



The Spoils of His Victory

Grace greater than our sin

But if it (salvation) is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace. – Romans 11:6 (NASV)

Introduction – I was compelled recently to follow the Tour de France as Lance Armstrong gained an unprecedented 7th Yellow Jersey. Lance had to endure a great deal of pain and sacrifice this year to put himself into position for victory. The spoils of victory in the Tour include a substantial cash prize, but much more important is the acclaim of the cycling world and the billions of people who follow the race.

But what Lance had to endure is nothing compared to what Jesus endured in pain and suffering as he paid the penalty as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of humankind. His victory over sin and Satan earned him the ultimate spoils or as Hebrews 12:2 puts it, “the joy set before Him.” This joy – these spoils, are the millions of souls who are now able to come into the presence of God for eternity as a result of Jesus’ victory. That means that you and I as followers of Jesus are part of the spoils of His victory. We have been redeemed! But what does it really mean to have been redeemed? That’s what we’ll discover during this 4-week study in *thequest Institute*. This study is important so that we can truly understand all that happens when someone is “saved” and then to be able to share it with others.

July 31 – Grace that is greater than all our sin – Redemption happens because of God’s grace. We’ll learn the difference between common grace and special/saving grace.

August 7 – What it means to be born again – The theological term is “regeneration.” What causes it and where do faith and repentance fit in?

August 14 – It’s a legal thing – Again, the theological terms are “justification” and “adoption,” but what they mean to us will blow your mind!

August 21 – Growing in holiness – Salvation marks the beginning of a process that allows us to become more like Christ. We’ll look both at God’s role and our role in that process.

Jesus’ death and resurrection brought redemption

What is redemption? As defined by *Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, **redemption** means “a loosing, particularly by paying a price.”

- What are some everyday examples of redeeming someone or something?

- Read Romans 3:22-24, Galatians 3:13-14, and Colossians 1:13-14. What do you learn about redemption from these passages.
 - Who is the redeemer?
 - Who is redeemed?
 - What are they redeemed from?

Redemption comes as a result of God's grace

What is grace? Grace might be defined as bestowing favor upon someone even though they don't deserve it. Maybe it's best to define God's *grace* by comparing it to two other aspects of His goodness, His *mercy* and His *patience*.

- God's *mercy* means His goodness toward those in misery and distress.
- God's *patience* means His Goodness in withholding punishment toward those who sin over a period of time.
- God's *grace* means His goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.

Let's examine two aspects of God's grace: Common Grace and Saving Grace

Common Grace – Common grace is the grace of God by which He gives people innumerable blessings that are not part of salvation. We find examples of common grace in five realms:

1. **The physical realm**
 - Matthew 5:44-45
 - Other examples?
2. **The intellectual realm**
 - Romans 1:18-21
 - Other examples?
3. **The moral realm**
 - Romans 2:14-15
 - Other examples?
4. **The creative realm** – examples?
5. **The societal realm**
 - Romans 13:1
 - Other examples?

Why do you think God gives common grace to all humankind?

What are some implications for us as followers of Jesus?

Saving Grace – Even exceptionally large amounts of common grace do not imply that those who receive it will be saved. People still need to come to terms with the gospel of Jesus Christ, or they will be condemned for eternity, and that only happens by saving grace.

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10 – What is the catalyst for salvation?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:9-10 – How is Paul an incredible example of God's grace?
- Read Romans 11:1-6 – Grace for the Jews as well
- How are you an example of God's grace?

Only By Grace

CHORUS

Only by grace can we enter
Only by grace can we stand
Not by our human endeavor
But by the blood of the Lamb
Into Your presence You call us
You call us to come
Into Your presence You draw us
And now by Your grace we come
Now by Your grace we come

Lord if You mark
Our transgressions
Who would stand
Thanks to Your grace we are
Cleansed by the blood of the Lamb