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## Faith alone in Christ alone

Greetings to you from all of us here at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Indeed, we are continually grateful to the Almighty God for His marvelous grace provision for this ministry. Our reverence and praise to Him remain undiminished! What He is doing through and for this ministry continues to stagger our imaginations! We have learned through Bible doctrine to keep on standing in salute and awe of the One who does all the work. We never earned or deserved to be used as an instrument by which many unbelievers have turned to Christ through "faith alone and in Christ alone," and some believers have been challenged to make perception and application of Bible doctrine the highest priority in their lives. We will never fully understand why God in His infinite mercy has elected to shower His unfailing love upon us. The apostle wrote, "See how great [how awesome, how unfathomable, how immeasurable] a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God . . ." (1 John 3:1). His love and grace have been extended to this ministry in a magnificent way. We are truly thankful that He chooses to use His children as vessels to pour out His financial blessings to this ministry. We have no doubt that He is the One enabling us to serve Him and the One who called us into this marvelous work.

### **The Importance of Doctrine**

"As soon as Jesus was baptized [by John the Baptist], He went up out of water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased'" (Matthew 3:16,17). "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world'" (John 1:29).

Soon thereafter, Herod imprisoned John. While in prison, John learned of Christ's activities. He had performed many miracles, but the citizens of Israel remained unmoved. The promised kingdom, which would depose Herod and free John, was not forthcoming. After a long time in prison, John sent two of his disciples to ask Christ, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" (Matthew 11:3). Was John having doubts about what the voice from heaven proclaimed? The key to understanding his question is in the term "someone else." It is the Greek *heteros*, meaning "another of a different kind." We must remember, at that time John was among the greatest believers who had ever lived. He, like few others, had mastered the spiritual life available to Old Testament believers. Christ

said, “Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist!” (Matthew 11:11a) From the doctrine in his soul, John knew the prophecies of the kingdom. Now he wondered if he had missed a point of prophetic doctrine. Was another of a different kind—a conquering hero—yet to come? John, under adversity needed doctrine, but he knew nothing of the dispensation of the church age (nor did any other believer of his time). The kingdom he anticipated remains future, to be fulfilled during the Millennial reign of Christ.

As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, have you ever found yourself in a dilemma where you did not have the doctrine that you needed to apply to the situation? Even the greatest believer of the Old Testament era, through no fault of his own, came face-to-face with this issue. Of course, in the church age, where every believer has equal privilege and equal opportunity to get to know the love of Christ from the completed canon of Scripture, we are without excuse. We cannot apply doctrine that we have not learned.

John was not the only believer who faced unjust imprisonment. Consider the case of Paul and Silas. “After they [Paul and Silas] had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God . . .” (Acts 16:23,25). They had no way of knowing what might happen next, but from the doctrine in their souls, one thing was crystal clear: Jesus Christ is the Lord of history! They knew that no one had the power to remove a single hair from their heads without God’s permission. They understood that God knew where they were and for what reason. That was all that mattered to them. Joy is the by-product of perception and application of Bible doctrine (Jeremiah 15:16). “. . . For the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10c). They had joy in their souls that gave them the stamina to pray and sing melodious hymns to the Lord!

And consider the case of the apostle Peter. “It was about this time that king Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also . . . . The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains . . . .” (Acts 12:1-3a, 6). Peter knew about James’ fate and what might happen to him the next day. Did he lie awake in panic, worrying, mewing, groaning or blaming himself for following Christ? No, he was fast asleep. He understood “That in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him” (Romans 8:28). The application of Bible doctrine in his soul insulated his soul from fear, anxiety and worry. He was acutely aware that God had a plan for his life, and if that plan included death, he was prepared.

In the Old Testament, Job expressed his confidence in the omniscience of God: “Though He slay me, yet will I hope in him” (Job 13:15); “But He knows the way that I take [i.e., what I am going through]; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold” (Job 23:10). If death was coming, rather than hit the panic button, he rejoiced: “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see Him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!” (Job 19:25-27).

We may never be imprisoned or killed for our beliefs. Our testing may not be as severe as that of Job. But whatever comes our way, the perception and application of Bible doctrine is of awesomely beautiful and beyond human expression!

### **Our Ministry in Brief**

First, we thank all of our partners in the Lord Jesus Christ who have given us support in the areas of finance and prayer. This thank you extends to each member of those local churches that are supporting this missionary endeavor. Therefore, I echo the words of the apostle Paul: “I thank my God every time I remember you [our partners]. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it unto completion until the day of Christ Jesus. And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:3-6, 4:19).

We assure those who are serving the Lord through this ministry, that as a doctrinally based, grace-oriented, missionary organization, our objectives remain intact: First, we evangelize unbelievers with the clear and simple gospel message—faith alone in Christ alone. Second, we follow up with those who have believed the gospel. To these we provide sound Bible doctrine by means of literature and audiotapes to assist them in their spiritual growth. Third, we seek to identify those male believers to whom God the Holy Spirit has given a communication gift. If these express interest in furthering their studies, as funds become available we send them to recommended seminaries. There they are equipped with the tools necessary for accurately dividing the Word of truth and presenting it to others.

