



A TIME FOR...

Christmas

“Room For Grace?”

At the Beginning...Grace Revealed



Genesis 3:14-15 NLT

¹⁴ Then the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, grovelling in the dust as long as you live.

¹⁵ And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Before the Beginning...Grace Planned



1 Peter 1:18-20 NLT

¹⁸ For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. ¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. ²⁰ God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.

Before the Beginning...Grace Planned



Acts 2:23 NIV

²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Ephesians 1: 4-6 NLT

⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Implications of Knowing and Understanding the Planned Grace of God?

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1. A Change in How we View God!

Exodus 34:5-7 AMPC

5 And the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there and proclaimed the name of the Lord.

6 And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord! the Lord! a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving-kindness and truth,
7 Keeping mercy and loving-kindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but Who will by no means clear the guilty, ...

2. The Fall of a Merit System Ideology



Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

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3. The Deliverance from Licentiousness

Jude 3-4 NLT

³ ... But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people. ⁴ I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives...

4. Graciousness is Not an Option

Luke 12:48 NLT

48 ... When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

Micah 6:8 NIV

8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you? But to do justly, to love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

5. Forgiveness Received...

Mathew 18:23-27 NLT

²³Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴ In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars ²⁵ He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. ²⁶ “But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ... ²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

...Must be Given

Matt 18:28-33 NLT

²⁸ “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time...he pleaded. ³⁰ ... He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full...³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’

Grace Demands Us To...?

Love one another
Instruct one another
Wait for one another
Care for one another
Comfort one another
Be kind to one another
Forgive one another
Bear with one another
Admonish one another
Encourage one another
Build one another up
Stir up one another to love

John 13:34

Romans 15:14

1 Corinthians 11:33

1 Corinthians 12:25

2 Corinthians 13:11

Ephesians 4:2

Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 3:13

Colossians 3:16

1 Thessalonians 4:18

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Hebrews 10:24



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