

1. Last week I taught in part 1Ti 1:2. When time expired we were studying the phrase "grace, mercy and peace." After a brief review we will begin new material at point 2.1.15 on page 3.
2. Before we resume that analysis you may want to use the provisions of 1Jo 1:9 by silently naming your sins to God as the Holy Spirit may or may not show.
3. Now that the decks have been cleared for action, let's take a look at an expanded translation of 1Ti 1:1.

1Ti 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the command of God the Father, our Savior and Christ Jesus our hope and guarantor of all that awaits us both in time and eternity,

4. So far we have exegeted that portion of 1Ti 1:2 which in the KJV has been rendered "*Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith ...*," noting it might better be translated "**to Timothy my reliable student and mature son in the Christian faith ...**"
5. The entire verse has been translated:

KJV- Sentence continues

1Ti 1:2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

6. And now for the phrase "grace, mercy and peace."

GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE **χαρις, ελεος, ειρηνη**

1. **Charis, Eleos, Eirene** are better translated "God's plan, God's plan in action and the peace and stability resulting from His plan ..."

2. Let's look at the meaning of each of these.

2.1 **Charis** technically means "God's plan."

2.1.1 Grace is also all that God is free to do for you and for me on the basis of the cross without in any way compromising His integrity.

2.1.2 Grace depends upon Who and What God is and not who and what we are. Last week we looked at a chart entitled, Five Fundamental Facts About Grace. I want to provide the chart in your lesson plan.

FIVE FUNDAMENTAL FACTS ABOUT GRACE

GRACE IS NOT WITHHELD BECAUSE OF DEMERIT

GRACE CANNOT BE LESSENER BECAUSE OF DEMERIT

GRACE CANNOT INCUR A DEBT

GRACE IS NOT THE FULFILLING OF AN OBLIGATION

GRACE DOES NOT DEAL WITH SIN IN LENIENCY

2.1.3 The plan of God was designed in eternity past, a plan which included full knowledge of all that would occur, including all of our choices and actions. The Father's plan also included all of the choices and actions of our Savior during His hypostatic union. (Acts 2:23, Rev 13:8, Eph 1:4-5)

2.1.4 In Eph 1:4 the word for creation comes from the Greek noun **Katabole** and means "a founding, a conception"; therefore, with the preposition **Pro** it means "that which was established in eternity past before time was." (Isa 48:16-17)

2.1.5 These passages emphasize the eternal nature of God, His eternal life, His omniscience and His sovereignty. Accordingly we can thank Him in all things. As an anonymous writer has written: "God, if I had your sovereignty there would be many things I would change, but if I had your omniscience I would leave everything the same."

2.1.6 The plan of God is totally based on His grace, i.e. all that He is free to do for us on the basis of the cross. After salvation we are to grow in grace by means of a knowledge of Him. (Eph 2:8-10, 2Pe 1:4 & 3:18)

2.1.7 The beneficiary of the plan of God is the believer. Before time God saw all of our choices, the good, the bad and the ugly and from His sovereignty designed circumstances for our benefit, all of this without in any way violating the first divine institution--volition.

2.1.8 The plan of God is revealed through His Word which is the mind of Christ, or doctrine. (Mat 4:4, Rom 12:2 & 1Pe 4:1)

2.1.9 We enter the plan of God because Jesus made it all possible--even the giving of the gifts which are bestowed by the Holy Spirit as He, the Holy Spirit, wills. (Eph 4:10-12, 1Co 12:11)

2.1.10 The plan of God is revealed to man by the Holy Spirit, through the Word. (Joh 14:26 & 16:13)

2.1.11 Given the Fall and our choices, life cannot be "fair"; therefore, we need the Word taught by the Holy Spirit to avoid bitterness. The plan of God is best described as less

than the best, given our imperfections.

2.1.12 The plan of God can cause disillusionment. Disillusionment tends to intensify jealousy, boredom, self-pity, loneliness and bitterness.

2.1.13 Disillusionment is really anger against God's "perfect plan." To become disillusioned with the plan of God requires supreme arrogance. God gave us an example in the Old Testament, a king named Hezekiah, a pretty good king, but like us he was plagued with frailty.

Isa 38:3 "Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

2.1.14 God let Hezekiah live and mess up so we could learn from his errors. The plan of God is perfect. The perfection of His plan must always be accepted by faith. Rom 8:28 compared to 1Th 5:18 sums up the attitude we need, or better said, the doctrinal perspective we must grasp and apply.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1Th 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

2.1.15 Hezekiah was not ready to accept the plan of God and cross over the golden bridge to eternity. Hezekiah was not ready to transport. He had things to do and apparently felt he was the only one who could do them. Before I disparage Hezekiah by using him as a negative example, I want to review the Doctrine of Hezekiah. After all Hezekiah was in the main a pretty good king.

