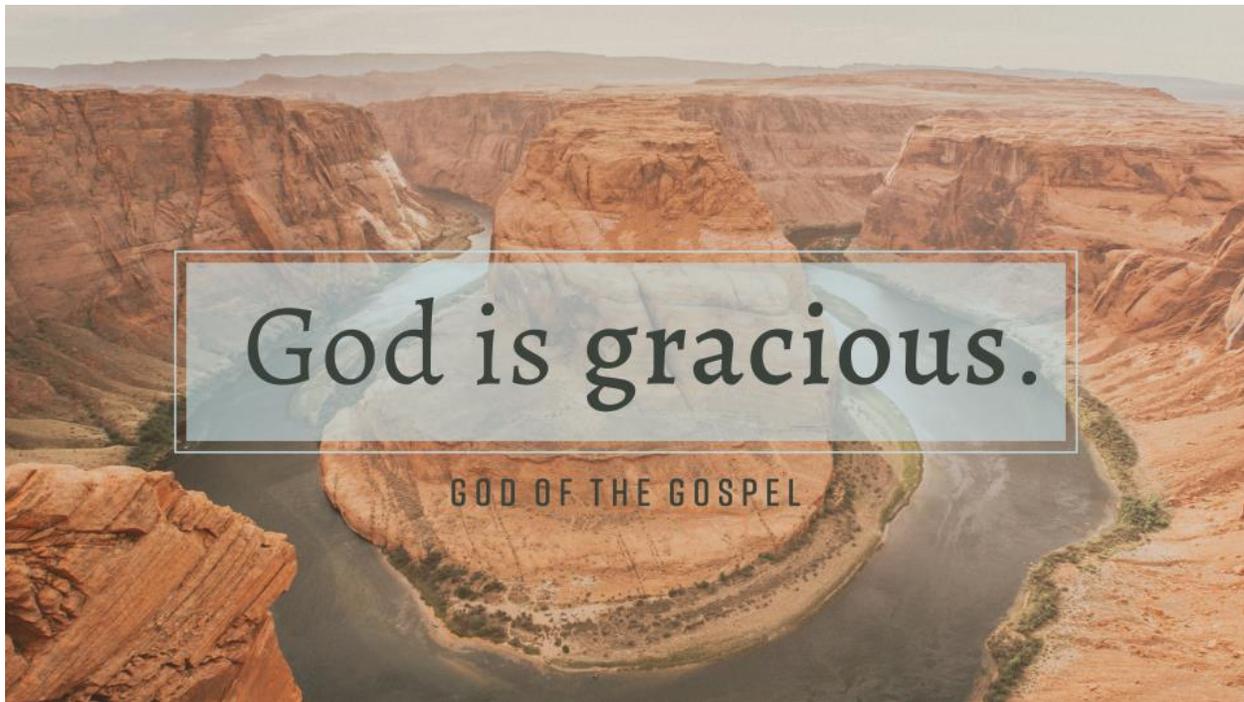


GOD IS GRACIOUS.*

God has sent His love down in the gift of unmerited favor in Christ. His favor continues as spiritual help.

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
John 1:11-18 Romans 3:20-28 Romans 4:12-21 Romans 5:1-2 Romans 6:11-17 Ephesians 2:1-10 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Titus 2:11-13; 3:4-7	Amazing Grace Amazing Grace (Courtney) SATB/TTB By God's Grace (Achterberg) SATB For I Am Saved by Grace (Lopez) SATB Grace (Hayes) SATB/SSA Grace Greater Than Our Sin I Need Thee Precious Jesus (Ralston) SATB Jesus Paid It All Just as I Am My Faith Looks Up to Thee My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness My Hope Is In the Lord Rock of Ages



NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

nwvbc.org | 623-581-3115 | 4030 W Yorkshire Drive, Glendale, AZ 85308

* Fits as Part 4 of 4 in series, "God of the Gospel."

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

INTRODUCING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

GRACE = GIFT

Ephesians 2:8-1 | *The Greek word for grace means “gift,” and it is within God’s nature to give. God’s grace is what sets biblical Christianity apart from works-based religions. The giving is intended to bring about a love transaction, not to reward good behavior. The illustration of Hosea loving a harlot parallels God’s grace to us. We are unfaithful to Him, deserving of His judgment, but He offers us the gift of salvation and the chance to be one with Him. We can refuse, but His offer is still good. This is grace.*

MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE

Many people have repeated the phrase, "God will never give you more than you can handle" to someone who is going through a difficult time or who is simply weary in his daily responsibilities. Actually, the Bible presents the truth that God will always give us more than we can handle. That is what grace is all about. If God gave us only what we could handle on our own, we wouldn't need His grace. But we do need His grace, and we need it not just for salvation but for every day that we live. When we feel like God is asking us to do something that we cannot do, we need His enabling grace. The Corinthians experienced this grace when they gave sacrificially, trusting that God would enable them to fulfill what He had called them to do.

“God will never give you more than you can handle!” It’s not true. He often—almost always—gives us more than we can possibly handle. Yesterday, we worshiped the God of Grace. There are so many aspects of the grace that God gives that it is sometimes necessary to focus in on just one aspect. Thomas Spurgeon, in his article on grace published in *The Fundamentals*, described grace as God’s “love flowing down.” It is love, demonstrated in so many forms. But it always flows down. Grace always flows from the superior to the inferior. Grace is what flows from the Master to the servant, from the Father to the Child, from the Creator to the creation. He infuses us with His strength, His wisdom, His patience, His love, just as we need them.

We try to pump ourselves up. “I can do this!” When the truth is that I can’t. In fact, thinking “I can” is a formula for disaster. God graciously allowed the Apostle Paul to face a defeating foe in the thorn in the flesh that pummeled him. It was an overwhelming obstacle that Paul asked God repeatedly to remove. Whatever it was left him defeated and discouraged. But in the moment of deepest weakness God granted him the assurance that, while Paul himself could not overcome His trial, God would grant him the grace necessary to endure. In fact, in Paul’s weakness the profound nature of grace in Christ would be made complete. What a joy to worship the God who gives us the grace—the divine ability and empowerment—to face any obstacle. [\(Kevin Schaal\)](#)

SAVING GRACE

God is gracious and offers salvation as a gift. God does all the giving in salvation. Man's part is to believe. We can imagine the famous acrobat Charles Blondine, who once asked a crowd if they believed that he could take a man across Niagara Falls in a wheelbarrow. Although many in the crowd said that they believed in Blondine, no one was willing to get in the wheelbarrow. Belief includes understanding the gospel, agreeing with what God says about my sin, and placing my trust in Him. The Bible calls this decision repentance. Address those who may have been coming and have not yet placed their faith in Christ. The ultimate response to hearing the gospel and realizing your need is to accept His grace.