Grace Evangelistic Ministries never solicits funds. We believe that God provides our financial needs by permitting believers to exercise their free will to become partners in spreading the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. His provision enables us to make the gospel and sound Bible doctrine available to anyone without regard to ethnic background or race. The choice to partake in such a ministry is solely a matter between the believer and the Lord Jesus Christ; nonetheless, we do ask that believers remember us in their prayers as we endeavor to bring maximum glory to the One who is worthy—our Great God!

We pause to thank God for all our partners. We thank Him for His grace provisions to each, and for keeping them safe in the devil's world. Father we ask that they may be motivated to continue vigorously to pursue Bible doctrine and its application, which will result in their blessing, both in time and in the eternal state to come. And far more importantly, that they may glorify Thee. These we ask in Christ's Name. Amen.

“The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deuteronomy 33:27).

Forever in His matchless grace,  
Moses C. Onwubiko, President  
Grace Evangelistic Ministries

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**Y**ou shall know the  
truth, and the truth  
shall set you free.  
JOHN 8:32

## Doctrine of Grace

By Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko  
(Continued from volume 16—Lesson 2)

We want to remind our readers that we are examining one of the pivotal doctrines of Scripture. To understand grace is to understand God's policy toward His creation. Understanding many other biblical doctrines depends on a clear understanding of grace. False doctrines—salvation by works, lordship salvation, and many others—have been put forth and found acceptance because believers reject truth, including the doctrine of grace. Because we live in an age of enormous confusion, it is our objective to combat heresy with the truth of the inerrant, infallible Word of God.

In the previous lessons we analyzed the Lexical aids (Greek Dictionary) to the New Testament, which defined grace as “A favor done without expectation of return; absolute freeness of the loving kindness of God to men finding its only motive in the bounty and freeheartedness of the giver; unearned and unmerited favor.” We scrutinized each phrase of this definition. We saw that grace is totally free from ulterior motives; and that the emphasis is always on the giver rather than on the receiver. We noted that God does not benefit from us, we benefit from Him. God has always existed; mankind is His creation.

His perfect happiness has never changed—increased or decreased—because of circumstances or what we do. God created mankind for His own pleasure; what gives Him pleasure is what He does for and through man rather than what man does for Him. Ironically, this is a great obstacle for believers who find it difficult to accept that God does not need their help, nor anyone else's. This is the principle reason so many believers get involved in all kinds of Christian activism. Many, ignorant of the truth, are running around trying to beautify the devil's world in the name of serving God.

Especially chilling is the fact that very often it is ministers who are the energizers of this activism. Repeat: God has never needed our help—and never will! The apostle Paul poignantly declared: “For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). The only way God can work in a believer's life is through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine. Without these two divine assets we are nothing! Those who have them do not get involved in Christian activism, or anything from the energy of the flesh, especially working to impress God. How can an imperfect human being do something to impress a perfect God? Imperfection is a by-product of imperfect machinery or imperfect workmanship. Similarly, the works of imperfect man ALWAYS result in an imperfect end product. God is perfect, His work is perfect; thus, He does all of the work that gives Him pleasure! You may wish to ponder on this paragraph for a moment before proceeding to the next increment of our study.

In our previous lessons, we established that the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—are self-sufficient and cannot be unhappy. There has never been a time when they were not happy. That they are not made happy by the behavior of any created being is a concept that is very difficult for self-righteous believers to understand.

## **GOD'S GRACE IN CREATION**

Creation is the work of God, bringing into existence the heavens, the earth, and all forms of life . . . ; in both the Old and New Testaments, the entire creation is shown to be dependent upon the Creator. This is not a study of creation or restoration; however, we do want to examine manifestations of the grace of God in His creative acts. In the Old Testament, Ezekiel records the creation of angels; Moses records the creation of man and all living things in Genesis chapters 1-2. Concerning the perfection of God's creation, Moses wrote, “God saw all that He made, and it was good [perfect]” (Genesis 1:31).

The Creator was our Lord Jesus Christ, the second member of the Trinity: “He [Christ] is the image [Greek: *eikon* = exact image, or reflection] of the invisible God, the first born over all creation. For by Him [Christ] all things were created: things in heaven [including angels] and on earth [including mankind], visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:15-17).

## **ANGELS**

God [*Elohim*: Father, Son and Holy Spirit] made the decision to create angels, even before the universe (Psalm 148:2-5). The reasons included His pleasure (Revelation 4:11), glory (Isaiah 43:7), and joy (Isaiah 65:18). The Holy Spirit does not reveal much detail about the creation of the angels. Ezekiel describes the most beautiful angel, Satan: “You were blameless [Hebrew: *Tamiym* = perfect] in your ways from the day you were created” (Ezekiel 28:15a).

