

## Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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## Soteriology Part 2

The Doctrine of Grace

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## “Soteriology”

Greek *soteria* - salvation  
The doctrine of salvation

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## Historical Views of Grace

- Pelagian (Pelagius, died 419)
  - High view of human nature
  - Men do not need God's undeserved favor
  - Grace is external enlightenment
- Semi-Pelagian
  - God grants grace in response to man
  - Humans are weak but not totally depraved

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## Historical Views of Grace

- Roman Catholic
  - Similar to Semi-Pelagian
  - Grace is a power to assist human response
  - Sacraments are a means of grace
  - Grace can be lost and restored
  - Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a source of grace

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## Historical Views of Grace

- Arminian (Jacob Arminius, 1560-1609, Dutch theologian)
  - God's special grace given to all people
  - "Prevenient Grace" takes away the effects of original sin
  - Grace restores free will and moral agency
  - Grace allows the unbeliever to cooperate with God (synergism) and believe in the gospel
  - All people have the potential for salvation but grace can be resisted by man's free will.

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## Historical Views of Grace

- Karl Barth (1886-1968, Swiss Reformed theologian)
  - Christ's redemptive work is victory over human opposition to grace
  - God's grace is irresistible and all people will receive grace for salvation
  - His position leads directly to Universalism (all will be saved)

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## Historical Views of Grace

- Post-Vatican II Catholicism (1962-1965)
  - Humans are weakened by sin but can still reach out to God by grace
  - Grace extends to those beyond the visible church
- Reformed Evangelicals
  - Common and Special Grace
  - Total Depravity
  - Election

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## Grace in the Old Testament

- Gen 6:8
- Gen 18:3
- Ex 33:19
- Num 6:24-26
- Ps 41:4
- Ps 51:1
- Ex 33:12
- Ex 34:9; Judges 6:16; 2 Sam 15:25

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## Why We Need Grace

- Universality of Sin—Rom 5:12-19
- Total Depravity
  - Intellect—Eph 4:18; 1 Cor 2:14
  - Will—Rom 3:10ff
  - Emotions—Titus 3:3
  - Morals—Eph 4:19
  - Relationship with God—Col 1:21
- Left to themselves, sinners get worse not better—Rom 1:26-32

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## Common Grace

- God is good to all—Ps 145:9; Lk 6:35
- Supplies needs—Gen 27:28; Ps 65:9
- Upholds laws of nature—Job 37:13
- Restrains power of sin—Gen 6:3; 2 Thess 2:6-7
- Withholds judgment—Gen 8:21-22; Rom 2:4
- Government—Rom 13
- Conscience—Rom 2:14-15
- People do relative acts of goodness
- Common grace can be resisted—Isa 26:10
- Common grace is not salvific

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## Special Grace

- Definition: Grace is all that God does to save and restore lost sinners
- Aspects
  - Received through faith—Eph 2:8
  - Basis of salvation—Rom 3:24-25
  - Undeserved—Eph 2:8-9
  - Neither cheap nor costly—it is free—Rev 22:17; Rom 6:23
  - We live by grace—Heb 4:16; 13:9
  - Justified by grace—Titus 3:7
  - Regeneration is by grace—1 Peter 1:3

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## Prevenient Grace

- Definition: The general understanding among Christians that there is a grace of God that somehow takes the initiative in the salvation process
- Arminian View: neutralizes depravity (John 12:32; John 10:16; Acts 10:34-35; John 16:8)
- Reformed View: illumines the darkened mind

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## Irresistible/Effectual Grace

- Definition: Grace that cannot be rejected.
- Relationship to man's will: Grace makes the unwilling heart personally willing
- Scriptural Support:
  - Causes God's Word to take root in the heart—Jer 31:33
  - Gives a heart to know God—Jer 24:7
  - Frees from bondage of sin—Rom 6:18
  - Draws sinners to Christ—John 6:44
  - Imparts spiritual life to the spiritually dead—Eph 2:4-5

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## Practical Implications

- COMMON GRACE: Appreciation of...
  - Beauty—nature—good things that gladden the heart—creativity—our very lives—order of the universe—marriage—healthy relationships—government
- SPECIAL GRACE: Respond to God by...
  - Having a thankful heart
  - Applying grace to our Christian walk
  - Give evidence of grace in our dealings with others
  - Tell others about the grace of God

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