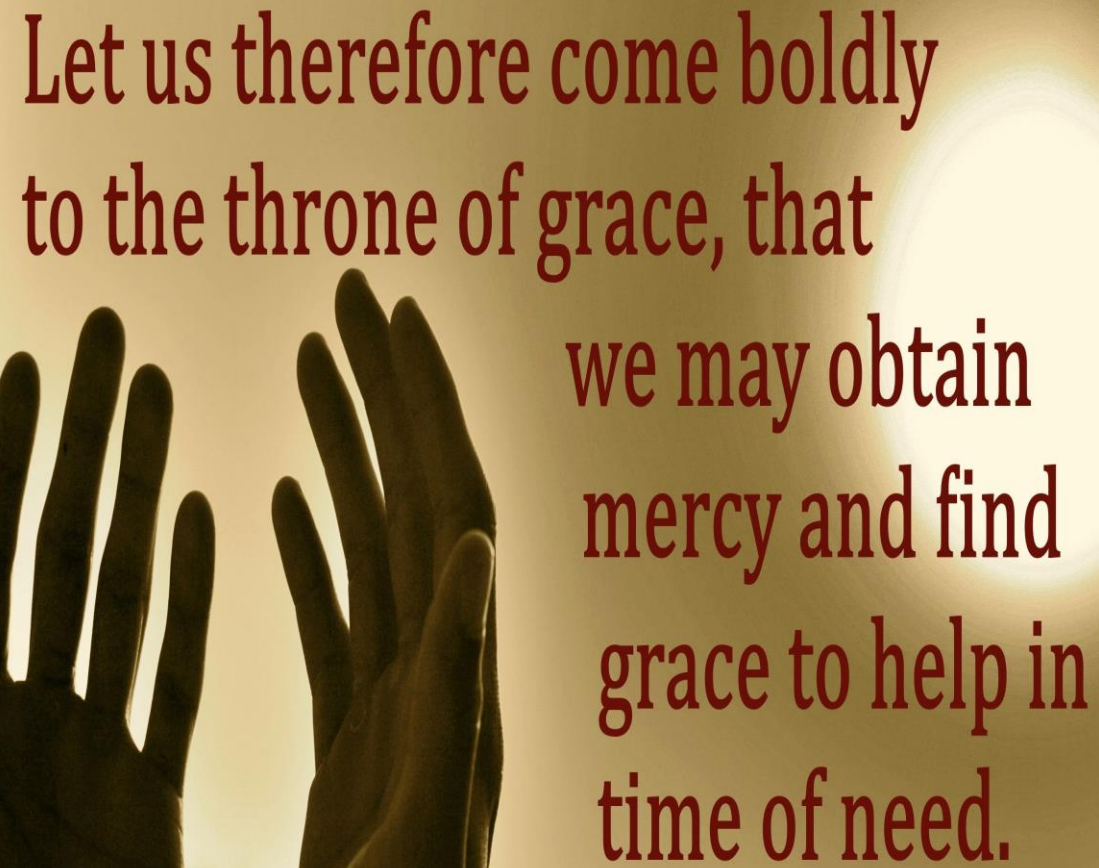
Coming ages...

Show us the immeasurable  
riches of His grace in kindness  
towards us in Christ Jesus

A photograph of a person's hands raised in prayer, set against a bright, glowing background. The hands are silhouetted against a warm, golden light that appears to be coming from a low sun or a bright light source, creating a halo effect. The person's face is partially visible on the left side of the frame, looking upwards. The overall mood is one of devotion and hope.

Let us therefore come boldly  
to the throne of grace, that  
we may obtain  
mercy and find  
grace to help in  
time of need.

Hebrews 4:16



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- Receive daily 'mercy and help in times of need'
- Hold firm to our faith .. times of trials

**Find grace to help**



# Grace ...what is the problem

- Why does Grace mean so little to many of us?

# Grace in salvation:

- Man is sinful and face God's judgement.
- Man cannot save himself.
- God's prerogative to show His kindness.

# Man is sinful

- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)
- If we claim to be without sin, We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ( 1 John 1:8)
- For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a)

But we

- believe that we are overall good despite some flaws.
- believe in a God of love but not a Judge.

