

Amazing Grace

Favorites



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Published and distributed by
GRACE GOSPEL PUBLISHERS Inc.
P.O. Box 21001
Denver, Colorado 80221

www.GraceGospelPublishers.org
(Read "Amazing Grace Favorites" on line)

303-428-6563

About This Book..

Since the first issue in January, 1963, the monthly Bible study/devotional booklet "Amazing Grace" has been consistent. Edited by Pastor Win Johnson until he went Home in 1993, it was his conviction that the way Saints could become established and increase their 'devotion' to the Lord was to spend time studying the Word every day.

The monthly booklet has been unique in that the writers have been committed to the preaching and teaching of "Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery" [Romans 16:25]. We are grateful for their faithfulness to God and His Word as they have shared their insight with all of us.

In looking back through forty-eight years of articles, we have been encouraged, inspired and blessed again and again.

Now as a one-year book that presents 366 'favorites', we pray the Lord will use it to bring blessing to *your* life in a special way.

Ron Achtyes

“Study
to show thyself
approved unto God,
a workman that
needeth
not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing
the word of
truth.”

II Timothy 2:15

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

Scripture Reading: Psalms 46:10

“Without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God *must believe that He is*, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6). The eternal being of God is the fundamental factor in the process of establishing fellowship between the Creator and His creation. Before we can believe God, we must believe that He exists. Further, we must recognize Him for what He is. Moses inquired of God: “Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you, and they shall say to me, What is His name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you” (Exodus 3:13, 14).

Speaking in His earthly incarnation, God affirmed to doubting Jews, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). In Psalm 90, verse two we read, “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.”

The Westminster Catechism offers this definition of God: “God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.” Of course, no human vocabulary can completely define the Deity. The existence of such a being is awesome and overwhelming to consider. Our only possible course is not attempting to understand God’s existence but to simply believe by faith that HE IS. In His own words, “Be still, and know that I am God.” “Lean not unto thine own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5b).

Robert E. Hanna

Notes:

GOD THE CREATOR

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Our finite intelligence is incapable of comprehending matters spiritual by practical examination. If we would know and understand the things of God, we must rely solely upon acceptance of that which is revealed in His Holy Word, the Scriptures wherein we find that “In the beginning God created the heaven and earth.” Thus by faith we can know Him—but by what means?

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. And all things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us... (John 1:1-3, 14a). God incarnate! Jesus Christ, the Living Word. If we know Christ then we know God. “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30). “...He that hath seen me hath seen the Father...” (John 14:9).

Christ took on human form; “He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not” (John 1:10, 11). Whom were ‘His own’? He clearly stated “I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 15:24). He had arrived according to prophecy: “...And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, *The Mighty God*, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6b) “...And they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, *God with us*” (Matthew 1:23b).

“Jesus Christ was a minister *of the circumcision.*” (Romans 15:8). How then shall we (not of the circumcision) know Him? See verse 16!

REH

Notes:

GOD, GIVER OF LIFE*Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:7*

"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." There are those who would have us believe that the beginning of life occurred when, millions of years ago, a glob of ooze slithered out of the ocean and evolved into all manner of weird creatures until gradually you and I were produced as the direct progeny of a society of apes. May we respectfully submit that this analysis is categorically untrue! God has been the source and the bestower of life from the beginning.

When God the Son walked the earth, the power of life was in His hands. Writing to believers, John declared, "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (I John 5:11,12). "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them [makes them alive] even so the Son quickeneth whom He will" (John 5:21).

As is the case with all of God's characteristics, all three entities of the Godhead are in control of the essence and infusion of life. "If Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness" (Romans 8:10). We cannot define or analyze life, neither can we understand the process of the giving and taking of it. There are both temporary and permanent aspects of life. "...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away (James 4:14b). "When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:4).

REH

*Notes:***GOD THE OMNIPOTENT***Scripture Reading: Isaiah 44:6*

"Thus saith the Lord...I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God." And God the Son, Jesus Christ, affirms: "Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive evermore..." (Revelation 1:17b, 18a). And Hebrews 9:14 speaks of "the eternal Spirit". Thus it is clear that each of the three persons of the Holy Trinity is identified with total and timeless authority and power. "Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite" (Psalm 147:5). Christ made this unequivocal claim: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18b). "Ah Lord God! Behold, Thou hast made the heaven and the earth by Thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for Thee" (Jeremiah 32:17).

Job declared, "I know that Thou canst do everything..." (Job 42:2a). Knowing the truth of this statement, it is tempting to the human reasoning to ponder why God did not preserve His perfect original creation. Why has He not prevented griefs and sufferings from coming upon His people? Perfection is His ultimate desire and goal. And peace is the eventual condition to be attained through the process of His expressed will and purpose. Why then has He permitted negative influences to frustrate the accomplishment of this eventual end?

We have not the privilege of critical conjecture. "What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For He saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion" "Hath not the potter power over the clay...?" (Romans 9:14, 15, 21a).

REH

Notes:

THE OMNIPRESENT GOD

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 23: 23, 24

“Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.” This awesome characteristic of God presents myriad points of consideration seemingly incomprehensible to our poor mortal minds. It is believable only by faith; God says that He is everywhere at all times—thus we know it to be true. There are no half-measures with God. He isn't partly one thing and partly another. We must accept the fact that everything we do or say is done and said in His presence! To the truly spiritual this knowledge is comforting, just as recognition of the constantly indwelling Holy Spirit is conducive to our peace of mind.

To him not securely grounded in the faith, perhaps God's uninterrupted observance of his every movement may prove disquieting. In either case, He is there and is exercising His will. Nothing will deter Him from accomplishing His determined purpose. To do so, His attribute of omnipresence is an absolute necessity.

Jesus Christ [the Son] assured His disciples, “...Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20). Of course, we who are the saved in this dispensation of His grace are secure in this knowledge because we know that our condition is the same as that of the Apostle Paul: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but *Christ liveth in me...*” (Galatians 2:20a). The psalmist said it well: “Whither shall I go from Thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there” (Psalm 139:7, 8).

REH

Notes:

GOD THE FATHER

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:6

“Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures” (James 1:16-18).

God the Father is the focal point of all that ever was, now is and ever shall be. How revealing of this undeniable fact are the words of the Apostle Paul's salutation in his letter to the church at Galatia: “Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world according to the will of God and our Father: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” (Galatians 1:3-5).

Indicative of the Father's separate role within the operation of the Godhead, is His introduction of the Son as His earthly ministry was to begin. “Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:16, 17). Notable is the fact that on this occasion all three Persons of the Holy Trinity were present and functioning, each in a specific position and action. How incomprehensible to our mortal minds is this!

We pray to the Father, in the name of the Son, by intercession of the Holy Spirit. How can we understand this process? We cannot! Then how do we know that it is so? Simply by believing God's Word by faith!

REH

Notes: