His Grace Reaches Me; Ephesians 2:4-10

1. Rich in Mercy
   1. Mercy: kindness or concern expressed for someone in need, *mercy, compassion, pity, clemency* [[1]](#footnote-1)
   2. Ephesians 2:4–5 (ESV) 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—
   3. God’s compassion is expressed in His grace
2. Sinners Like Me
   1. “There, but for the grace of God, go I” John Bradford
      1. Imprisoned in the Tower of London for his faith
      2. Mr. Bradford made this exclamation while he was in his cell as he watched some prisoners escorted to their deaths
      3. He was chained to a stake with a young man named John Leaf
      4. Before the fire was lit, he turned to John Leaf and said, “Be of good comfort, brother; for we shall have a merry supper with the Lord this night!”
   2. We are all painfully aware of our past, our sins
      1. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)
      2. Romans 3:24 (ESV) 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
      3. God’s compassion moved Him to plan redemption for His creation (us)
      4. For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a)
      5. “But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23b)
   3. God is able to save us
   4. Psalm 139:7–12 (ESV) 7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! 9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” 12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.
   5. There is nowhere we can hide from the grace of God
3. For Everyone
   1. Micah 7:18 (ESV) 18 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.
   2. We can’t hide from God (or His grace)
   3. It has been offered to everyone
   4. The Israelites in Jerusalem, seeing that God had been saving the Gentiles, said, “But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord, Just as they will” (Acts 15:11)
   5. Titus 2:11–13 (ESV) 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
   6. We may be able to reject the Grace of God, but we certainly can’t hide from it!
4. The Greatest of Treasures
   1. John Newton
      1. Denounced his faith as a young sailor; his seagoing career was marked by headstrong disobedience
      2. He was pressed into service in the Royal Navy because of his disobedience
      3. Deserted the Royal Navy, was caught and then traded to a slave trading ship
      4. Newton openly mocked the captain of the ship, creating obscene poems and songs about him
      5. Newton was punished, almost starved to death, and chained to the ship like the slaves they carried, then outright enslaved in Sierra Leone
      6. His father intervened and Newton found himself on the Ship “Greyhound”
      7. The captain said he was one of the most profane men he had ever met (these are sailors, mind you)
      8. He was admonished for his profanity
      9. In March 1748 a violent storm came upon the ship that was so rough it swept overboard a crew member who was standing where Newton had been moments before.
      10. Newton and the crew spent hours bailing water, expecting to capsize and drown. He and other crew members even tied themselves to a pump to keep from being swept overboard
      11. Newton turned to the captain and said, “If this will not do, then Lord have mercy on us!”
      12. Newton credits that moment as his return to God
      13. John Newton is the author of *Amazing Grace*; knowing his story makes those words we sing mean so much more
   2. The Grace of God (Jesus) is absolutely amazing!
   3. Ephesians 2:6–10 (ESV) 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. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
   4. It is amazing that God would offer this Grace to someone like me
5. His Grace Reaches Me
   1. “Now I’m under His control and I’m happy in my soul, just to know that His grace reaches me”
   2. Have you accepted God’s Grace (Jesus)
   3. Have you been united with Him in His resurrection?
   4. His Grace reaches you!

1. William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](https://ref.ly/logosres/bdag?ref=Page.p+316&off=2477&ctx=+Tit+3:5%3b+Hb+4:16)++~kindness+or+concern+) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 316. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)