# God will judge

- Say among the nations,  
“The LORD reigns.”  
.....he will judge the peoples  
with equity. ( Psalms 96:10)
- He will judge the world in  
righteousness  
and the peoples in his  
faithfulness. ( 96:13)

- Equity...always just
- Righteousness..... always right
- Faithfulness....with Mercy

**We all deserve  
judgement**

# Need salvation by grace

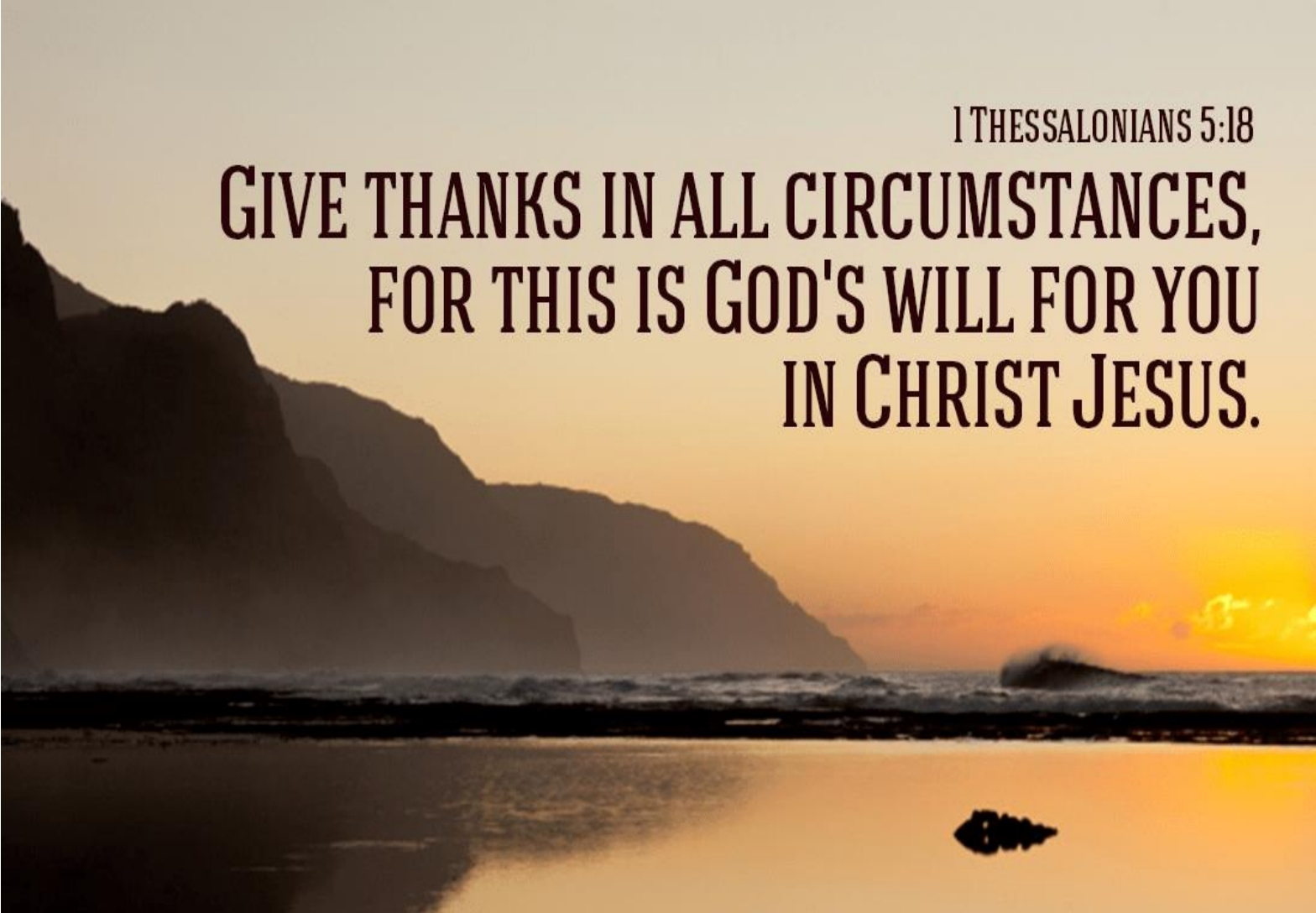
- Ephesian 2:8-9..cannot be saved by good works
- 'Playing church' to gain merit
- **Grace means we cannot save ourselves**

# Need salvation by grace

- Ephesian 2:8-9..cannot be saved by good works
- ‘Playing church’ to gain merit
- Grace means we cannot save ourselves

God's Sovereign choice to show grace in salvation

# Our response



1 THESSALONIANS 5:18  
GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES,  
FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU  
IN CHRIST JESUS.

**Gratitude because  
of grace**

# Forgiveness

- Grace lead to forgiveness
- If we have received His forgiveness because of His grace, we must forgive others.



