

第四十题 律法与恩典（肆）

The Law and Grace (IV)

贰 恩典

II. Grace

一 恩典是什么

A. The Nature of Grace

（一）‘神…的慈爱显明’—‘神爱…赐给’。提多书三章四节，约翰三章十六节。

1. “The kindness and the love...of our Savior God appeared”; “God so loved...that He gave” (Titus 3:4; John 3:16).

律法是出乎神的圣洁、公义、和良善的，恩典是出乎神的爱的。神的爱显明出来，就是恩典。爱是神对我们的心，恩典是神对我们的作为。神恩典的作为，是出于神爱的心。神因为爱我们，所以就为我们作事。就把祂的儿子赐给我们，叫祂来为我们成功救赎。凡神为我们所作的，都是恩典。这恩典乃是出于祂对我们的爱。所以恩典乃是神爱的显明。神的爱显出来，临到我们，就是恩典。

The law is according to God's righteousness, holiness, and goodness. Grace is according to God's love. The manifestation of God's love is grace. Love is God's heart toward us, and grace is God's action toward us. The action of God's grace comes out of God's heart of love. God is involved in actions toward us because He loves us. In His actions toward us, He gave His only begotten Son to accomplish redemption. All of God's actions toward us are according to grace. Grace comes out of His love. Therefore, grace is the manifestation of God's love. When God's love is manifested, it is grace.

（二）‘祂极丰富的恩典，就是祂在基督耶稣里向我们所施的恩慈。’以弗所二章七节。

2. “The surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:7).

神的恩典，就是神在基督里向我们所施的恩慈。恩慈是出于爱心的。神的爱心叫神向我们施恩慈。这恩慈临到我们身上，就是神所赐给我们的恩典。

God's grace is His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Kindness comes out of love. The love of God causes Him to be kind toward us. When this kindness reaches us, it is grace.

（三）‘作工的得工价，不算恩典，乃是该得的，惟有不作工的，只信。’罗马四章四至五节。

3. “Now to the one who works, his wages are not accounted according to grace, but according to what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes” (Rom. 4:4-5).

恩典是神的爱叫神白白赐给我们的，不需要我们作什么。如果需要我们作什么，所得的就是工价，不算恩典。工价是作工（作工原文和行为同字）赚来的，不是白得的。恩典是因信白得的，不需要作什么工，出什么力。凡需要我们出力作什么的，都不是恩典。因为恩典是神白白赐给我们的，不需要我们出什么代价。

God gives grace to us freely because of His love. We do not need to do anything. If we needed to do anything, what we received would be according to wages, to work, not grace. Wages are earned by working; they are not free. Grace is gained freely through faith. We do not need to work or exert any effort. Whatever is obtained through effort is not according to grace. We do not need to pay a price for grace, because it is given to us freely by God.

（四）‘既是出于恩典，就不在乎行为；不然，恩典就不是恩典了。’罗马十一章六节。

4. “If by grace, it is no longer out of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace” (Rom. 11:6).

神的恩典，和人的行为（或说工作）一点没有关系。既是恩典，就不在乎行为。行为不能调到恩典里。一在乎行为，一有行为的调和，就不是恩典了。因为恩典是神白赐的，不是人藉着行为（或说工作）赚得的。

God's grace has no connection to man's works or actions. Whatever is by grace is not out of works. Works cannot be mixed with grace. Once something is out of works, that is, once works are involved, grace is no longer grace. Since grace is given freely by God, it cannot be earned by works or actions.

(五) ‘我…成了何等人，是蒙神的恩才成的；…祂所赐我的恩，不是徒然的；我比众使徒格外劳苦；这原不是我，乃是神的恩与我同在。’林前十五章十节。

5. “By the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain...I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me” (1 Cor. 15:10).