Doctrine of Hezekiah

Hezekiah reigned for approximately 30 years as king of Judah (c. 715 B.C. to c. 685 B.C.). His father, Ahaz, was king before him.

The Assyrian domination of the fertile crescent valley posed a major international problem for both the northern kingdom (Israel) and Judah.



- Ahaz established and maintained a policy of friendship with Assyria while the northern kingdom capitulated to Assyria in 721 B.C. During the reign of Ahaz, Judah paid reparations to Assyria.
- Hezekiah began his reign with a series of religious reforms. These reforms might best be described as a "back-to-the-Bible time."
- Hezekiah was keenly aware that the captivity of the northern kingdom was caused by idolatry and an overt disobedience to the Word of God. He did not want Judah to go the way of Assyria.

2Ki 18:9 In King Hezekiah's fourth year, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria marched against Samaria and laid siege to it.

2Ki 18:10 At the end of three years the Assyrians took it. So Samaria was captured in Hezekiah's sixth year, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel.

2Ki 18:11 The king of Assyria deported Israel to Assyria and settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River and in towns of the Medes.

2Ki 18:12 This happened because they had not obeyed the LORD their God, but had violated his covenant-- all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded. They neither listened to the commands nor carried them out.

- Hezekiah accordingly removed idolatry, repaired and cleansed the temple, restored worship and extended passover invitations to the citizens of Judah and Israel.
- Hezekiah was successful in attracting many to Jerusalem where the passover and other Jewish feast days were celebrated.
- Hezekiah was also an outstanding military leader. Anticipating an Assyrian attack on Judah, he fortified Jerusalem. He constructed a 1,777-foot tunnel from the Siloam pool to a point inside the city's walls, thus providing a water supply even when the city was under attack.

2Ch 32:1 After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself.

2Ch 32:2 When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to make war on Jerusalem,

2Ch 32:3 he consulted with his officials and military staff about blocking off the water from the springs outside the city, and they helped him.

2Ch 32:4 A large force of men assembled, and they blocked all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land. "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?" they said.

2Ch 32:5 Then he worked hard repairing all the broken sections of the wall and building towers on it. He built another wall outside that one and reinforced the supporting terraces of the City of David. He also made large numbers of weapons and shields.

2Ch 32:6a He appointed military officers over the people ...

- With religious and military preparations at its best, Hezekiah assembled his people in the city square and boldly expressed his confidence in God for protection.

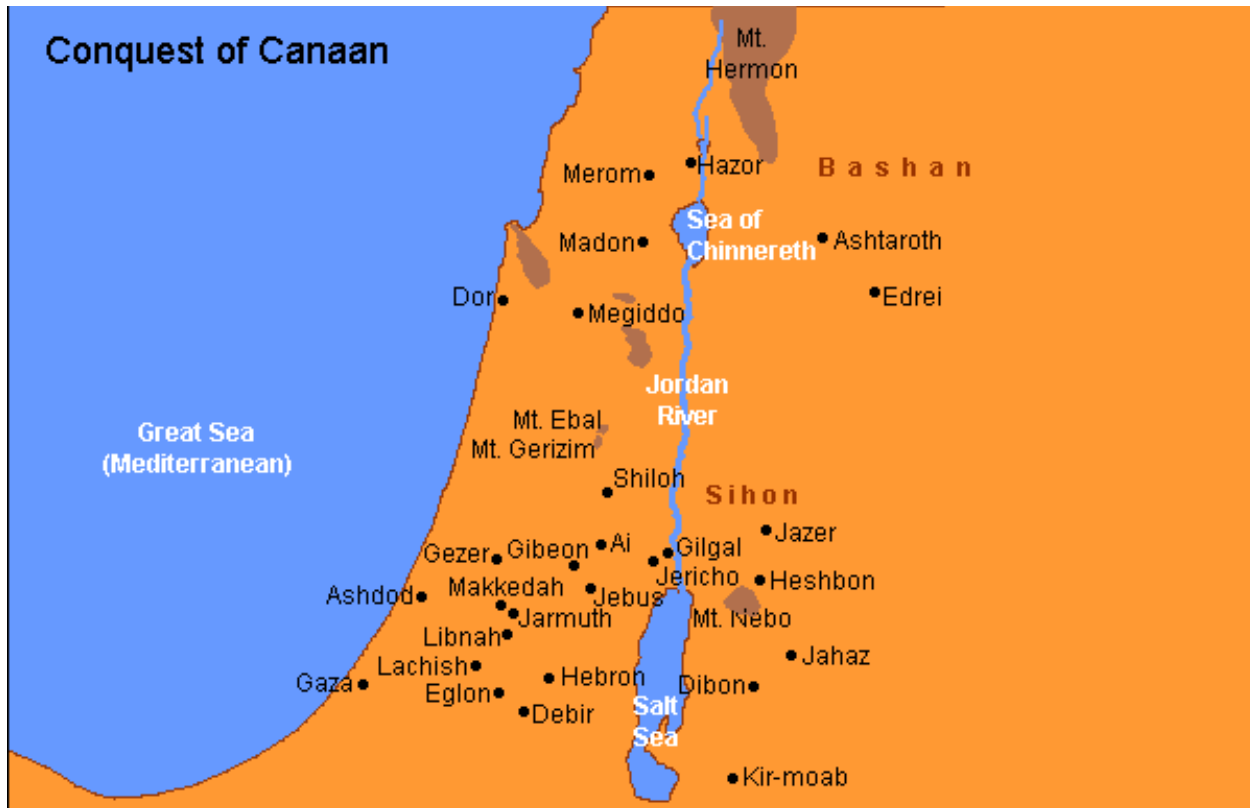
2Ch 32:6b Hezekiah assembled them before him in the square at the city gate and encouraged them with these words:

