

THE DOCTRINE OF THE SIX STAGES OF GRACE (#8) (Surpassing Grace)

We are currently studying the doctrine of the six stages of God's Grace in the Christ Way of Life (CWL).

- Saving Grace
- Logistical Grace
- Growth Maturity Grace
- Undeserved Suffering Grace
- Dying Grace
- **Surpassing Grace**

This will be our last doctrine in our series on Nepiology and our plan is to produce a booklet entitled, "The Fullness of God's Grace", in addition to posting it on our website. .

This lesson will study seven aspects of Surpassing Grace.
--

1. The term "Surpassing Grace" is used by Paul in (2 Cor.12:2).

He used it to express what he experienced after dying and going to the third heaven.

(2 Cor.12:2) "caught up to the third heaven"

(2 Cor.12:7) "And because of the surpassing greatness (te hiperbole) of the revelations (ton apolalupsis), **for this reason**, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-to keep me from exalting myself."

We believed this occurred during Paul's first missionary trip in Lystra (Acts 14:19).

2. Surpassing grace is the transfer of the Church Age Believer (CAB) from living grace (phase II / the believer in time) to surpassing grace (phase III / the believer in eternity) through dying grace.

(2 Cor.5:6-8) "Therefore, being **always of good courage**, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord - for we walk by faith, not by sight – **we are of good courage**, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord."

In our lesson text, Paul referred to Surpassing Grace as "out of the body, caught up to the third heaven, caught up to paradise, and inexpressible words of revelation" (2 Cor.12:2-7).

Later Paul wrote:

(Phil.1:21-24). "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain, but if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. **But I am hard-pressed from both directions**, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better. Yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake."

Bob Thieme - "Saving grace is best; dying grace is better; and surpassing grace is better than the best."

3. Surpassing grace is part of ultimate or permanent sanctification.

(1 Thess.5:23) “Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you entirely**, and may your spirit, soul, and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Eph.5:25-26) “Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He **might sanctify her**, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.”

Phase I (saving grace) and III (surpassing grace) sanctifications are complete in their own grace. Only phase II is progressive. (1 Thess.4:3-5)

(Eph.5:6-7) “And raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him, in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, **in order that in the ages to come** He might show **the surpassing** (to hyperballo / p.a.ptc.asn) [to throw beyond] **riches of His grace** in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus.” (Eph.5:4-10)

4. Special blessings in Surpassing Grace will be awarded the CAB who has reached and maintained spiritual maturity to dying grace (Phil.3:12-16).

(Phil.3:14) “I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

(Heb.11:5-6) “By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. And **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a **rewarder** of those who seek Him.” (James 1:22-25; Heb.12:1-2)

(1 Cor.3:13-15) “Each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is revealed by fire; and the fire will itself **test the quality** of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built upon **it remains**, he **shall receive a reward**. If any man’s work is **burned up**, he shall suffer loss; **but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.**” (1 Cor.3:10-15)

5. The Judgment Seat of Christ will be the place for the awarding of the special blessings in Surpassing Grace.

(2 Cor.5:10) “For we must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ**, that each one may be **recompensed** for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
(1 Cor.3:10-15)

The Judgment Seat of Christ (JSC) will occur in heaven, following the Rapture during the seven years of the Tribulation here on earth (Rom.14:8-12).

6. Imperishable Crowns are used to designate certain special blessings in eternity (1 Cor.9:24-27).

Crown of life

(James 1:12; Rev.2:10) Persevering undeserved suffering to dying grace.

Crown of Righteousness

(2Tim.4:3-8) Holding spiritual maturity in angelic conflict to dying grace.

Crown of glory

(1 Pet.5:-4; Phil.4:1; 1 Thess.2:19-20) Faithful service of spiritually gifted communicators to dying grace.

7. **The CAB who dies as a “Reversionistic” believer will not be awarded these special blessings of Surpassing Grace.**

(1 Cor.9:27) “But I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be **disqualified (adokimos/ disapproved after testing)**.”

(Heb.6:5-8) “And have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have **fallen away**, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame. For the ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and bring forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, **receives a blessing from God**; but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to **being cursed**, and it ends up being burned.”

“Not to go on to fruitful maturity will result in loss of reward (**1 Cor.3:15**).” (Ryrie NAS/ Heb.6:7-8)