God is perfect and His handiwork is always a reflection of His perfection! All of the angels were created perfect, with minds and volition. Ezekiel continues: “Your [Satan's] heart became proud on account of your beauty” (Ezekiel 28:17a). Our focus is angelic creation, not Satan's choice to rebel along with one-third of the angelic population who followed him. Therefore, notice the beauty, and consider that Satan is described as a “morning star [i.e., shining one]” when he is barred from Heaven in the middle of the Tribulation (Isaiah 14:12). His perfect beauty and rank are described in Ezekiel 28:12-15.

In summary, the deity of Jesus Christ executed the Father's plan; bringing angels into existence as perfect beings. The most beautiful and wisest of these was Satan who is quite often mistakenly portrayed as an ugly and deformed creature. For all of his genius, he was stupid enough to think that he could be like God.

## **BIRDS AND ANIMALS**

. . . God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens" (Genesis 1.20).

Then God said, "'Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind;' and it was so" (Genesis 1.24).

Consider for a moment God's provision for the birds of the air: "For this reason I [Jesus Christ] say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life [Greek: *psuche*—the soul, imputed by God at birth] more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth more than they?" (Matthew 6:25,26). God cares for His creation in grace. "Are not two sparrows [among the most common of birds] sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father" (Matthew 10:29). God's grace toward His creation is a matter of His choice. His creative design for birds and animals provided for every aspect of their survival.

## **MAN—ADAM**

As we examine the creation of man, and the authority that God bestowed upon him, consider whether there was anything man—who did not even exist prior to his creation—could have done to earn or deserve God's provision. This is pure grace.

"Then God said, 'Let us make [Hebrew: *asah* – made after a pattern] man in our image, according to our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Genesis 1:26).

"Then the Lord God formed [Hebrew: *yatzar* – made from existing material] man of dust from the ground" (Genesis 2:7a).

Adam was the only man completely created by God. His perfect body was flawless. It had no sin nature passed along by his father; he had no father. Nor did it carry any genetically transmitted disease; his creation was not haphazard. But the perfect body of Adam was without life. God was not finished.

". . . and [the Lord] breathed into his nostrils the breath [Hebrew: *neshamah hayyah*—a spark of His own life]; and man became a living being [Hebrew: *nephesh hayyah*—a soul having life]" (Genesis 2:7b).

The breath of God, the source of all human life (Job 33.4), gave the body of Adam a spirit and a soul, complete with self-consciousness, mentality, conscience, and volition. This simultaneous gift of biological life and soul life marked the completion of man's creation, but God was not finished with man.

Adam's mentality was greater than that of any genius—perfect. For example, God brought every animal and bird to Adam ". . . to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name" (Genesis 2:19). But God was not yet finished. The animals and birds had companions, but Adam was alone.

## **WOMAN—ISHAH**

“Then the Lord God said, ‘it is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.’ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept [the first anesthesia]; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place [the first surgical procedure]. And the Lord God fashioned [Hebrew: *banah* - built] into a woman the rib which he had taken from the man and . . .” God performed the first marriage when He “. . . brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:18, 21,22). She was the only woman completely created by God, and had all the qualities of her perfect husband who named her Woman [Hebrew: *Ishah*]. God gave to them a perfect environment.

## **GOD’S GRACE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN**

No rain, no storms, no oppressive heat, no freezing cold—perfect weather. No predatory animals—nothing to fear. No arguments, no tears—perfect soul rapport. They shared capacity for life, love, recreation, and happiness—perfect joy. They had all the food they could eat (Gen 2.16)—perfect cuisine. And just think; they had no sin natures. But imagine—greater than all this put together—Jesus Christ came every day to teach them Bible doctrine (Gen 3.8). Wow, talk about a grace package!

There was only one thing they lacked, and that was eternal life. As perfect beings, Adam and the Woman could have lived forever, one day at a time. We really cannot appreciate God’s grace in creating human life without understanding His purpose. Recall that we briefly mentioned a great pre-historical angelic rebellion of which Satan was the leader. God condemned the rebellious angels to eternity in the Lake of Fire. Satan protested the sentence, so God created man, with volition, to resolve the issue (Ephesians 6:10-17, esp. v. 11,12).

Like the pre-revolutionary angels, man’s volition was free to choose for or against God. So God designed a test for Adam and the Woman: . . . “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it [dying] you will surely die” (Genesis 2:16,17). Failure to observe this single prohibition would result in spiritual death (no relationship with God) and eventual physical death.

Notice that even though God had to test the volition of Adam and the Woman, His grace provided every other tree for their sustenance. In fact, God told them, “I give every green plant for food” (Genesis 1:29,30). And these plants were also the staple of all animals and birds until after the great flood when meat first became a part of man’s diet in the days of Noah (Gen 9:1-3).

Of the creation of man we can sing with David: “I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.” (Psalm 139.14)

## **GOD’S GRACE AFTER THE FALL OF MAN**

We explained in our book, *The Biblical Doctrine of Salvation*, how Satan deceived the Woman, and both she and Adam chose to disobey God when they ate the forbidden fruit. Each was responsible. The result was instant spiritual death—separation from God in every sense of the word—and their bodies began to age so that eventually they would die. In their spiritual death, Adam and the Woman became aware of their nakedness and sought to adjust to each other by making loin clothes from fig leaves. This was the first good work in the history of mankind—man solving man’s problems apart from the grace of God.

