

“And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,” (Gal. 1:2-3).

Grace – Paul does not go very far before he mentioned the term Grace. In fact, he employs this term six times right in the book of Galatians. The term is first used in Genesis 6:8 where it states, “Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD”. This is very important because it was not in the eyes of man but the eyes of God. Said another way, Noah found favor and is the Hebrew word “chen”. Here chen means: one who finds favor of someone, to be acceptable to him and to be a recipient of His good will. It comes from a root word that means properly, to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior.

In the New Testament, the Greek word is “charis” meaning “that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech”. It deals with His good will, loving-kindness, favour “of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues.” God’s grace should light a fire under us which should surely get us moving...but moving in the direction he desires us to walk. Thayer’s Greek Lexicon goes to say that it is, properly, “that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm and loveliness.

[“To say that *grace* is simply "a gift" is to fall woefully short of exhausting its meaning. In fact, the English word "grace" is not even derived from *charis*, the Greek word used in the Bible. Instead, it comes from the Latin *gratia*, which in turn comes from *gratus*, meaning "beloved" or "pleasing." *Grace*, according *Webster's New World Dictionary* closely follows the Latin definition. It means "beauty or charm of form, composition, movement or expression; an attractive quality, feature or manner; goodwill, favor." \(http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Topical.show/RTD/cgg/ID/518/Charis.htm\)](http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Topical.show/RTD/cgg/ID/518/Charis.htm)

His grace and His grace alone should have a divine influence upon our lives. Paul knew a great deal about the grace given to him: “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace” (Gal. 1:15). It is through same grace whereby we are justified (Gal. 5:4). Going forward, all the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with our spirit (Gal. 6:8). And remember, God’s grace is sufficient and our strength is made perfect through weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). **Amen.**