# Story of forgiveness

- Rebecca, wife of well known Christian leader, whose husband cheated on her for Juliane.
- Chose to forgive and told her former husband (who remained unrepentant) ... found peace with God
- Later...able to counsel and pray with Juliane after she was cheated by the leader also. Juliane became a Christian after that.
- Forgiveness....allowed her lead Juliane to the Lord

# Why must forgive?

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.  
Matthew 6:14-15



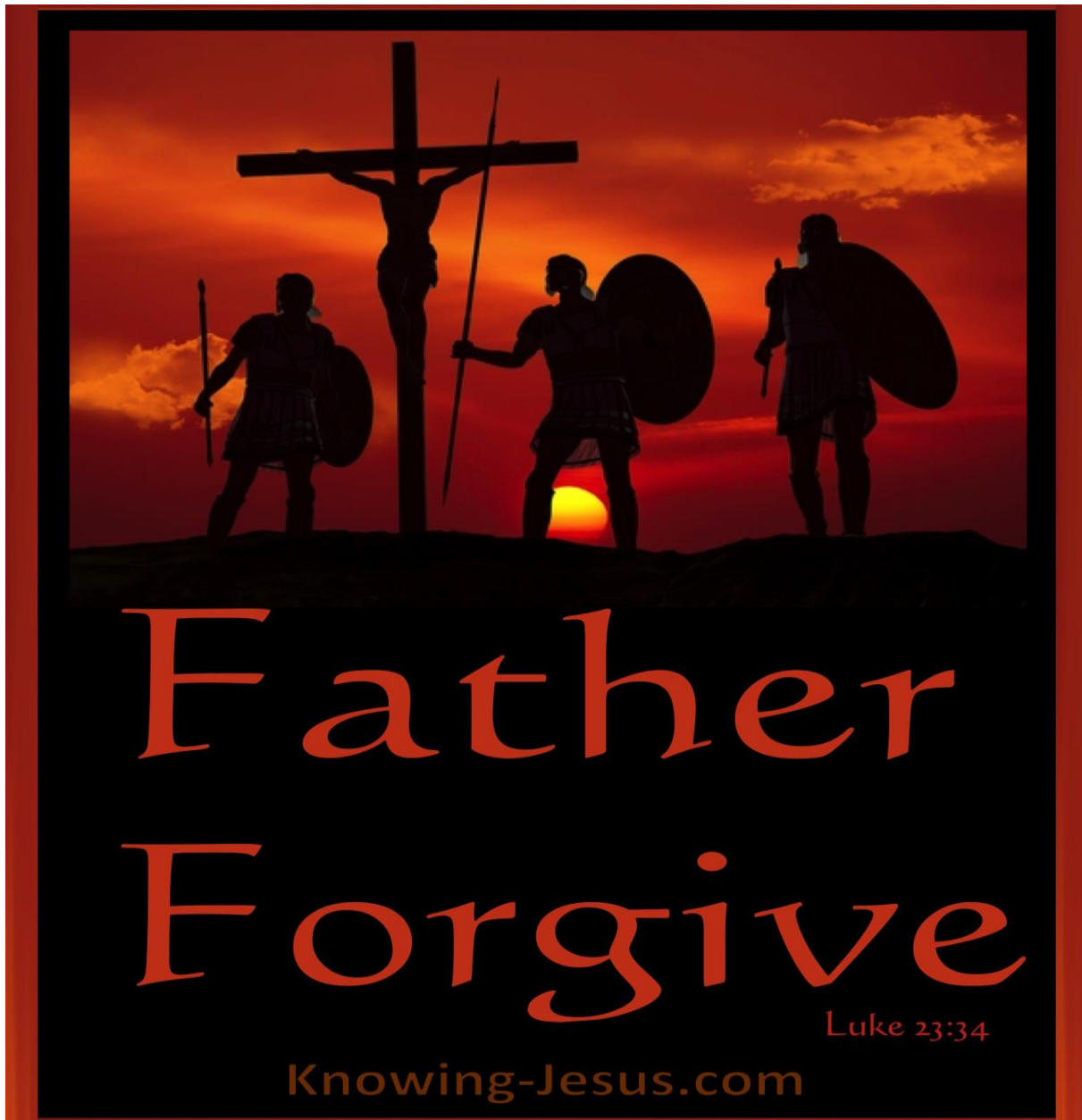
**FORGIVE OTHERS, NOT  
BECAUSE THEY DESERVE  
FORGIVENESS, BUT  
BECAUSE YOU DESERVE  
PEACE.**