God is never impressed by human good, not then, not now, not ever. God rejects man’s efforts—no matter how impressive or sophisticated the works may be to others! That’s exactly the point what we want to hammer down. Grace is GOD DOING ALL THE WORK, and mankind receiving the results of HIS production! So how does God deal with man’s failure?

“Then the man [Adam] and his wife [the Woman] heard the sound [footsteps] of the Lord God [Jesus

Christ as a theophany—the only member of the Trinity who is visible] as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day . . . ” (Genesis 3:9a). What is the first thing God did? In grace, He sought out fallen man—lost, helpless, and in need of a Savior. God’s attitude in the Garden, thousands of years ago, remains His attitude today. “For the Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

How did Adam and the Woman react? “. . . and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden” (Genesis 3:9b). No doubt, in Bible class, they learned the principles: “Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; if I make my bed in [the grave], behold, Thou art there” (Psalm 139:7,8) and “Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?” Declares the Lord. ‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 23:24). For the first time they had reason to avoid contact with their Creator, but God had no reason to react in kind. Grace always finds a way.

“But the Lord God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’” (Genesis 3:9c), or better, “Why are you where you are?” Omniscient God was neither shocked nor surprised, nor did He need clarification as to their exact location. He knew billions of years ago, all which is knowable. He knew the day, even the exact second, that the Woman would succumb to Satan’s ploy. He knew that Adam’s sin of cognizance would follow—and had already made a grace provision for each of them, just as He has for us.

Nothing in the lives of God’s creatures is obscure to him. David sang, “My frame [bones or skeleton] was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place [the privacy of his parents’ room]. Your eyes saw my unformed body [embryo]. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” (Psalm 139:15a, 16). Jeremiah adds, “Before I formed you [by means of] the womb [actually, zillions of years in eternity past] I knew you” (Jeremiah 1:5). No matter how enormous our failures seem to us, nothing we can do ever takes God by surprise.

Adam explained, “I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid” (Genesis 3:10). Is nakedness a cause for fear? Are you afraid when you bathe or shower? Nakedness was much more to Adam and the Woman. Their nakedness was entirely new and, of course, it was the result of their sin. Before sin, grace clothed them with perfection, but now they were face-to-face with the reality of their failure. Fear and guilt, mental attitude sins impossible before the fall, invaded their souls. Spiritual death is a state of confusion. Since when do a husband and wife need to hide their naked bodies from one another? The Lord asked, “Who told you that you were naked?” (v.11a), and then He went right to the cause, “Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat?” (v.11b). Of course God knew the answers; He knew them in detail billions of years ago.

The answers from Adam and the Woman were at once outlandish and typical. “The man [Adam] said, ‘The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, I ate it’” (v. 12). Though he admits eating, Adam had trouble with his responsibility. He blamed others. Notice that he blames his wife when he was the one in authority. But read it again—he arrogantly blames his Creator. Yes, the God who graciously provided him with a companion is the ultimate target. It is as though he is saying, “God, your grace went too far. None of this would have happened had You left me alone.” The Woman’s reply was no better: “The serpent deceived me, and I ate” (v. 13b). Both replied accurately as to the facts, but neither was willing to take responsibility for their own decisions. Since then, nothing has changed. Today, the ‘blame game’ is a polished art form. It is as old as Satan’s arrogance in rejecting the reality of, and responsibility for, his sin.

God did not debate them on the merits of their responses. He could have imposed the death penalty immediately, but grace found a way. As immutable God, His love for them did not change, but His righteousness demanded, and His justice executed, condemnation. Why? Judgment and condemnation must always precede salvation. Even as He pronounced the sentence, He proclaimed the way of salvation. Of the serpent He said, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel” (Genesis 3:15). The natural

distrust between humans and serpents symbolizes the struggle of the angelic conflict. But the outcome of this struggle is already known. The humanity of Jesus Christ [offspring of the woman] will crush the head of Satan [the serpent]. When our Lord said, “It is finished!” (John 19:30) on the cross of Calvary, the strategic victory was won. The tactical victory will come at the Second Advent of Christ. So faith alone in Christ alone has always been the only way of salvation (John 14.6).

All of animal and plant life was affected by the fall. The Woman’s womb was activated so that she could bear children in pain. The recreation begun in the Garden became the means of procreation for the human race. The ground was cursed so that Adam would have to work for their survival. After the sentencing, Adam renamed the Woman; now he called her Eve, the mother of all living (Gen 3:20). God replaced their fig leaves (human good) with animal skins (divine good, v.21), before banning them from the Garden of Eden forever (v.23, 24).

