

Grace Supplies and Law Demands

(John 1: 15-18)

- I. Grace is the love of God giving itself in abundance in the power of God. Both saints and sinners are the beneficiaries of God's grace. Grace calls, justifies, saves, sustains, believes, testifies, assists, discerns, encourages, strengthens, and in the end preserves the saints unto glorification. The grace of God is administered in various forms. Prayer allows us to draw on the grace of God in the moment of need and God makes the deposit in our hearts. Grace is God's gift to the humble, we cannot earn it - Jesus Christ paid for it. Peace, mercy, and purpose complement it. Grace is not a license for immorality.
- II. The word **witness** (both as a noun [martyria] and verb [martyreo] is important in the Gospel of John (1:17, 15, 32, 34; 3:11, 26; 5: 31-32, 36-37; 18:37; 19:35; etc). John the Baptist was sent for people's benefit to be an additional pointer to the truth of Jesus, the Revealer of the Father. We have been called to be "pointers" to the truth of Jesus. People in sin are in such darkness that they need someone to tell them what is light (2 Corinthians 4: 1-6).
- III. The words **we...all** refer to Christians and include John the author. Because of **the fullness of His grace...one blessing after another** (literally "grace in place of grace") comes to Christians as waves continue to come to the shore. The life of a believer is the constant reception of one evidence of God's grace replacing another.
- IV. "Grace is the generosity of God's love, the law of Moses is hard, cold, unyielding, and without mercy. The law makes demand; grace releases us from the demands of the law – demands which are nothing less than absolute perfection. The grace of Jesus Christ supplies and fulfills the demand of the law." (Ray Stedman)