

Grace in Seven Words



by Bruce Woolard

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Seven Inspirational Messages to Refresh the Soul and Promote a
Sound and Mature Christian Faith.

MUSTERION

STAUROS

EUANGELON

CHARIZOMI

HAGIASMOS

CHRISTOS

HARPAZO

We stand in Grace. Grace is all that God is free to do for mankind on the basis of the work accomplished for us through our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ.
We are not only saved by Grace, through faith, we should grow in the Christian life by Grace through faith.

First Word of Grace

Musterion

Reading – Ephesians 3:3-6

Pauline theology unlike Petrine Theology reveals secrets that Peter himself thought hard to understand – 2 Peter 3:15-16. The Mystery of the Revelation given to Paul is contained in two thirds of the New Testament. He is the only writer who uses the metaphor “the Body of Christ” in his letters. His message is the “Musterion”. We are called to be the stewards of the secrets of the church.

1. Scriptures – 2 Timothy 3:16.
 - a) Doctrine.
 - b) Reproof.
 - c) Correction.
 - d) Instruction.

2. Scope
 - a) The Cross – Romans.
 - b) The Church – Ephesians.
 - c) The Climax – Thessalonians.

3. Sufficiency – 2 Corinthians 9:8
 - a) Our position as stewards.
 - b) Our passion as servants.

Second Word of Grace

Stauros

Reading – Romans 1:16

The theme of Romans is the Cross. The messianic apostles initially saw the cross as a national tragedy. The rejection of their Messiah was indeed a travesty. They saw the events of Golgotha through the eyes of the Torah – Deuteronomy 21:23 and Galatians 3:13.

Peter, in the book of Acts, asserts his conviction in terms of Israel's maltreatment of the Messiah – Acts 3:14-15. The prophets predicted a suffering Saviour – Acts 3:18. The apostle Paul is raised up to unveil God's secrets in terms of the Cross and the Body of Christ. The Cross through Paul's writings is a blessing not a curse.

1. Condemnation
 - a) Gentiles are under condemnation – Romans 1:18-32.
Nature, intuition, conscience, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel – Ephesians 2:12.
 - b) Jesus reinforced the need for national revival starting with Israel first – Matthew 10:5-6.

2. Crucifixion
 - a) The threefold rejection.
 - b) The Jews join the rebellion – Romans 3:23.

3. Characterisation
 - a) Conform to His character – Romans 8:28-29.
 - b) Identify with His character – Romans 6:1-6.

Paul the apostle sees the Gospel of the Cross as God's power (dunamis) – Romans 1:16 and 1 Corinthians 1:18.

To **the Romans** with all their military might the Cross is the power of God. To the Greeks with all their knowledge and influence the Cross is the power of God. The Jews with all their religious superiority the Cross is the power of God – 2 Timothy 3:5 & 7.

NOTES:

Third Word of Grace

Euangelion

Reading – 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.

Throughout Scripture God has called representatives Noah, Abraham, Moses, etc. The apostles laid the foundation – 1 Corinthians 3:10. Christ alone is our foundation. Peter's confession confirms Christ as the rock upon which we build our faith. Our responsibility is to build correctly. If the Gospel saves souls then we have to be particularly cautious what we preach and teach. We have to use the correct material. The Galatian warning is a sober reminder of our mission and stewardship.

An ambassadorship....

1. represents the head of state in a foreign country.
2. is appointed by Christ and is not self appointed - 1 Corinthians 1:26-29.
3. is not a citizen of the country where he is sent. We are citizens of heaven – Philippians 3:20.
4. has instructions in written form – 2 Timothy 3:16.
5. does not take insults personally – John 15:19-21.
6. does not enter a country to profit himself – 2 Corinthians 5:15.

7. perspective is service and his prospect is reward –
1 Corinthians 3:11-15.
8. is recalled when war is declared – 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

NOTES:

Fourth Word of Grace

Charizomai

Reading – Ephesians 4:32

Forgiveness is an issue that many believers grapple with. Some say I can forgive but I can't forget. What makes Christian forgiveness unique is that we forgive and choose how to remember. Too often we hear believers speak about forgiveness in terms of their ability to forgive others. God can't forgive you if you don't forgive others is an old cliché, but is this Scriptural? If we take the Lord's Prayer and other Bible references the cliché seems to fit. However, we need to understand the choice of words used in the New Testament to explain forgiveness.