God offered salvation on His terms, rejecting human good outright. The blood sacrifice of an innocent animal, which provided new clothing for Adam and Eve, was a type (i.e., a model or pattern) of the perfect Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Blood sacrifices would continue until the Cross. When Adam and Eve personally accepted the redemption solution though faith alone in Christ alone, they were regenerated. They would live out their lives with their sin natures, even pass them on to their progeny, but when their bodies died, their immortal souls would be in a place of great blessing. They have eternal life—far more than they had in perfect environment.

Grace found a way: God judged, completely and totally rejected ‘operation fig leaves’—Adam and Eve’s human good, and then offered His blueprint for salvation. It was grace in action: “A favor done without expectation of return [man has nothing good to offer God in return]; absolute freeness of the loving kindness of God to men [first to Adam and Eve, then to everyone] finding its only motive in the bounty and free heartedness of the Giver; unearned and unmerited favor.” David asked, “What is man, that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?” (Psalm 8:4). Apart from what God provides to us, we have nothing to offer God.

We will never face the test of the Garden; Adam and the Woman did that for us. But, as with Adam and Eve after the fall, each of us must choose whether or not to accept the redemption solution. While we look back, nearly two thousand years, to what happened on the Cross, Adam and Eve looked forward. The object of their faith was exactly the same as ours. God still rejects all forms of human good and provides salvation on His terms; namely, faith alone in the uniquely born Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who to whom every sin was imputed and judged, as a substitute for each one in the entire human race.

## SUMMARY

In summary, these important lessons have emerged:

- **Lesson #1:** God is the Omniscient One (Colossians 2.3): because He knew, billions of years ago in eternity past, that sin would enter the world, He prepared the solution in advance.
- **Lesson #2:** In the fall (spiritual death), man became imperfect so that whatever he does (human good) reflects his character—imperfection.
- **Lesson #3:** All human efforts to win God’s approval are rejected, beginning in the Garden of Eden (Operation Fig Leaves).
- **Lesson #4:** As the offspring of Adam, all mankind shares his sinful nature (Romans 5:12).
- **Lesson #5:** Nothing man does impresses God (Isaiah 64.6); He is only impressed with His own work.
- **Lesson #6:** Salvation is totally and completely the work of God only. The Father’s plan was executed by the Son (Who became the seed of the woman), and is revealed to the human race by the Holy Spirit. “But by His [God’s] doing [whose doing? Not yours!] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption” (I



Corinthians 1:30).

- **Lesson #7:** If one desires salvation, he must accept divine provision by means of faith alone in Christ alone, devoid of any human good. (Ephesians 2:8,9)
- **Lesson #8:** Accepting God's salvation, results in eternal life that can never be revoked. "I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand." (John 10:28).

God is perfect and His work is perfect. He initiated salvation by means of His grace. We can add nothing to grace. He purchased you through His Son (1 Peter 1:18,19). He sealed you with His Holy Spirit (II Corinthians 1:22). He is the One who keeps you [saved] by His power (John 10:29). God began your salvation with grace, and you will enjoy His grace forever. With this in mind, we conclude: "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling [i.e., losing your salvation], and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy [with no accusation against you], to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen" (Jude 1:24-25).  
To be continued in Volume 18—lesson 4

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## Progress Report

This report will bring you up to date about what God is doing for and through this ministry. Its purpose is to inform you so that when you approach His throne to remember Grace Evangelistic Ministries in your prayers, your heart will be filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for His indelible work. On the other hand, if your attention or praise is directed toward GEM or Rev. Onwubiko, you have missed the mark!

### USA

God continues to glorify himself through Grace Evangelistic Ministries as the demand for our publications has increased tremendously. The number of prison inmates that request material has doubled since last year. Some of these inmates have responded to the gospel message of our Lord Jesus Christ by "faith alone and in Christ alone," and some have accepted the challenge to learn accurate teaching of the Word of God. We have referred others who have asked for doctrine on tapes or literature for their daily studies, to R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries. We cannot thank God enough for what He is doing.

### NEW PUBLICATION



By the grace of God we have published a new book: *The Biblical Doctrine of Salvation*. This publication presents the biblical doctrine presented by Moses C. Onwubiko in "Grace News Today," volumes 1-14. We believe that this book will help everyone who wants to understand more about salvation. Very importantly, it will help thousands of pastors in Africa who have entered the ministry with little knowledge of the Word of God. Many of these pastors can hardly afford a good Bible translation, let alone Greek or Hebrew study tools.

### OVERSEAS

Today, our mailing list includes addresses from Australia, Canada, Scotland, Philippines, China, India, Egypt, Germany, Croatia, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Gambia, and Nigeria—just to name but a few. Many are pastors. The list grows as God takes His doctrinal truth to those who are positive. This underlines the justice, fairness, and matchless grace of God, who removes any linguistic, racial, cultural and geographical barriers to make Himself known to anyone who desires to know and have relationship with Him. We are just witnessing the grace of God as it unfolds. We consider it a great privilege to be an instrument through which God brings the gospel to unbelievers, and Bible doctrine to those who have personally trusted in Christ.