- JONATHAN LOCKWOOD HUIE

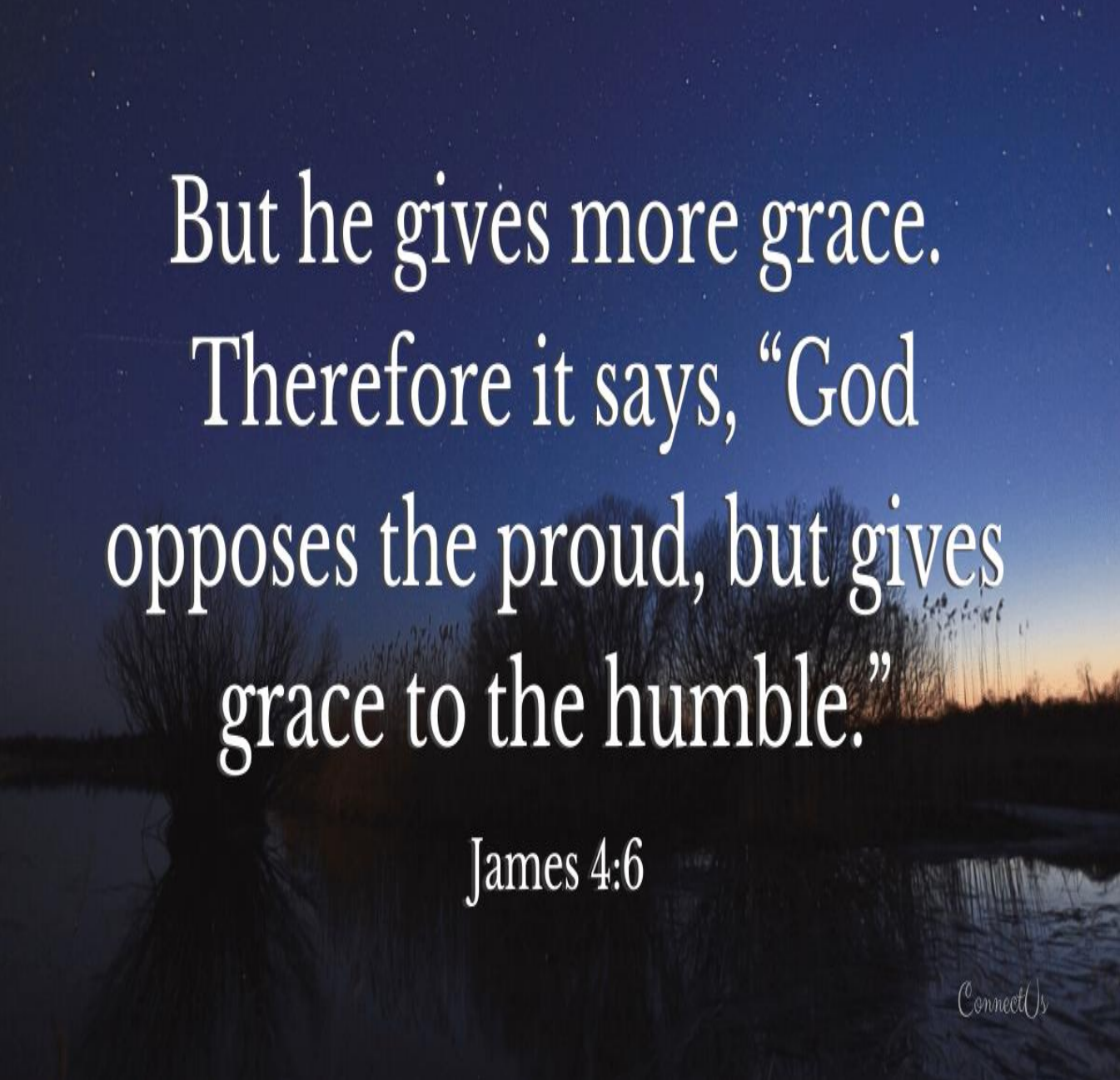
# Forgiveness on the cross



- Pharisees (and Pilate) ...
- Judas the traitor...
- Tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners...
- Disciples who denied and deserted Him...
- You and I... deserve the wrath of God



God forgave Jefferey



But he gives more grace.  
Therefore it says, “God  
opposes the proud, but gives  
grace to the humble.”

