

"The Two L's of Hell"

There are two dominant roads to hell; licentiousness and legalism. Both miss God's grace. Licentiousness says, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for today we live, tomorrow we die." And, "If God has saved us then it doesn't matter how we live." Legalism on the other hand says, "Obey, obey, do everything God commands to merit His favor." God's grace however speaks very differently.

God's grace tells us that His salvation is a gift. It is unmerited and undeserved from beginning to end. Yet, God's grace also tells us that we are changed by God's salvation in Christ. The gift of God's gracious salvation is

like receiving an all-expense paid heart transplant surgery that was needed to prevent imminent death. We cannot afford to pay for the surgery and we cannot perform the surgery ourselves. It is a gift given to us; a life-giving, life-changing gift.

Licentiousness lies in that it denies that God's gracious salvation is life changing. Legalism lies in that it denies that God's salvation is a gift. Both get the gospel wrong, lead to hell, and therefore are to avoided like the plague.

- Pastor Matt Peery

"Adopted"

I am an adopted child. Are you? I don't remember my adoption date clearly because I was fairly young when it occurred. I don't remember much of life before adoption. But I do know that my adoption deeply changed every piece of my life. The adoption I'm talking about is when Christ set His seal on my soul and claimed me for His own because in my young child heart I believed. Now that I am also an adoptive mom I have come to realize and appreciate more about my own adoption.

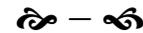
I am an adopted child. Are you? I am the child who, before I was even born, the work to bring me home had begun. I am the child who was claimed before I was created. The high price of my adoption fees, which I could never have afforded, were paid for me, out of love, before I even had a name.

I am adopted but I am not perfect. I am the adopted child who unnecessarily carries around some baggage that my Heavenly Father encourages me to let go of. I am the adopted child who sometimes struggles with my past and it comes out in different emotions. I am the adopted child who has to be reminded that I belong and I am deeply loved because sometimes I doubt this.

I am the adopted child who is still learning the rules and ways of my adoptive Father. I am the adopted child who defiantly yells and fights the rules made in love because sometimes I think I know better. I am the adopted child who has to take a time out or be disciplined and corrected because while I've been taught the right way I sometimes revert back and choose to follow my own way which could be destructive to myself or others around me. I am the adopted child who is loved daily even when my own actions are unloving. I am the adopted child who is deeply loved in spite of my bottomless pit of orneriness. I am the adopted child who can frustrate the brothers and sisters in the family with my stubbornness. I am an adopted child in a family of other adopted children and our different backgrounds can make getting along challenging some days and family life gets goofy and sometimes tense BUT there are beautiful moments in between. I am the child who must remember that though family life is sometimes challenging and frustrating it doesn't mean I don't belong.

"Grace"

This issue focuses on the topic of Grace. Here are some quotations to introduce the topic...



"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

- 2 Corinthians 12:9

"Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)
That sav'd a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see."

- John Newton

"The Law detects, grace alone
conquers sin."

- Augustine

"Grace is given to heal the spiritually
sick, not to decorate spiritual heroes"

- Martin Luther

It means I have to keep learning to love the way my Father loves. I am the adopted child who is learning a better way of life from my Heavenly Father. I am the adopted child who has found my forever family....and it's a big family.

I am the adopted child who has learned to trust that at the end of a rough day my Heavenly Father will whisper to my soul, "You are mine. You are loved. Always, forever, no matter what. Don't forget. Tomorrow is a new day and you can try again."

I am the adopted child who is counted as a true child and will receive an inheritance one day. I am the adopted child who can stand firmly on the knowledge that my adoption is no small matter nor a simple after thought. It was planned, it was with purpose, it was costly, it was out of deep love. The family name of Christian is one I can claim as my own because I was adopted. The fact that I needed the adoption is not something to be pitied. But the fact that I am adopted is most definitely a reason to rejoice. I am an adopted child. Are you?

- Jenny Williams

“By the Grace of God”

The words “By the grace of God” are used often, sometimes without much thought or meaning behind them. I try not to use them too casually, but probably fail at that some. There are a few things that have happened in my life though that have caused those words to echo loudly each time they’re recalled.