2Ch 32:7 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him.

2Ch 32:8 With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles." And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.

- A crucial time for Judah and Hezekiah came during the reign of the Assyrian king Sennacherib c. 701 B.C. Sennacherib advanced into the maritime plain west of Jerusalem, conquering numerous cities.
- He also exacted tribute from Jerusalem and besieged the important city of

Lachish. Lachish was located 30 miles SW of Jerusalem and 15 miles W of Hebron.



2Ki 18:13 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.

2Ki 18:14 So Hezekiah king of Judah sent this message to the king of Assyria at Lachish: "I have done wrong. Withdraw from me, and I will pay whatever you demand of me." The king of Assyria exacted from Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

2Ki 18:15 So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the temple of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace.

2Ki 18:16 At this time Hezekiah king of Judah stripped off the gold with which he had covered the doors and doorposts of the temple of the LORD, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

- Emboldened by Hezekiah's payments and his other military successes, Sennacherib sent a large army to encircle Jerusalem and demand its complete surrender. Hezekiah, however, refused to capitulate.
- About this time Hezekiah became critically ill. The king sought help from Isaiah who had not only the gift of prophecy but also the office of prophet.
- Isaiah first informed Hezekiah he would die but before he could leave the

middle court of the Temple, God told Isaiah that the king's life would be extended 15 years. He also promised relief for the kingdom from Assyrian pressure.

2Ki 20:1 In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."

2Ki 20:2 Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,

2Ki 20:3 "Remember, O LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

2Ki 20:4 Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him:

2Ki 20:5 "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of my people, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD.

2Ki 20:6 I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.'"

2Ki 20:7 Then Isaiah said, "Prepare a poultice of figs." They did so and applied it to the boil, and he recovered.

- A major portion of the Assyrian encamped around the city, left Jerusalem and turned toward Egypt. They may have been alarmed by Tirhakah, an Ethiopian king of Egypt and Nubia. It is possible they left because of concerns over advances being made by the Babylonians. Historians are at odds over the reasons for their leaving.

2Ki 19:7 Listen! I am going to put such a spirit in him that when he hears a certain report, he will return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.'"

- The Assyrian king sent an ultimatum to Hezekiah.

2Ki 19:10 " ... Do not let the god you depend on deceive you when he says, 'Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.'

- Then suddenly, by miraculous intervention the Assyrian army was depleted by 185,000 troops. God set a kill record 185,000 Assyrian soldiers died in one night.
- Sennacherib returned to Nineveh never to threaten Hezekiah again. About 681 B.C. Sennacherib was assassinated by two of his sons.
- After the first crisis c. 701 B.C. Hezekiah enjoyed a period of peace and prosperity during his last fifteen years.
- Acclaimed as the leader who had successfully withstood Assyrian

aggression, Hezekiah was supported politically and commercially by the surrounding nations. Judah enjoyed a rapid economic recovery.

- Hezekiah was later rebuked for accepting a delegation of Babylonians. Isaiah warned the king that the Babylonians would ultimately conquer Jerusalem because of his indiscretion but Hezekiah was assured the destruction of Jerusalem would not occur during his lifetime.
- Hezekiah died c. 685 B.C. He was succeeded by his son Manasseh, a very wicked king.
- Hezekiah, though a good king, spent his share of time in reversionism.

2.1.16 Let's contrast Hezekiah's attitude with Christ's attitude. Remember both are questioning God. From Hezekiah's negative example and Christ's positive paradigm we can learn how we are to think and act.

End Lesson Taught 8-30-09