

GMP Status

Grace, Mercy, and Peace

1 Timothy 1:2

“To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord”

Introduction

- * How you pray for your family members and friends is important
- * There is no better way to pray for someone you love than by following the example found in Scripture

Paul often asked for *specific gifts* from God for those He cared about

- * On Timothy’s behalf, Paul prayed for Timothy’s **GMP Status**
- * **GMP - grace, mercy, and peace** – [This is a word for many today]
- * A whole lot of folks need God Grace – God Mercy – God Peace

There is nothing in this world that can bring a settling to a soul than to have a powerful GMP Status – simply to be in position to receive Gods *Grace, Mercy and Peace!* We can bring a GMP presence into the lives of others]

Grace

Grace is the unearned gifts the Father bestows on His children

- * The Lord relates to us only by His grace
- * His grace provided salvation though we deserved destruction

Ephesians 2:8-10 (KJV)

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”

This passage is one of the great evangelistic summaries of the Bible

*This passage is the watchword for reformation theology:
By grace alone, through faith alone, to God alone be the glory
(sola gratia, sola fida, soli deo gloria)*

In 1517 Martin Luther issued 95 theses criticizing church doctrine and practices, supporters broke away and established protestant churches

* The background to Luther's Ninety-Five Theses centers on agreements within the Catholic Church regarding baptism and absolution

* **Absolution**: meaning formal release from guilt obligation or punishment – simply Martin Luther was looking at how the Catholic Church dealt with the priest giving absolution for sin

Significantly, the Theses offer a view on the validity of **indulgences** (**Indulgences** remissions of temporal punishment due for sins which have already been forgiven)

* The thesis also view with great cynicism the practice of indulgences being sold, and thus **the penance for sin representing a financial transaction rather than genuine contrition**

* Luther's theses argued that the sale of indulgences was a gross violation of **the original intention of confession and penance**, and that Christians were being falsely told that they could find absolution [meaning formal release from guilt obligation or punishment] through the purchase of indulgences

I have great God News for you!

Ephesians 2:8-10 (KJV)

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”

If a man wants to be saved, these verses tell him how to be saved

- * Salvation is the work of God, of God's grace and of God's grace alone
- * Salvation is not of man, not to any degree whatsoever
- * For it is by GRACE we are saved through faith!

Romans 5:6

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly"

Romans 5:8

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"

Romans 11:5-6 (KJV)

"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work" – [Simply it is by grace not by works we are saved]

Titus 2:11-14

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works"

Simply - Salvation is a free gift of God

- * It is by grace alone that man is saved
- * Man can do nothing whatsoever to save himself
- * He cannot earn, win, or merit salvation

All man can do is accept the fact that God says He will save him, accept as true the free offer of salvation – a receive by faith His Gift

1 Timothy 1:2

“To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, Mercy, and Peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord”

* Timothy ["honouring God"]

* Paul called Timothy a true son – simply one he was mentoring

Paul was saying, Timothy you *GMP* status is from God our Father and Jesus our Lord

* Grace, Mercy, and Peace - from - *God* [Theos – meaning the God Head] our Father AND Jesus ["Jehovah is salvation"] Christ ["anointed"] our Lord

How is your Grace Status?

Acts 20:32

“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified” [Sanctified –set aside for Gods Work]

We are to live for God and for God's Word

The "*Word of God's grace*" is the *Word of God's favor*

* Of His glorious salvation in its fullness

* Of His truth

* Of His will

Therefore, the "*Word of God's grace*" is **His revealed Word**

* **Both the Living Word** (Christ Himself)

* **And the written Word** (the Holy Bible)

We are to place God's Word into our life - to place, commit, entrust, fix, lay, and deposit his life with God and His Word

Grace [Salvation and its Fullness]

- * His grace blesses us with the riches of heaven
- * His grace brings us peace in troublesome times
- * His grace brings us good things every day

God and His Word will build up and edify the believer

1 Corinthians 3:10-14

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder - I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, **which is Jesus Christ**. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward"

- * Paul was saying because of the Grace of God which I have I am a wise master builder – I have laid the foundation!
- * I have laid a foundation for others to build upon
- * But let every man take heed or be very careful how they build upon it

JESUS [Jehovah is salvation] **Christ** [The anointed one – the Messiah] **is the foundation**

- * What you build on this foundation will be revealed by fire
- * The fire of God will try every thing built

Matthew 7:21-29 (KJV)

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes”

The reason the people were amazed is that Jesus taught with authority.

This probably means several things

1. He spoke with a tone that sounded authoritative
2. He spoke as the true Messiah, a Person who had the right to dictate laws and give commandments and to expect obedience.
3. He spoke in the power of the Holy Spirit. As He spoke the Spirit of God moved in the hearts of those who believed Him to be the Messiah. When Christ teaches there is always an attraction, a drawing, a pull to Him.