It was December, 2014. My sister and I had watched as, after two years, the leukemia-like blood disease had finally begun to win its battle over our dad’s 90 year old body. Many others have been there. It’s a very hard road to travel, to say the least. Our dad had not submitted to aging easily. He was vibrant, energetic, hard working all his life and he didn’t want to give that up. Daddy (that’s what we had always called him) loved life, loved people, and dearly loved to work. I am so very thankful that he instilled those beautiful principals, for the most part, in his daughters. His joy for living was obvious to everyone who knew him.

For all his wonderful attributes, there was one thing that my sister and I longed for. Especially toward his latter years, we yearned for him to share his faith with us. That was something he had never done. We knew that he had been saved and baptized early in his life. When we were very young, we had gone to church regularly as a family and Daddy would often read the Bible to us. But, for reasons unknown to us, that had not continued. We also knew that his father had been a very domineering man. He had claimed religion in his life, but used it mostly to control his family and others. Daddy had shared that fact with us often, along with the pain that it had caused in his family’s lives. We knew that had a tremendous effect on his sharing anything personal about God with us. My sister and I would always talk about how we had tried to maybe “open that door” with him during a visit, hoping to gain a glimpse of his relationship with the Lord. But we were met with silence for the most part. Looking back, I believe we sort of felt like it was our job to see that he opened up about his faith. So much for just planting a seed and letting God do the rest.

December of 2014 was a sad month for us. It began with Daddy’s being put in the hospital, weak and drained. His 6’4” stature was no longer obvious. His joy-filled eyes and ever genuine smile now struggled to greet his visitors. Slowly, there began to be little or no response to our words, and then, his eyes closed. He only breathed slowly and shallowly, and he slept. We would talk to him, hold his hand, kiss his face. But there was little or no sign he heard or knew we were there.

On Saturday, December 13, I sat by his bedside. My sister was not there at the time. The nurses had just changed his bedding and Daddy was lying peacefully on his side. He had not spoken audibly nor responded very much to us for several days. My eyes were fixed on his face, when his composure suddenly changed. His eyes remained closed, but his eyebrows raised as he took a breath and slowly spoke with amazing clarity: “I waited a long, long time.” What? What did you say, Daddy? I leaned close, wanting to hear more. But he said no more. I sat looking intently at him. I knew, I knew that I knew, that Daddy had not been speaking to me. He had been speaking to the Lord. The look on his face and everything about him told me that. God had revealed things to him that I could not see, nor even understand.

Oh, how I wanted to save that moment. It was a glorious moment! It was a moment filled with God’s grace. His grace allowed me to be present when, deep in Daddy’s soul, the Lord had revealed Himself. It was not necessary that I be there. It would have happened anyway. It was “By the Grace of God” that my sister and I would be given a peace that passes all understanding about the very soul of our earthly father. That was, and still is, worth more to us than mere words could ever describe. Shortly afterward, while my sister and I were on either side of our dad, talking to him, my sister softly asked, “Daddy, are you going to see Mama?” There was a weak nod of his head, and then he said his last words, “I’ll see you in Gloryland.” What wonderful words to hear.

- Judy Thomas Parker

“All Saints are Sinners”

Your heroes are heinous. Mine are too. We all have pastors, missionaries, writers, deacons, and friends in Christ who we look up to and glean a great deal from. They are all heinous sinners needing us to extend to them the grace of God.

The seminary which educated and trained me for pastoral ministry is a part of a long and rich legacy which emphasizes God’s grace. This legacy stretches all the way back to the Roman times with the theology of Augustine of Hippo. It holds in high esteem the Reformers who restored the gospel back to its central place, not just in the thought, but also in the life of the church. From the Reformers this legacy was passed down to the English Puritans, and from the Puritans to those who founded the denominations and seminaries of this country. This tradition, to which I am incredibly indebted, is full of examples of the gospel truth that even the brightest luminaries and most holy saints are all too human; heinous sinners saved only by God’s greater grace.

