Introduction: Grace is often defined as 'unmerited favor." We often speak of justice, mercy, and grace. Justice is when you get what you deserve. Mercy is when you do not get what you deserve. Grace is when you get what you do not deserve. Grace has been extended from God toward man, in that God did for man what man could not do for himself. It is by God's grace man will be saved. The question though arises as to how man receives God's grace or if that grace is unconditional.

**I) Grace In the Universal Sense**

**A) God's power and grace was extended to all mankind without condition, 2 Peter 3.9**

1. **Titus 2.11** the grace of God appears to all.

2. Must look to **verse 12** because it means something.

**B) The Calvinist teaches that due to mans total depravity grace and faith both are bestowed on man, Ephesians 2.8**

1. If such is true than all will be saved because God wants everyone to be saved.

2. But we know that not all will be saved so the very premise must be flawed.

3. **Ephesians 2.4-6** shows the condition of the Gentiles before they heard the Gospel. They were lost, as all of mankind is lost without the Gospel of Christ.

4. God sending Jesus to die on the cross was God's grace.

5. Since not all will be save we must ask why?

a. **Galatians 5.4** some were attempting to be saved by the Law of Moses.

b. **2 Corinthians 6.1,14** some were trying to worship idols; fellowship those in sin.

**II) Proper Understanding Of Grace**

**A) Begins with God, 2 Timothy 1.9,10.**

1. The mercy of God on fallen man.

2. The means of salvation, **Ephesians 1.7**

**B) Mankind did not merit Jesus**

1. **Romans 5.8; 8.31-32** we all deserve death; because we are all sinners.

2. The song Amazing Grace expressed the relationship of man in sin with God.

a. Stresses the great love and compassion of God extended to mankind, **John 3.16.**

b. This grace extended to man in Christ, **Ephesians 2.5**

3. The means of salvation is Christ.

a. The operation of salvation is forgiveness.

b. The condition of receiving is faith.

**C) At what point are we saved?**

1. Salvation comes at the point where God says it comes.

2. So we have to look at where Jesus says we are saved; at the point of obedience, **Mark 16.16**.

3. Does our baptism merit salvation? No it is by grace; **Acts 2.40** and **Phil. 2.12.**

**III) Illustration of Grace And Faith**

**A) Walls of Jericho, Joshua 6.1-5; 15-16, 20.**

1. Why did the walls fall down? Because God promised Israel the walls would fall down. **Hebrews 11.30**

2. What condition did God place on Israel to receive this grace? They had to march around the city of Jericho.

**B) Naaman the leper in 2 Kings 5.1-5, 13.14**

1. What was Naaman's condition, he was a leper.

2. What was he told to do? To wash -- to bathe completely in the river.

3. What did he do? He dipped himself, baptizo.

4. At what point did he receive God's grace? When he did what God said to do.

**C) The blind man in John 9.1, 6-7**

1. The pool was the method God used to heal this man.

2. God is the giver of salvation. The method of receiving salvation is up to God.

**IV) The Nature of Faith**

**A) Absolute dependence on God**

1. To trust in His way and not ours, **1 Corinthians 1.21,23-24**

2. Walls of Jericho falling down, Naaman the leper, the blind man all had to depend and trust in God's plan.

3. The Gospel message is that God sent Jesus to die for us.

**B) In order to receive salvation, God's grace man must trust in God**

1. Not change the conditions of salvation, **Habakkuk 2.20**

2. We must give ourselves to God in heart, in attitude, in action.

Conclusion: When we accept Jesus as the Son of God, repent of our sins, are baptized for the remission of our sins; we are accepting the grace of God.