



**"Need to know " ... necessary essentials for the person who desires to honor God with a life of obedience, holiness and reverence.**

**1. We need to know that we are saved by grace.**

We learned last week that grace means action. In his infinite, eternal wisdom God chose to save some. Grace is the saving action of God based on and carried out through his wisdom, power, authority and riches.

- (Acts 15:11 ESV) But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.
- (Ephesians 2:5 ESV) Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.
- (Ephesians 2:8 ESV) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

**2. We need to know that we are commanded to set our hope fully (completely) on God's saving grace.**

- (1 Peter 1:13 ESV) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

This command excludes us from putting our hope anywhere else. Our hope is to be nowhere else except on God completing his work of grace in our lives. This verse speaks of the ultimate, complete fulfillment and finished work of God's grace concerning our salvation. We experience the grace of God now; we will experience the full measure of his grace when Jesus Christ is revealed at the end of the age.

**3. We need to know the "backstory"—that this saving grace was given to us in Christ Jesus in eternity past.**

- (2 Timothy 1:9 ESV) Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

**4. We need to know that this saving grace is part of a much bigger plan—the glory of God.**

In his infinite, eternal plan and purpose God does love us, but saving us from our sins is not the plan but only part of the bigger plan—the glory of God. He loves us, but we are not the main thing. He is the main thing. Our salvation is to the praise of his glory.

**Connecting the Dots:**

**God will not fail in any part of his plan.**

- (Ephesians 1:11–14 ESV) In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**The big plan is glory to God.** God decided in eternity past to create our world with that intent, and he will bring that about because he is God. The creation of our world and all the events that transpire and the actions of people throughout Earth's history will be used providentially by God to bring glory to his name.

**A ROUGH OUTLINE ...**

**THE PROGRESSION OF THE BIG PLAN OF GOD ...**

**A. God determined his purpose and formulated a plan in what we call eternity past.**

God can do this sort of thing because he is the King of eternity.

- (1 Timothy 1:17 ESV) To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**B. God tells us about some of the things that he had determined before he created the world.**

He informs us in the Bible that he chose people who were yet to be created—let alone born—to become his holy people.

- (2 Timothy 1:9 ESV) [God] Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.
- (Titus 1:2 ESV) In hope of eternal life,

which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began.

- (Acts 4:28 ESV) To do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.
- (Romans 8:29 ESV) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
- (Ephesians 1:5 ESV) He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

### C. God created the world including humans, and the humans rebelled.

As he knew they would, his human creation rebelled against his sovereign rule. And when Adam and Eve sinned and fell short of the glory of God, we all did—sinned and fell short of the glory of God.

- Genesis 3
- (Romans 5:12 ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because **all** sinned.
- (Romans 3:23 ESV) For **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

### D. The rebellion did not alter God's plan at all.

God knew all of this beforehand. You do not change eternal decrees that have been conceived in the mind of and by the infinite wisdom of our eternal, infinite, triune God.

The rebellion was not a surprise and would not change God's plan to have a holy people who would serve and worship him and spend eternity with him in glory. There was no way that an event (or events) in a time and a world that the Sovereign Lord of the universe created, would alter the infinite, eternal plan of the King of the ages.

### E. The rebellion set the stage for the saving grace of God.

In fact, the rebellion prepared the way for God to save by grace those whom he had chosen. Why? Or how? Because now the entire planet was cursed and death reigned. Everyone born after Adam and Eve would be born as enemies of God, dead spiritually and totally

incapable of doing anything good to change their status before a holy God.

So, yes, the stage was set for the grace of God to save the humans who had fallen short of God's glory and who were totally incapable of gaining God's favor. In the deadness and darkness of their sin, they could not and would not see the doom that was before them.

### F. Yes, if there was any saving to be done, then God would have to be the one to do it. And that is grace.

- (Ephesians 2:1–9 ESV) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

### G. God will complete to the last detail his plan to have a holy people who will bring him glory for all eternity.

- (1 Peter 1:13 ESV) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

God had his plan for grace in place before the creation of this world by which he would make a way to fulfill his plan for making some of his human creation into holy people who would live with him forever in glory.

- (1 Peter 2:9–10 ESV) But you are a

chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- (Ephesians 1:1–14 ESV) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

*"Don't sweat it, Chicken Little!"  
God will complete his work of  
grace in your life.*

*All our eggs are in God's basket -  
the "Grace" Basket ...*