Before turning to Christ Augustine was a worldly young man whose immorality drove his mother to tearful prayers. Upon his conversion Augustine responded sharply to his former lusts and lowered the esteem Scripture gives to marriage, and elevated the celibacy of ministers. The great German reformer Martin Luther hoped that the Jewish population of Germany would wholeheartedly receive the gospel. When they did not Luther wrote with raged venom against them. His words were later used with great success as Nazi propaganda. Calvin had men who theologically disagreed with him put to death. Among these men were some calling for only believers, and not infants, to be baptized. Many of the Puritans opposed the theater. Shakespeare’s play Measure for Measure was written to challenge the Puritans self-righteousness in demanding harsh standards of others, while not always living up to those standards themselves. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where I was trained, was founded by and originally led by James Petrigru Boyce. A man of great theological acumen, but also a slave owner who used his theological skills to defend the institution of slavery.

(Continued on Page 3, “Saints & Sinners”)

“An Interview with Pastor Chuck Cook”

Of Rolla’s Grace Bible Fellowship – Interviewed by Pastor Matt Peery

1. What is God’s grace?

Wow! What a question! On one hand the answer can be recited by kids in Sunday school: God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense; on the other hand the wonder and profundity of God’s grace fills and overflows our hymnody and theology. Songs, poems, books have been written, and still, the knowledge of God’s grace has not been exhausted (nor can it be—Eph 2:7).

That being said, let me offer a few brief thoughts regarding God’s grace—two quotes, my definition/description, and one Scripture reference—in an attempt to answer your question.

C.L. Chase says, “...grace means God is always up to [a Christian’s] good. God always intends a believer’s good (Gen 50:20); always gives good to a believer (Matt 7:11); and, always works all things to a believer’s good (Rom 8:28).” (C.L. Chase; *Grace-Focused Optimism*; Christian Focus Publications, Scotland, 2017; 11-12)

Theologian J.I. Packer defines grace this way, “The grace of God is love freely shown toward guilty sinners, contrary to their merit and indeed in defiance of their demerit. It is God showing goodness to persons who deserve only severity and had no reason to expect anything but severity.” (J.I. Packer; *Knowing God*; IVP, Downers Grove, IL, 2018 edition; 132)

So, here is my attempt of a short definition and brief description of grace: God’s grace is His loving disposition and merciful determination to do only and eternal good through and in Christ Jesus to guilty, undeserving rebels. Our Lord’s grace is sovereign (Rom 5:21), spontaneous—completely free from any external force or attraction (Rom 5:6-8), saving (Eph 2:5, 8), sanctifying (Titus 2:11-12), sufficient (2 For 12:9), and sweetly satisfying (Ps 34:8; Is 55:1-2).

The Bible says it best though: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich....Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!” (2 Cor 8:9; 9:15)

2. From your experience, how and why do Christians struggle with God’s grace?

I suppose several in-depth answers could be given to this, but let me try to keep it brief: I think we struggle with God’s grace because of pride and disbelief.

Our pride is a continual obstacle to living by God’s grace. By default, we are legalists at heart (I can and will do what God says so He will/must accept me). By culture, we believe we can “pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps” (I can fix myself). Both of these mindsets fight against grace. We struggle to believe that we are as hopeless and helpless as the Bible says we are and that God’s grace is as free, unearned, undeserved, and welcoming as the Bible says it is. So when we sin, instead of confessing to and trusting in Christ, we try to prove ourselves or harm ourselves to show or offer God something. Grace by definition says we cannot offer God anything, rather, we must receive what He gives. We have to learn to fight pride with the humbling truths of grace.

Our disbelief also is a cause for our struggles with God’s grace. Some of us are haunted by past and present sins and we have a hard time believing that God could and would forgive us completely of all our sins. Yet, this is the glory of the gospel of grace: through faith in Christ God does grant us a full pardon (Col 2:13,14). He does remove our sins from us as far as the east is from the west (Ps 103:12). He does throw them into the deepest part of the sea (Micah 7:19). He does declare us forgiven, yes, even righteous (Rom 3:23-25; 2 Cor 5:21). The enemy loves to accuse us and get us to doubt God’s goodness and grace, and our sinful experiences shout to our consciences that we must not be saved. When this happens, disbelief can easily set in. We have to learn to fight disbelief with the Christ-secured, Bible-revealing realities of grace.

Saints & Sinners...

