

13.a. COMMUNION WITH CHRIST IN PURCHASED

GRACE

Kindly refer back to lesson six where we discussed the various forms of grace (God's free favour). Today we will be talking of the form of purchased grace. Purchased grace is all that righteousness and grace which Christ has procured for us, and of which He makes us partakers. Purchased on the cross at Calvary.

This grace has been wrought for us by Christ by His obedience, sufferings, and continual intercession for us to the Father. Purchased grace is the grace of justification or acceptance. It is the grace of sanctification or holiness. It is the grace of privilege. All these graces were purchased for us by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The single act of disobedience by Adam in the garden, has resulted in the catastrophic events of human history. Who could ever put right these cataclysmic events? Now, Christ has purchased this grace of justification, sanctification, and privilege by His perfect obedience to the whole will of God the Father. Christ submitted Himself to every law and ordinance which necessitated the satisfaction of God's wrath against sin, and this He did to fulfil all righteousness. MATT 3:15.

Christ was obedient unto death, for His death was the offering for sin in order to purchase life for the remnant. Christ in His human form was completely righteous. This was so because of the grace of perfect union between His human nature and divine nature. He was thus the lamb of God without spot or blemish 1 PET 1:19. The requirement of God's Passover lamb was that it was to be without defect. Christ fulfilled all that was required of us by virtue of any law - moral, ceremonial, or judicial.

We have communion with Christ in this Grace of righteousness. All that Christ was enabled to do in obedience was by His inherent righteousness and the Holy Spirit. Only Christ was perfectly righteous and was thus fit to make His life an offering for our sin. Christ's obedience to His father's will, is reckoned to us by God's grace, and on account of this we are accepted as righteous before Him.

Christ was incarnate (made man) in order to be Mediator. The Mediator had to bear the pain of death for us. What Christ's people could not do because of sin; He did for them. He did it so that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled. Christ did not need to make Himself fit by a course of obedience, as He was the lamb without spot or blemish. Christ did not need to submit Himself to obedience, as His obedience was inherent in His righteousness. His suffering under obedience was an example for us to follow. He is the leader; we are His followers.

We know that God is righteous. We know that Christ is righteous. Therefore, we know that the Triune Godhead is pure and faultless. Disobedience is mischievousness, mutinous and rebellious. Therefore, if Christ was righteous, He did not have to learn obedience. His obedience to the law was a voluntary act of His in becoming a man.

What was intended by Christ's obedience? Christ's obedient life showed His willing submission to, and complete fulfilling of every law of God that any of the saints were obliged to obey. Man had fallen from grace in the garden. Christ obeyed, not for Himself, but for us. Christ put right for us, what we had sullied and spoilt.

How does Christ's obedience help us? Christ's complete obedience to the law is now reckoned to us. We are now under a righteousness that we were unable to claim in our own power. It is the righteousness of Christ alone. And for this very reason we are able to claim **ROM 8:1 FF.** "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus "

Yet that obedience that we can now claim, is not to gain acceptance with God, but rather it is an expression of gratitude to God for our deliverance from death. As the regenerate, our hearts have been sensitized to the wonders of God in Christ Jesus.

We are reminded of the magnificence of our God in **PSM 19:1FF.** "The heavens declare the Glory of God ... " Do we contemplate the Great God who rescued us as we look into the heavens, or as we enjoy nature here on earth in the beauty of flowers, or praise God for reminding us of Himself in beautiful music, such as Bizet's Nadir's Aria from "Pearl Fishers" (Forgot the lyrics, as they have Catholic connotations) But the sheer beauty of the melody should point us directly towards God, who gave the gift and ability to man to create music **EX. 35:30FF.** A good rendition is by Roberto Alagna. **1 TIM 4:4** "For everything God created is good". **COR 1:16** "For by Him all things were created". The good things that God has created were done so to bring honour and glory to His name.

Christ died because the law demanded the death of the sinner, and Christ was the surety for sinners. We are now delivered from this penalty by one who was able to ransom us. Christ obeyed in order to fulfil the covenant God made with man. It is our duty to Glorify God, and to give thanks to Him **ROM 1:21.**