

AMAZING GRACE

INTRODUCTION:

1. How many times have our hearts filled with joy at the singing of this song?
2. John Newton's song "Amazing Grace" has touched hearts of countless people through the ages. He lost his mother at age seven and became a sailor at eleven. He became a very ungodly young man. On one treacherous trip, he began to think about his sinful life and started praying to God. He also started reading his Bible and going to church. He began preaching at age thirty-nine and preached for forty-three years. During this period he wrote the words to "Amazing Grace." Larry Merrifield has personal connection to this song.
3. Eph. 2:5-10
4. Titus 2:11-12

DISCUSSION:

1. Grace Defined

1. "Grace" derives from the Greek, charis. In secular Greek, charis was related to chairo, "to rejoice." As far back as Homer it denoted "sweetness" or "attractiveness."
2. Charis came to signify "favor," "goodwill," and "lovingkindness" — especially as granted by a superior to an inferior.
3. In the New Testament, "grace" (156 times) takes on a special redemptive sense in which God makes available his favor on behalf of sinners, who actually do not deserve it.
4. There is tremendous emphasis in the New Testament upon the fact that human salvation is the result of Heaven's grace. This beautiful truth should never be minimized. At the same time, it must not be perverted.
5. Unfortunately, much too often those with only a superficial concept of grace have hijacked the term and foisted upon it a sense alien to scriptural teaching. Let us consider some of the precious Bible truths associated with the concept of salvation by grace.

2. Grace is for everyone

1. Titus 2:11-12
2. Rom. 5:1; 6:3-4, 17

3. Grace and Knowledge are Connected

1. Titus 2 teaches us that grace "instructs us."
2. Isa. 2:3
3. John 6:45

4. Grace is Conditional

1. Gen. 6:22
2. Heb. 11:7
3. 2 Cor. 6:1

5. Grace is not Earned

1. Eph. 2:5-10
2. Luke 17:10