(Continued from Page 2)

Such are the trailblazers of my theological tradition. Sinners. Heinous sinners. What should one do with this fact? Write off those of the past? Change the name of our institutions? Take down our monuments? White-wash our history? No, instead we are to be grateful to God that He uses fallen, frail, misguided people like ourselves, like our forefathers in the faith, to achieve His work. We are to learn from those who have gone before us and extend them the grace God extends to us. And we are to be reminded that our heroes must not become our idols.

If there is any “super-Christian” in the New Testament it is the Apostle Paul. While the four gospels are focused on Jesus, Acts and much of the remainder of the Bible is centered around Paul and his evangelistic pursuits to further the gospel of Jesus Christ. And yet, Paul called himself the chief of sinners. Paul would not tolerate anyone elevating him beyond measure. In 1 Corinthians 15:10 Paul wrote of himself, “By the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.” As your pastor I will let you down. The better we get to know each other, the more we will learn each other’s strengths, but also each other’s weaknesses. We too are heinous sinners saved by God’s greater grace.

- Pastor Matt Peery

3. What role should God’s grace play in the life of Christians?

Grace is absolutely essential. We are brought to Christ by grace. We are kept in Christ by grace. We will live eternally with Christ because of grace. We need grace for life, worship, growth, comfort, trial, loss, power, and endurance. We need grace when we sin, suffer, serve, or succeed. We need grace like a seed needs soil, for it is in him, the God of all grace, that we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28; 1 Pet 5:10).

(Continued on Page 5, “Chuck Interview”)

“It is Well with My Soul”

*“When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul...”*

These classic lyrics, beloved for over a century, speak of total reliance upon God's grace and faithfulness in the midst of trial. And while this has been my favorite hymn for most of my adult life it has never before held such meaning or truth.

When Pastor Matt asked me to write of my recent circumstances and spiritual journey I thought "Of course I can do that." I wrote, I re-wrote, then I tried to write some more. It wasn't too long before I thought "Never mind, I can't do this." All of a sudden I realized I was once again confronted with my besetting sin of pride. *I* was trying to act in my own strength, even in this small task, and the heavy feeling of pride and self reliance was familiar; I had certainly worn it often enough.

As I laid down my pen for a moment and considered the story I had to tell, I thought of those lyrics and I began again.

When my husband Bill lost his eyesight in 2013 I did everything in my power to avoid asking for or accepting help. I drove the 12+ hours (one-way) to Mayo Clinic without a complaint. I coordinated treatment when they found his kidney cancer. I juggled my job as a pharmacy technician with being a caretaker when we received guardianship of our young grandson. With stoic determination I trudged this path and I reminded myself daily that God was sovereign and would work these circumstances for our good. I prayed for His guidance and strength - and occasionally for a maid and a vacation.

Overall I knew that if I tried hard enough, if I prayed enough, if I was faithful enough then I could - and would - make this work. I would care for my husband, manage the household (inside and out), raise and home-school my grandson, and be a reliable employee.

You might say that I am a control freak.

This was strength. This was perseverance. At the time I didn't see that it was also pride. Though I continuously sought God's face, I found myself relying on my strength in tandem with my reliance on God's.

Then, oh so characteristically and oh so lovingly, God placed a brick wall right in front of my nose.

...I got sick...

Everyday tasks became insurmountable. Cleaning the house happened in stages as I stopped frequently to rest. Local restaurants saw their profits steadily rise as I found myself too tired to make dinner. I wasn't even able to muster energy for things I loved, like tending to my flowers or browsing an antique store. I simply could not function as I wanted to - as I needed to.

...Suddenly, *I* wasn't enough...

Over the fall months I saw multiple doctors and endured innumerable blood tests, MRIs, CTs and liver biopsies. Eventually I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease targeting my liver and impacting other organs. I have cirrhosis of the liver, severe inflammation throughout my body, an enlarged spleen, and a mass on my right kidney. There is no cure and I am not eligible for a transplant.