### **REPORT FROM GAMBIA**

Forwarded by D. E. Elekwa, Africa chapter president for GEM

Thank you for keeping me posted from the home front. There is what one individual described as a “spark of life” in those who come in contact with GEM’s materials and who also attend some of the meetings, where I am privileged to speak. The striking thing about the meetings is that 98% are Physicians, Pharmacists, Nurses, Nigerians as well as Gambians.

One Gambian Pediatrician is eagerly waiting for Grace Evangelistic Ministries to be officially borne in Gambia. She told me that there are no doctrinal teachers at all here in Gambia. At the back of my mind, I know that there is a reason why God brought me here.

(Please remember Darlington Elekwa in your prayers that God may use Him for His own glory.)

### **REPORT FROM NIGERIA (Jos): May/June 2000**

Forwarded by Pastor Tony Sani

In the months of May and June, many people came to collect doctrinal tapes and literature. This shows that more people are becoming aware of our ministry here in Jos. We also receive reports from those on our mailing list. Their reports testify to the faithfulness of God. Some said that their lives changed when they read “God’s Plan After Salvation,” and “Comfort in Suffering”.

We also have students from theological seminaries who come here frequently to collect doctrinal materials. We have no doubt in our mind that God is at work here.

The demand for doctrinal materials is increasing, and every week we receive numerous calls from people asking if they can come and get doctrinal materials. Because of availability of blank tapes, we have limited our distribution to 500 tapes per month. For about three weeks we were out of doctrinal literature. But we thank God that we recently received some money to reprint “Riding The Death Train,” “Eternal Security of The Believer,” “God’s Plan After Salvation,” and “Comfort in Suffering”.

We truly thank everyone in Grace Evangelistic Ministries for your service and dedication to our Lord.

### **CAMEROON**

Forwarded by Ernest A. Ngam

Greetings from the Old Market Group here in Cameroon. Thank you for the newsletters that you send to us on a regular basis. They are source of spiritual food indeed. The demand for doctrinal tapes and Christian literature continues to rise. We have been totally out of publications and blank tapes for sometime now.

Thank you for your recent help. We have reprinted “Riding The Death Train.” We have also purchased some blank tapes. We really don’t know how to express our appreciation for what you people are doing for others and us in this great time of apostasy. We know that God is with you, and that he will continue to bless and protect you people as you travel around the world.

We support you in prayers.

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## REV. MOSES C. ONWUBIKO'S Evangelistic Meeting Schedule

**August 19 – September 6:** Zimbabwe, South Africa

**September 7 – November 17:** US

**November 18 – December 17:** Nigeria

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## News Update

After Rev. Onwubiko's trip to Zimbabwe, he plans to hold pastors' Conference in Jos, Nigeria where he plans to distribute about 100 Greek/Hebrew Bibles for those pastors who are positive to sound doctrine. Then he will conduct a 3-day Crusade in Aba, Abia State (Eastern part of Nigeria), followed by 11 days basic teaching for the new converts and others who are interested in truth.

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## God Will Provide Genesis 22.8

"God will provide" is the attitude of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We do not beg for money. We believe that if this ministry is honoring to God, He will provide EVERYTHING necessary for its continuation. "God will provide" was Abraham's reassurance to his confused son, Isaac ([Genesis 22:8](#)). When God gives an assignment to us as His servants, He is under obligation to provide for the job. When God does not provide, it could mean one of three things. One, God may not want the job accomplished at that particular time. Two, it could mean that those who are to carry out the mission are not prepared to do so yet. Lastly, it could be a sign that God does not want to have any part of the ministry. Therefore, it is absolutely foolish and arrogant for us as believers to try to devise a way to accomplish a task in the name of God when He has already rejected it. For example, when we use gimmicks to manipulate people to contribute money, we are not glorifying God. It is blasphemy on our part to think that God does not know how to provide for the work which He has assigned. Take a moment and think about the following question: When we work to accomplish a job which God has rejected, who will be glorified in the end? God? Or me?

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## Gratitude for Answered Prayers

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2).

Please join us in thanking our heavenly Father for answers to the following prayers:

1. For helping us meet our financial obligations for the month of July and August 2000.
2. For giving Rev. Onwubiko journey mercies to and from Zimbabwe.
3. For the freedom and stability we enjoy here in America.

4. For the spiritual food, which He provides for the positive believers.
  5. For His children whom He used to meet our needs in July and August.
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## Letters to Grace Evangelistic Ministries

We would like to share some of the letters that have been sent to us. As you read these letters, please join us in giving thanks to our gracious God who does all the work: "For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose" (Philippians 2:13).

Our purpose in sharing these letters with you is to show you that your partnership in financial and prayer support for this ministry is indeed producing dividends for the glory of our merciful God.

*Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,*

*I would like to request copies of your books: "Eternal Security of The Believer," "God's Plan after Salvation" and "Comfort in Suffering". When I shared the truth that I gathered from your books, people began to demand the books. These books are really a challenge for us here in Africa. We have been blind and ignorant of the Word of God. I am convinced within that God has sent Rev. Moses to us. We really need him as a teacher of the Word of God around us.*

*I have nothing to give to you people in return for your undiluted Word of God than to say, may the Lord Almighty continue to use this ministry until we see Him face-to-face.*

*Thanks.*

*Aba, Abia State, Nigeria*

*Dear Sir,*

*First for all, I want to thank the Almighty God for the good work He is accomplishing through you. Honestly, it is very difficult to find people who are genuinely interested in teaching the truth to others as you are. May the Lord God the Father continue to increase you in wisdom, knowledge and understanding, may he continue to provide and sustain you that you can reach out to the whole world with truth.*

*Sir, I also want to request for the books of R. B. Thieme, Jr. If I can get the entire set of his books I will be definitely happy! The books are very good in building one spiritually.*

*Thanks for what you are doing.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Jos, Nigeria*

*Dear Reverend Moses,*

*Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I received the books, which your ministry sent to me. The truth in those books has turned my life around. Indeed, there is spiritual satisfaction in them.*

*I am hungry for the truth. Grace Evangelistic Ministries is really a blessing to us and I believe to other*

*nations as well. I hereby request for other books that you may have, which will help me in my spiritual life. I also want you to enlist me on your mailing list to receive “Grace News Today,” and if possible to send me all back issues. I thank God that I have found a ministry with courage to declare the truth. May God bless your ministry as you shepherd many people through the Outreach of the Newsletters and other means.*

*I look forward to your reply.*

*Your brother in Christ,  
**Triangle, Zimbabwe***

*Dear Sir,*

*I wish to encourage and at the same time thank God for using you to promote the work of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Your materials have changed a lot of people’s lives and likewise myself.*

*God showed His grace to me when I was reading one of your publications that is “Riding the Death Train”. The moment I finished reading it, my life took a turn—I responded to the message and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and personal Savior.*

*Right now what I need is spiritual food to help me grow. Therefore send me all your publications.*

*I look forward to receiving your reply. Extend my greeting to members of Grace Evangelistic Ministries.*

*In Christ,  
**University of Uyo,  
Nigeria***

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## **Bible Doctrine for Thought**

“There is always the utmost danger when a man or his work becomes remarkable. He may be sure Satan is gaining his objective when attention is shown to anything or anyone but the Lord Jesus Himself. A work may be commenced in the greatest possible simplicity, but through lack of holy watchfulness and spirituality on the part of the workman, he himself or the results of his work may attract general attention, and he may fall into the snare of the devil. Satan’s grand and ceaseless objective is to dishonor the Lord Jesus. If he can do this by what seems to be Christian service [such a Christian activism] he has achieved all the greater victory for the time. As one said, “No man can at one and at the same time prove that he is great and that Christ is wonderful” (C. H. Mackintosh). Do we watch our lives closely so that Satan does not capitalize on our spiritual carelessness and thus ridicule our Lord Jesus Christ? We may wish to meditate.

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## **Here is the Truth**

(Continued from Volume 16)

Christ’s warning of punitive or intensified divine discipline for those who derive false happiness by judging and maligning others was recorded twice in the gospels.

Luke 6:37 “And do not judge and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned.

Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, THEY will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure IT will be measured to you in return.”

Who are “THEY” and what is “IT” in this verse? Many have used verse 38 to suggest that God blesses us because we give. Their interpretation makes “THEY” and “IT” refer to financial blessings in return for financial gifts. However, in volume 16 we established the fact that taking this verse in such a way is contradictory to the biblical principles of giving in passages such as Romans 11:25 (“Who has given a gift [to God] that he might be repaid?”) and Job 41:11 (“Who has given to me [God] that I should repay him?”) In fact, our blessings in time and in eternity come from God, and they may include financial blessings, but never because of something that we have done.

Matthew recorded another of our Lord’s warnings about judging:

Matthew 7:1: “Do not judge lest you be judged.

Matthew 7:2: “FOR IN THE SAME WAY YOU JUDGE, YOU WILL BE JUDGED, AND BY THE SAME STANDARD OF MEASURE, IT WILL BE MEASURED TO YOU.”

Note the similarities in the two passages. The second verse in both instances use a metaphor of the ancient marketplace. When purchasing grain, a customer expected the merchant to pour it into a measuring container, shake the container to pack it tighter, and then pour in some more until the container was full. Matthew’s record seems to fit our modern frame of reference better, but both passages refer to the same practice.

How are we to understand these passages? When we judge others, we assume God’s prerogative. We are out of fellowship. If we verbalize our judgments as gossip or maligning, we involve others, encouraging them to judge as well. What we “give” may be true or false, but what we get is divine punishment. The process most often distorts words spread in gossip. Many in the circle modify the original report to make their version just a little more shocking or interesting. Sometimes the target is completely unaware, other times someone makes sure they hear with the intent of making life unbearable or uncomfortable.