Aphiemi means conditional forgiveness. I forgive if

The word Aphiemi is used in the following verses:

Matthew 6:12, Matthew 18:27,32, Matthew 9:2,5,6 Matthew 12:31,32 Acts 8:22, James 5:15,20, 1 John 1:9, 1 John 2:12, 1 Peter 4:8, Romans 4:7.

Charizomai means unconditional forgiveness. I forgive despite.....

The word Charizomai is used in the following verses:

Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 2:13, Colossians 3:13, 2 Corinthians 2:7,10, 2 Corinthians 12:13, Luke 7:43,43.

Fifth Word of Grace

Hagiasmos

Reading – Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:22-23.

By definition the word “Holiness” and “Saint” and “Sanctification” are rooted in Hagiasmos – to be different, unique, peculiar and separate. What is meant in essence by this word is our spirituality. Esau, Jacob and the “in Christ” concept.

1. **Expositionally**
Salvation includes justification. Sanctification and glorification.
 - a) Justification. We are saved (past tense).
 - b) Sanctification. We are being saved (pres/con tense).
 - c) Glorification. We will be saved (future tense).

2. **Experientially**
We need a daily filling. One baptism, many fillings –
1 Corinthians 12:12 & 13, Ephesians 1:13, Ephesians 5:18.

3. **Exemplary**
The Spirit filled believer will produce the fruits of the spirit –
Galatians 5:22-23.
 - a) Vertically – love, joy, peace.
 - b) Horizontally – patience, gentleness, goodness.
 - c) Personally – faithfulness, meekness, self control.

Sixth Word of Grace

Christos

Reading – Colossians 2:6-10

The expression “the anointing” has been so misused by modern day Christians that it is necessary to consider the term in a Biblical context.

Consider the following:

1. Aleipho – Literal oil or ointment.
2. Murizo – Anoint body for burial.
3. Chrio – The anointing of God.
4. Christos – His anointed.

The above verbs have the corresponding noun:

Chrisma - it signifies an anointing and is used metaphorically in 1 John 2:20. In its post cross usage, the term “anointing” is in reference to Christ our Saviour as the anointed one.

The Holy Spirit is the one who unctions and ignites the fire within the soul. Consider the following:

Parakaleo

Parakaleo is one of the oldest and richest words in the Greek language. The compound – *para*, “alongside,” and *kaleo*, “to call,”

conjured up at least five vivid pictures to the Greeks. It was used to mean:-

1. **To rekindle a flame.** *Paralaleo* pictured someone gently, patiently blowing on dying embers to bring a fire to life again.
2. **To call forth comfort.** *Parakaleo* pictured the cries of a frightened child in the night calling forth the comfort and reassurance of his father.
3. **To call a physician.** *Parakaleo* pictured someone who was injured calling for a physician to set his broken bone or bind his wound.
4. **To stabilize the troops.** *Parakaleo* pictured the military officer who in the heat of battle could calmly encourage, exhort and steady the frightened soldiers in his ranks.
5. **To plead one's case.** *Parakaleo* pictured the counsel for the defence, making an appeal for his client before a judge.

Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would be the *Parakletos* – the Encourager, the Helper, the Consoler, the Comforter – who would take His place. All things that Jesus was to the disciples, the Holy Spirit would be when Jesus was gone. The Spirit would do in the disciples what the Lord in the flesh did for them.

NOTES:

Seventh Word of Grace

Harpazo

Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Eschatology sadly so is avoided by Evangelical Schools or institutes because of the diverse views on the subject. Israel's hope was on an earthly kingdom and our hope is in a heavenly call.

1. Millennium Schools

A- Millennium

Post – Millennium

Pre-Millennium.

Pre-Tribulation

Mid-Tribulation

Post-Tribulation.

2. Motivation

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

3. Marriage

Read 2 Corinthians 11:2 and 1 Corinthians 3:12-15.

Christ the groom, the Church His bride, Church Leaders the bestmen.