在这里，使徒保罗说，乃是神的恩典使他成了一个特殊的人。他能那样作一个超众的使徒，比众人格外劳苦，他说，那原不是他，乃是神的恩典与他同在。他这话给我们看见，神的恩典不仅是神白白赐给我们的一些无生事物，更是神所赐给我们的一件活的东西。这件活的东西，就是神那大能的生命，或说就是神自己。因为这件东西是神大能的生命，是神自己，所以能叫保罗作一个超众的使徒，作众人所不能作的事。神大能的生命，神自己，这样给人得着，就是神所给人的最高恩典。人从神所得到的最高恩典，就是神的生命和神自己。

The grace of God made the apostle Paul a special person, one who could labor more abundantly than all of them. His labor was not something out of himself but rather out of the grace of God which was with him. Paul's word shows that the grace of God is not something lifeless but something living. **This living gift is the powerful life of God; in other words, it is God Himself.** Grace could make Paul into an apostle and could enable him to do things that others could not, because it is the powerful life of God. Paul obtained the powerful life of God, God Himself. The highest grace that God gives to man, the highest grace that man receives from God, is **the life of God Himself.**

不只这里所说的恩典，就是约翰一章十四节、十七节，罗马五章十七节、二十一节，腓立比四章二十三节，以及新约许多别的地方所说的恩典，实在说，也都是指着神的生命和神自己。神的生命和神自己给我们得着，就是实际的恩典，或说恩典的实际。

When John 1:14 and 17, Romans 5:17 and 21, Philippians 4:23, and many other passages in the New Testament speak of grace, they actually refer to the life of God and to God Himself. **The grace that we obtain is the life of God and God Himself. This is the reality of grace.**

二 恩典是从何时有的

B. The Existence and Giving of Grace

(一) ‘这恩典…赏给我们…是照祂自己所预定的美意。’以弗所一章四至九节。

1. “His grace,...which He caused to abound to us...according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself” (Eph. 1:6, 8-9).

这里说，神的恩典赐给我们，是照着祂所预定的美意。凭这话的前后文看，这里所说神的美意，是神在创世以前所预定的。所以这里是叫我们知道，神赐恩给我们，乃是神从创世以前所预定的，不是偶然的，不是临时的。神的恩典在创世以前，在最初的时候，就定规赐给我们，不是到了半路才加上的，像律法一样。律法是半路添上的，恩典是起初原有的。神以恩典对待我们，乃是祂在永里里原初的心意，不像律法是祂在时间里中途的办法。

God's grace is given to us according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself. According to the context of these verses, **good pleasure refers to what God purposed before the foundation of the world** (v. 4). God purposed to give us grace before the foundation of the world. His intention was not an accident, nor is it temporary. Before the foundation of the world, God determined to give us grace. Grace was not added alongside, like the law. **The law was added along the way; grace has always existed.** God deals with us by grace because this is according to His original intention in eternity. Grace is not like the law, which God used only along the way in time.

(二) ‘这恩典是万古之先，在基督耶稣里赐给我们的。’提后一章九节。

2. “Grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages” (2 Tim. 1:9).

神的恩典是远在万古之先，就是在永远里，就赐给了我们。所以我们是在万古之先，老早就蒙到神的恩典了。

The grace of God was given to us **before the times of the ages, that is, in eternity**. We received the grace of God before the times of the ages even began.

（三）‘到了神…的恩慈…显明的时候，…’ — ‘这恩典…如今藉着我们救主基督耶稣的显现，才表明出来了。’ 提多书三章四节，提后一章九至十节。

3. “When the kindness and the love to man of our Savior God appeared”; “Grace...now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus” (Titus 3:4; 2 Tim. 1:9-10).

神的恩典虽是在永远里就赐给了我们，却是到时间里，就是到主耶稣来成功救赎的时候，才显明出来，给我们知道，给我们得着并享受。

Although the grace of God was given to us in eternity, **it was manifested in time when our Lord Jesus came to accomplish redemption**, enabling us to know, obtain, and enjoy grace.

（四）‘恩典，已经显明出来。’ 提多书二章十一节。

4. “The grace of God...has appeared” (Titus 2:11).

神的恩典，藉着主耶稣来成功救赎，已经显明出来了。现在人可以实际得到并享受这恩典。

The grace of God appeared **when the Lord Jesus came through incarnation to accomplish redemption**. Now man can gain and enjoy grace in reality.

参读：圣经要道，四十题：律法与恩典

Reference: *Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Vol. 4, Ch. 40 The Law and Grace*