



# **THE GRAND SCOPE OF REDEMPTION**

## **Lesson 3: The Heart of Redemption**

**A Look at the Foundation of Salvation – the Grace of God**

***“Great God of wonders! All Thy ways are worthy of Thyself – divine:  
And the bright glories of Thy grace among Thine other wonders shine;  
Who is a pardoning God like Thee? Or who has grace so rich and free?”***

**Samuel Davies**



**Samuel Davies**



**Michael Horton**

***“The only theological perspective that we find naturally attractive is the one  
in which our own guilt is minimized, our goodness is affirmed, encouragement for  
self-improvement is offered, and the promise of salvation is credited to our success.”***

**Michael Horton**

"A book to be read, a book to be reckoned with."

—LOS ANGELES TIMES



# NEIGHBORS

JAN T. GROSS

*With a new preface by the author*

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE JEWISH  
COMMUNITY IN JEDWABNE, POLAND



# 1. Understanding Grace

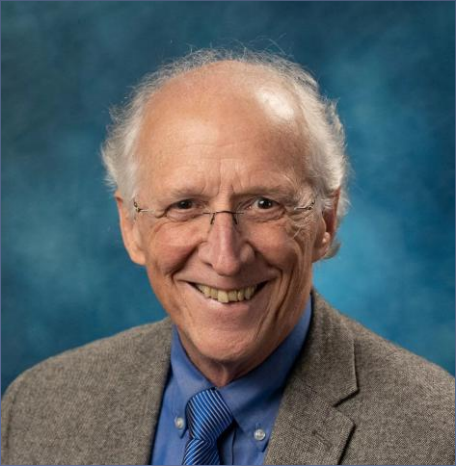
Our inadequate view of grace stems from underestimating:

- The **Sinfulness** of Sin – Are people really that bad?  
See Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:9-18, 23.
- The **Wrath** of God – Surely God will not judge people who are not that bad?  
See Matt. 7:22-23; John 3:36; Rom. 1:18; 2:5; Eph. 5:6.
- The Sovereign **Freedom** of God – Is not God obligated to show His love?  
See Psa. 32:1-2; Eph. 1:3-9; Rom. 5:6-11; 9:15-16.

If God saw *any* merit in us, He would be indebted to us and thus obligated to reward us due to His just character.

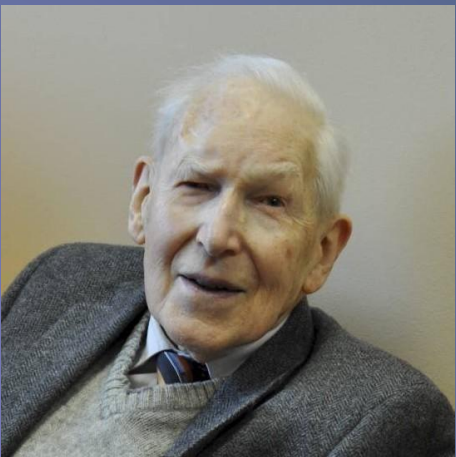
- The **Inability** of Man – Aren't people neutral as far as to choosing salvation?  
See Jer. 13:23; Matt. 7:17-18; John 1:13; Rom. 3:9-11; 8:6-8; 9:15-16; 1 Cor. 2:14;  
Eph. 4:17-19.

See Eph. 2:1-10 – God rescues spiritually dead sinners from His wrath simply because He chose to display His love to them (cf. 1 John 4:10). So we have no room for boasting (cf. Rom. 3:26-28).



*“I have heard it said, ‘God didn’t die for frogs. So he was responding to our value as humans.’ This turns grace on its head. We are worse off than frogs. They have not sinned. They have not rebelled and treated God with the contempt of being inconsequential in their lives. God did not have to die for frogs. They aren’t bad enough. We are. Our debt is so great, only a divine sacrifice could pay for it.” ~ John Piper*

## 2. Defining Grace



“The grace of God is love freely shown toward guilty sinners, contrary to their merit and indeed in defiance of their demerit. It is God showing goodness to persons who deserve only severity, and had no reason to expect anything but severity.” ~ J. I. Packer

We are not so much undeserving of God’s love as we are ill-deserving of it. See Rom. 11:6; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5.



### 3. Describing Grace

- Grace is **Sovereign** – God bestows grace to whom He wills.  
See Exod. 33:9; Eph. 1:5-6; Rom. 9:15-16; 21-23; 11:5.

- Grace is **Free** – Grace can neither be earned by merit nor forfeited by demerit.  
See Rom. 3:24; 5:15-16; 6:23; Eph. 1:6; 2:8.

Grace cannot incur a debt. We do not repay God for a gift He freely bestows. Likewise, grace ceases to be grace if it is withdrawn even in the face of the highest indebtedness.

Our response to grace is service and obedience resulting not from a sense of legal obligation, rather from a heart of love and gratitude.

- Grace is **Abundant** – God's grace is abounding even to the chief of sinners.  
See Isa. 55:7; John 1:16; Rom. 5:15, 17, 20-21; 2 Cor. 9:8.
- Grace is **Sufficient** – Grace is capable of meeting every need no matter how dire.  
See 2 Cor. 12:9-10; 1 Pet. 5:10.
- Grace is **Everlasting** – There is no end to the abundant, all sufficient grace of God (Isa. 54:8)  
Note familiar OT refrains: "His love endures forever" & "His lovingkindness is everlasting."

Grace employs God's attributes of goodness, love, kindness, mercy (*and* justice), compassion, patience, freedom, omniscience, omnipotence, immutability, and eternity.

Grace encompasses all of salvation:

1) *Election* – Rom. 11:5; Eph. 1:4-6

2) *Effectual Calling* – Gal. 1:15

3) *Faith* – Acts 18:27; Eph. 2:8

4) *Forgiveness of Sins* – Eph. 1:7-8

5) *Redemption* – Eph. 1:7

6) *Regeneration* – Eph. 2:5; Tit. 3:5-7; 1 Pet. 1:3

7) *Justification* – Rom. 3:24; Tit. 3:7

8) *Sanctification* – 2 Cor. 9:8; 2 Pet. 3:17-18

## 4. Exemplifying Grace

### A. The Supreme Act of Grace – See 2 Cor. 8:9

The cross is the supreme display of God's grace. God reserved His greatest wrath and unleashed it upon the object of His greatest love – His Son; in order that He might pour out an incomprehensible love upon His ill-deserving enemies (cf. Rom. 5:7-10; Col. 1:21).

### B. The Experience of Grace – See Acts 20:24; Rom 5:20-21; 1 Cor. 15:9-10

Grace is like diamonds viewed with a black velvet backdrop. As diamonds are made more brilliant, so grace appears more wonderful when contrasted with the blackness of sin.