It was this diagnosis, this particularly strong "buffeting" that opened my heart to a new, deeper relationship with God. Having scraped the stores of my own personal strength, my life has a new perspective. *I* am not and have never been in control. He was, He is, and He ever shall be. And through the fear and sorrow I praise God for these circumstances as they have forced me to rely solely upon him. Every day I ask to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and to receive grace sufficient for the day, and every day He delivers on His promises.

From the day that I was born, God planned for me to be faced with this situation. No amount of clever negotiation or brute strength can change things. I cannot control the outcome but how I walk through these things will be my testimony before God.

The lyrics of that classic hymn do not say it is well with my life, my health, or my emotional state. Nor does it joyfully report the end of trials and the outpouring of physical blessings. As I sing those words now they have a deeper, clearer meaning. I sing with conviction that it is well with my soul because my soul is of greater importance than my health. It is of greater value than my futile pride and my human strength. My soul, my salvation, and my eternity are held tight in the hands of God and for that I sing His praise.

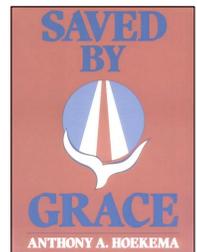
There are good days and there are bad days. There are times of tears and anger and there are times of peace and acceptance. I lament the loss of my *perceived* control over my life and then I remember that God is far more capable than I. And though I would not have chosen this particular lot or set of trials, I can still proclaim that by His grace it is truly and eternally well with my soul.

-Terry Davis

Recommended Books:

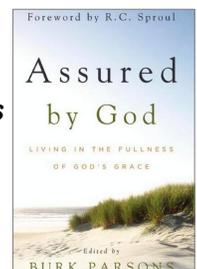
Saved By Grace

by Anthony Hoekema



Assured by God: Living in the Fullness of God's Grace

edited by Burk Parsons



Chuck Interview...

(Continued from Page 3)

Here is a quote I found from John Newton (the author of Amazing Grace) after he reflected on 1 Cor 15:10 —“But by the grace of God I am what I am.” I think his thoughts capture the essential role of grace in our lives:

"I am not what I ought to be. Ah! How imperfect and deficient.

I am not what I might be, considering my privileges and opportunities.

I am not what I wish to be. God, who knows my heart—knows I wish to be like Him.

I am not what I hope to be. Before long, I will drop this clay tabernacle to be like Him and see him as He is!

Yet, I am not what I once was—a child of sin, and slave of the devil!

Though not all these—not what I ought to be, not what I might be, not what I wish or hope to be, and not what I once was—I think I can truly say with the apostle, ‘By the grace of God—I am what I am!’”

4. How can believers grow in God’s grace?

By grace! :) It’s true though! We really can only grow by grace. That doesn’t mean we don’t give effort or apply ourselves, but it does remind us that since God is first and continually gracious, and when we are humbly dependent, then we will grow (Phil, 2:12-13).

That being said, let’s remind ourselves of the means that God in His grace has provided for our growth in grace. These are what is commonly called the “ordinary means of grace.”:

- The Word of God (heard, read, studied, preached, meditated upon, etc.)
- The communion of the saints (weekly gathering together for word and worship, discipling one another, caring for one another, etc.)
- Prayer (private and public, individual and corporate)
- The sacraments (baptism and the Lord’s supper)

These means of grace are effective for our growth because Christ by his Holy Spirit meets us in them when attended to by faith.

“God’s Size”

What size is God? We measure everything. We say things like, “This head-ache is massive.” “Her workload is too heavy.” “He has such little stress.” But what about God? How grand, or insignificant, is God?

Most of us know the Sunday School answer to this question: God is great. But do we really believe that?

I remember hearing a preacher once compare you and me to toothpaste tubes. He said, “It is only when pressure is applied that we find out what is inside us.” Only when we are pushed and squeezed and made uncomfortable do we realize what we really believe.

What size is God when your teenage child rips your heart apart with a bad choice they have made? What size is God when the person you talk to everyday, and share your life with, is diagnosed with cancer? It is easy to sing of the glory of the Lord when our lives are running smoothly. It is easy to pray, “God is good. God is great” when God is giving and blessing. But what about when God takes away? What about when the trials and tribulations of life weigh us down so much that we feel crushed? It is at such times we find out NOT how great God is, but how great God is TO US.

One other thought for growth in grace (probably an extension of the communion of the saints) that I want to highly commend is the reading of Christian biographies from the past, and the reading of solid, challenging, gospel-centered books and theological works. The Christ-given gifts of teachers in the Church (Eph 4:11-12) not only include those currently in our local churches but also the pastors and teachers down through the centuries. These saints not only enrich our lives but help us to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. May God grant it by His grace and for His glory.

How great should God be to us? The family of followers of Jesus known as Spring Creek Baptist Church is growing to see that we cannot have too great a view of God. Never in the Bible do we read of God chastising the Israelites for exalting Him too much. Never do we read Jesus calling the disciples to temper their enthrallment in His glory. Just the opposite, God repeatedly had to correct the Israelites for their idolatry in lowering Him to the status of just one of the false gods they worshiped. Jesus repeatedly had to correct the disciples for not perceiving His power and the grandeur of the Father’s will for Him.

Our struggle is not thinking too much of God, but thinking too little of God. Disappointment, disease, and despair are earth shattering to us because we perceive God to be small in comparison. But God is not small. Isaiah 40 says, “Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales.” North Korea, China, the United States, are but a drop in the bucket to God, like dust. Isaiah 40 continues, “It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers.” The earth is not shattered when we behold God as the exalted sovereign over all the earth.

The real size of God though is that He is so great and yet became so small, a small carpenter, rejected and despised, dying a criminal’s death so that you and I could be united to Him with His power and strength living in us and through us. By His death and resurrection Jesus conquered death and hell. His size is immeasurable.

-Pastor Matt Peery



“Born Again - Jesus is King!”

Salvation is a miracle. No-one deserves it or earns it. It is the work of God. We do not control it and it is beyond our full comprehension.

Jesus says in John 3 that a person must be born again to enter God's eternal kingdom. According to Jesus, one has to be re-born, or regenerated, to be saved by God from His judgment against all sin. This man Nicodemus to whom Jesus is speaking to in John 3 did not have the slightest idea of what Jesus is talking about. Nicodemus took Jesus' words literally. He actually asked if Jesus meant he needed to re-enter his mother's womb.

Nicodemus, like so many Americans today, had naturalistic worldview; a way of seeing the world in which everything has an explainable, observable cause. Jesus was not saying Nicodemus needed reborn naturally, but supernaturally in God's Spirit – an absolute requirement for salvation.

The musician and cultural icon Kanye West now claims to be born of God's Spirit just as Jesus described in John 3. Many are responding to West's faith with skepticism. But why skepticism? Is it any more miraculous that Kanye West has been born of God than you, me, or anyone else? No! Each new birth by the Holy Spirit is miracle, a work of God, and certainly not beyond the power of almighty God to accomplish. 1 Peter 1:3 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” His mercy is extended to all who will accept it.

Have you been born of God's Spirit? I'm not asking if you're religious, or if you've been baptized or catechized. I'm asking if God has breathed life into your soul upon your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your savior. If not, read John 3 and believe and trust in Jesus Christ, and God will give you spiritual re-birth as a new person. If you are a believer, please pray for and reach out to new believers with encouragement rather than skepticism. As for Kanye West, his own words testify of God's work in his life.

“I know I won't forget all He's done

He's the strength in this race that I run

Every time I look up, I see God's
faithfulness

And it shows just how much He is
miraculous

I can't keep it to myself, I can't sit here
and be still

Everybody, I will tell 'til the whole
world is healed

King of Kings, Lord of Lords, all the
things He has in store

From the rich to the poor, all are
welcome through the door

You won't ever be the same when you
call on Jesus' name

Listen to the words I'm sayin', Jesus
saved me, now I'm sane”

-Pastor Matt Peery

“Final Words”

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom

given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

“Now I will say this to every sinner, though he should think himself to be the worst sinner who ever lived: cry to the Lord and seek Him while He may be found. A throne of grace is a place fitted for you. By simple faith, go to your Savior, for He is the throne of grace.”

- Charles Spurgeon

“Jesus the Great High Priest”

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ***Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

- Heb 4:14-16 (ESV)

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ***But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*** To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.

Amen.

- 2 Pe 3:14-18 (ESV)