James 4:6

ConnectUs

- James 4:6
- the humble ‘receive’ more grace
- Enabled by grace.... say sorry to one another

# Grace is....

- God's story of love from Eden.
- Saving the human race through Noah
- Covenant with Abraham, Moses and David
- Prophets – judgement and restoration of wayward Israel
- **Our Lord Jesus Christ as Savior**
- Justification through the cross
- Sanctification through the Holy Spirit
- Glorification with Christ..... show us immeasurable grace

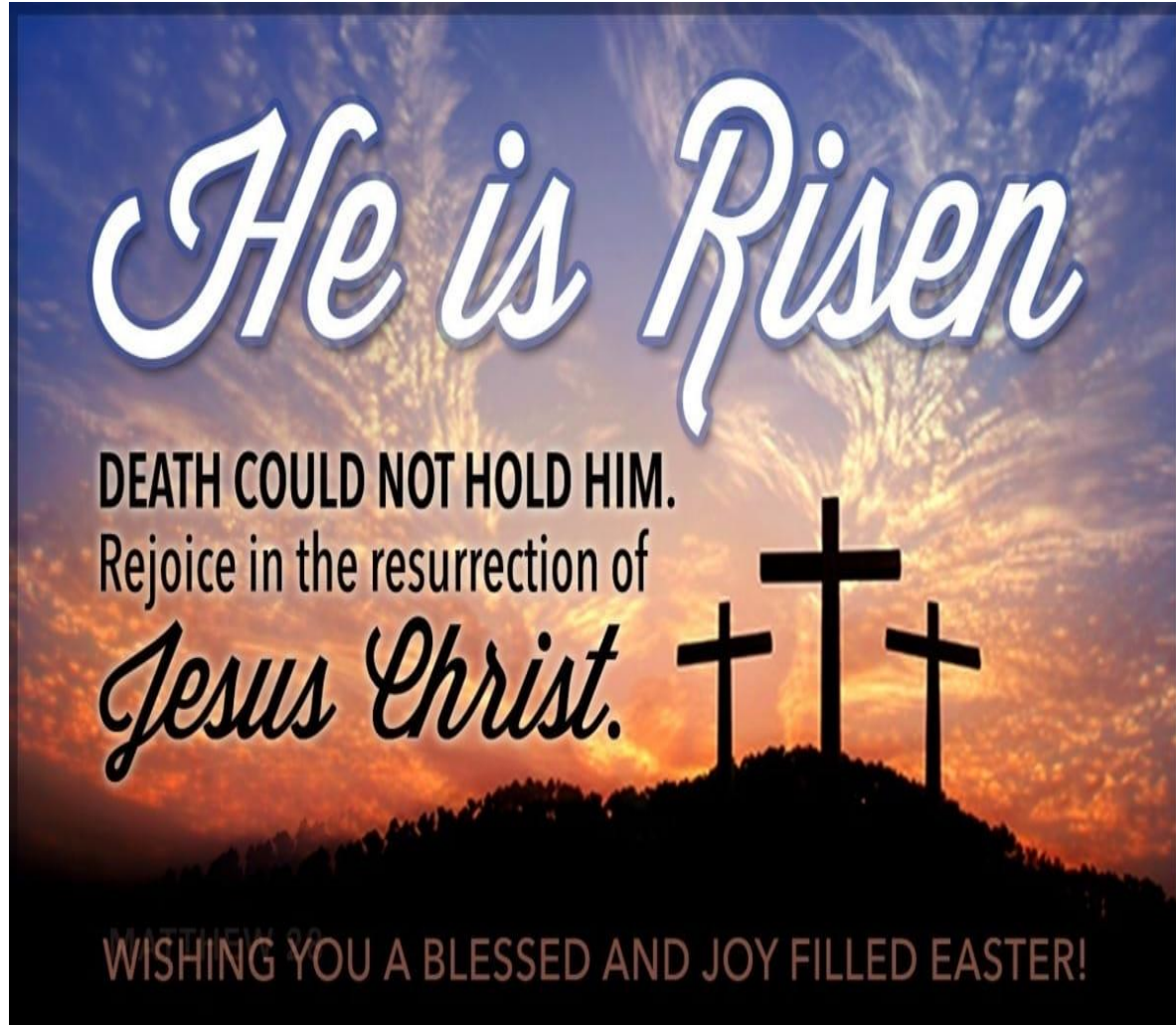
# We need to...

- Ponder over His grace for us.
- Pray for insight and understanding of His grace

## Response:

- **Gratitude** for receiving grace
- **Forgive** as we have been forgiven
- Humility towards each other

# EASTER 2024



- God's grace revealed in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Reach to the undeserving