Doctrine in the soul prevents reacting by gossiping and maligning when we are wronged. When you know that you are a victim, you must decide whether or not to use the problem-solving devices and turn the matter over to God for His justice. If you choose to retaliate, expect to be torn apart by real misery. Remember that gossips are automatically in line for discipline, and if the story was true, they get the discipline for the wrongdoing about which they malign. If the accusation is false, God may be pouring out additional blessing on the maligned—“hidden from the scourge of the tongue” Job 5:21.

With a wrong mental attitude, the tongue is a lethal weapon. Whether torpedoes of the tongue, or pen set to paper, the effects can be devastating. That’s why the apostle Paul warned, “[Hey you there, who do you think you are] to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand [!]” (Romans 14:4).

Now back to our question. Clearly, Luke 6:38 has nothing to do with money. Both “They” and “it” refer to the result of decisions by the Supreme Court of Heaven. The righteousness of God condemns judging and condemning. He pours out punishment on those who embrace these sins. These punishments include discipline for a wrong mental attitude, discipline for a sin of the tongue, and if the gossip is true, the discipline for the wrong doing of the one maligned which was transmitted by gossip. We are commanded to separate ourselves from those who make a habit of these sins (Romans 16:17,18 cf. Psalm 52:1). God is perfectly fair. Whether judging, condemning, or pardoning, we reap what we sow as an extension of the absolute justice of God.

Next time we will explain, “Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and

multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness" (2 Corinthians 9:10)? To be continued in volume 18.

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## The Good News

When our Lord Jesus Christ was on the cross, He had you on His mind. There was never a sin committed that was not poured out on Jesus Christ on the cross ([1 Peter 2:24](#)). He endured all afflictions so that He might pave a way for you to have life more abundantly through Him. Regardless of how sinful you have been in the past or are now, you can be forgiven and your slate wiped clean by God. How? By telling God right now that you are believing in His Son, Jesus Christ. The moment you put your entire trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will automatically become a regenerate person before God forever. The Bible says, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). Will you believe in Him today? Or will you reject Him? The decision is totally up to you.

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## Financial Policy

Grace Evangelistic Ministries does not solicit funding. We believe that God in His grace will continue to meet our financial needs as they arise.

We do not charge for books or audio tapes. No money is requested. Anyone desiring to receive our books, tapes or other spiritual materials can receive them at absolutely no cost.

When gratitude for the Word of God and understanding of the need to reach the unsaved souls with the simple grace gospel and sound Bible teaching motivate you to contribute, you have the privilege of giving and sharing in the dissemination of the Word of God. This is a grace ministry.

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## Would You Join Us in Prayer?

### **GRACE EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES' PRAYER GROUP**

The importance of prayer cannot be over emphasized!

The God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ, gave us a perfect example to follow. His life and earthly ministry was encapsulated in a lifestyle of prayer. Prayer occupied a place of singular importance in His own life and teaching. In time of decision and crisis He gave Himself to prayer. Thus our Lord prayed when He was baptized (Luke 3:21,22); when He chose the twelve disciples: "It was at this time that He [Jesus Christ] went off to the mountain to pray and He spent the whole night in prayer to God [the Father]" (Luke 6:12,13); when He was transfigured (Luke 9:29); when He was engaging in sustained and exhausting service: "In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place (*for privacy*), and was praying there." (Mark 1:35-39); when He called forth Lazarus from the grave (John 11:41); when He was burdened for Simon Peter (Luke 22:31-32); when He faced betrayal, execution, and divine abandonment, and thus the Scripture recorded: "And He withdraw from them [His disciples] about a stone's throw, and he knelt down and began to pray...And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down

upon the ground” (Luke 22:41,44). He prayed when He thought of His disciples and their future ministry (John 17) and before His physical death (Luke 23:46). Therefore, if you are a believer who finds it difficult to spend a time with our heavenly Father, sin no more. “Far be it from that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you” (1 Samuel 12:23).

If Jesus Christ, a perfect God and a perfect Man spent all night in prayer (Luke 6:12-13), we the mortal believers should spend all year in Prayer!

In light of the importance of prayer, would join us as we pray:

1. That God would continue to open new doors for our ministry.
2. That God would continue to sustain the newly formed church in Cameroon, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.
3. That believers everywhere, especially in America, may have a renewed interest in learning and applying sound Bible doctrine.
4. That God would continue to meet the material and spiritual needs of our partners.
5. That God would continue to sustain R. B. Thieme Jr., and his ministry.
6. That God would provide sufficient funds to meet our monthly budget, pastors’ Conference and Crusade 2000 in Nigeria.
7. That God would continue to provide for the ministers and churches that are serving Him faithfully.
8. That God would provide and protect Mr. and Mrs. George Mueller as they plan to return to Cameroon in November to build a church.

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## Our Grace Ministry Has No Limits

Therefore, if you would like to be on our mailing list to receive this bi-monthly issue, "Grace News Today", or other materials of spiritual value, please write to the following address:

*Grace Evangelistic Ministries*

**P. O. Box 17246**

**Nashville, TN 37217-7246**

or

call us at **(615) 365-0015**

or

you may visit our web site

on the Internet at:

<http://www.gracemissions.org/>

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