HOW IS YOUR GMP STATUS?

Are You A GRACE BUILDER?

2 Samuel 22:3

“The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence”

2 Samuel 22:47

“The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation”

Psalm 62:2

“He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved”

Psalm 95:1

“O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation”

Shout out to the Lord – He is the Giver of Grace, Mercy and Peace

1 Timothy 1:2

“To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord”

Grace

Grace is the unearned gifts the Father bestows on His children

Mercy

Mercy is God withholding the punishment we deserve because of our sinfulness

- * The consequences of our sin is death - yet Jesus paid this penalty for us
- * Because of Gods Grace we receive Gods Mercy

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”

- * God is long-suffering and will delay giving us our just punishment in order for us to have every opportunity to repent and to receive His gift of salvation.

2 Peter 3:9 (KJV)

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”

Why has Christ not yet returned to earth?

* Because God loves man, because He loves the whosoevers, because He loves you and me; He does not want any person to perish, not a single person

God is not slack in fulfilling His promise nor is He powerless to return and judge the earth

- * He has not returned for one reason and one reason only
- * He wants more and more people to come to repentance

God is longsuffering

The word means...

- * That God is patient with us
- * That God bears and suffers a long time with us
- * That God perseveres and is constant in suffering with us
- * That God is steadfast and enduring in being patient with us

Very simply - God is slow to give in and to judge and condemn us

- * God loves and cares for us despite our sin and rebellion, cursing and rejection – David sinned and repented because he had a heart for God
- * This is the very reason He sent Christ to save us
- * He loves and cares for us; therefore, He is suffering a long time with us
- * Praise the Lord aren't you thankful that He was longsuffering for you

9.

Many have a GMP that's more about them that it is about God

Genesis 19: 17-19

“ 17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my LORD:

19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die”

*** When the angels led Lot and his family outside the city, the angels warned Lot again and urged him to escape for his life, to flee to the mountains out of the plain lest he be consumed (Genesis 19:17)**

Gods Grace and Mercy had Lot set up to leave to be set free - delivered

*** Do you know what I mean by this – have you ever been in a place that was not conducive to your well being and God is trying to step in to bring you out and suddenly we start moving slowly to the escape route**

Lot pleaded against God's will (Genesis 19:18)

*** Lot claimed to be physically incapable of reaching the mountain, that he might not be able to climb it in time to escape the destruction.**

Genesis 19:19

“19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die”

*** But this was a camouflage, self-deception for a worldly heart**

*** God was saving him from the coming judgment, and God would have strengthened him for the journey to the mountain**

Gods Grace and Mercy will give you strength – God strength to overcome

*** This point of Mercy is a place that must be guarded when God is bringing deliverance to you.**

10.

Lot pleaded for the right to escape to a city nearby, to Zoar

Genesis 19:20 (KJV)

“20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live”

*** Tragic, pitiful, sorry—how sorry a person Lot had become: begging to stay close to Sodom, to the comforts of the world he had known.**

*** Remember - Lot was a wealthy businessman with large herds and holdings**

*** Perhaps he thought his herds might be spared (after all, they were outside the city) if he could get God to spare Zoar and let him live there**

Whatever the case, Lot was still trying to hold on to the world, to its possessions and comforts, to hold on even after God had just done so much for him. And Lot was very aware of the mercy God was showing him. He clearly said so -

Genesis 19:19

“19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die”

*** God now accepted Lot's choice: he was allowed to live in Zoar and Lot continued living a worldly, carnal life**

The Mercy of God allows us to make a choice

*** Remember Mercy leaves a trail behind you**

*** The Mercy of the Lord was the offer of deliverance**

*** The Mercy of the Lord allowed Lot to make the choice for Mercy**

God's Mercy is just that – Gods Mercy – Sometimes we Mess with Mercy

*** Or should I say – we make a Mess out of Gods Mercy**

11.

Proverbs 14:14

"The backslider [to move, go, turn back, move away, backslide] in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself"

Galatians 4:9

"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?"

Hebrews 10:38

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him"

Revelation 2:4

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love"

But I have God Gospel Mercy News for you!

Jeremiah 3:22

"Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God"

- * Return [Repent]
- * Ye backsliding children [Your back into sin]

Gods Mercy – choice is yours

- * If you Return I will Heal [Mercy of God is not getting what we deserve!]

We need to understand and live the true Mercy that the Lord gives those who are saved

- * Mercy is not Lets Make A Deal Time and Time Again
- * One foot in and the other out – God Hokey Pokey
- * Mercy is walking and moving in Gods Will, Purpose and Leading

Gods Mercy leaves a trail of Gods Testimony *PT*

Psalm 23:6

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever”

* God Mercy truly leaves a trail of God Testimony!

How's your GMP?

* Your Grace Gauge – Your Mercy Trail – Your Peace Presence

Peace

Peace is the state of mind and heart we experience when we are confident of God's grace and mercy toward us.

Philippians 1:6

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”

* **Confident:** Here means: *persuade*

Romans 8: 38-39 [KJ]

“38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”

Peace – in Gods Salvation!

* **Jesus** [Jehovah saves]

Peace comes in knowing that God's grace will sustain us, even in our most difficult crises

Philippians 4:7 (KJV)

“7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds **through Christ Jesus**”

Once we have made peace with God, then the peace of God floods our lives

Philippians 4:4-9 (KJV)

“4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice

- * **When you have Gods Peace you can truly Rejoice**
- * **Simply nothing, no one, no thing can mess with your praise and worship**
- * **Why cause MY WITNESS is I ALWAYS REJOICE IN THE LORD**

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

- * **My Witness is known unto all me**
- * **The Lord is at hand**
- * **The Atmosphere - The God Atmosphere is conducive to my moderation**
- * **How I deal with the Lost**
- * **How I deal with the saved**

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

- * **God’s peace comes because I PRAY**
- * **Not anxious – simply not to fret or worry**

The word “Nothing”

- * **Means: Not Even One Thing!**
- * **Prayer is a key to Gods Peace**

Worry and Fretting, Doubt and Fear will never let God Peace Near! PT

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- * **God’s Peace will touch out Heart and the Attitude of our Heart**
- * **God’s Peace will always set the condition of our Heart**
- * **God’s Peace will always give us a sound mind**
- * **Our Head will be on God Straight!**

Philippians 4: 8-9

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

- * When you mind is thinking God Clearly
- * Your eyes see with God Clarity
- * Your actions are God Led we move in God Confidence
- * The Results are God

The Peace of God births Confidence**Psalm 27: 1-6 [KJ]**

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

5 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD”

God assures us that even when we fail miserably in our commitments to Him, He will show mercy upon us.

This assurance gives us peace.

The peace God gives is fundamentally different from the peace the world offers

John 14:27(KJV)

“ 27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”

*** The world seeks to sedate us from the problems we face through counseling or drugs or temporary pleasures.**

*** The peace that God gives goes right to the soul, relieving the heart and mind.**

How are you praying for your loved ones, friend and community?

There could be no better request than asking the Lord to give them an abundance of His grace, His mercy, and His peace.

We need to pray and seek God to touch our

GMP Status

Grace, Mercy, and Peace



Note: Open

The Condition of the Heart

Luke 8:15 (KJV)

“15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience”

*** The ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.**

At any time, the receptiveness of your heart will determine your response to God's word

Luke 8:4-18 (KJV)

“4 And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable:

5 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

9 And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?

10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

16 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

17 For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

18 Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have”

If your heart is like the trampled ground, hardened by the sin of bitterness and unforgiveness - you will be unable to accept a message from God.

* Though you hear the words of the message, you will remain unchanged - If your heart is like the shallow soil on top of a rock, you will accept

God’s word in your mind, but the truth will not penetrate your heart to make a difference in your actions.

* A heart like thorny soil is a life that is distracted by the cares of the world; the pursuit of earthly pleasures prevents God’s word from taking hold and producing righteousness.

The heart that is like good soil receives a word from God, applies it, and brings forth fruit in due time.

* This is the heart that Jesus desires in us, for the fruit will be a Christ like life.

Any time you hear a word from God, whether through Bible reading, prayer, or worship, the way you respond will depend on how you have cultivated your heart

Hosea 10:11-12 (KJV)

“11 And Ephraim is as an heifer that is taught, and loveth to tread out the corn; but I passed over upon her fair neck: I will make Ephraim to ride; Judah shall plow, and Jacob shall break his clods.

12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you”

How do you develop a heart that is like good soil? Repent of any bitterness, anger, or unforgiveness that is hardening your heart

*** Meditate on God’s word until it enters deep into your heart and not just your mind.**

When you read or hear a word from God, apply it to your life and let God bring His word into reality in your life

Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

“9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”

Protect your lifestyle

*** See that you don’t devote all of your energy to worldly concerns, rather than to pursuing your relationship with God.**

The condition of your heart will vary, depending on how you cultivate it. If it was receptive to a word from God yesterday, this does not guarantee it is receptive today

Daily prepare your heart for the word God has for you!

1 Samuel 13:14

“But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you”

1 Samuel 16:7

“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart”