

# The Oologah Informer

## Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Thoughts from the Preacher “Bad Fruit”

It does not hurt the tree, when bad fruit falls off.

### Weekly Article “The True Meaning of Grace”

Part 1 of 2

By Wayne Jackson

The concept of God’s “grace” is thrilling beyond words. It shines its brightest, however, against the seemingly dark backdrop of another aspect of our Creator’s nature — that of sacred wrath.

### **The Wrath of God**

The most common Greek word for “wrath” is orge. The term occurs 36 times in the New Testament (cf. Rom. 1:18; 2:5). Another expression denoting “wrath” is thymos (18 times; cf. Rev. 16:19; 19:15).

Most scholars make some distinction between the terms. Some suggest that thymos is “boiling” anger, whereas orge reflects an “abiding and settled” state of mind. Perhaps the two terms in concert denote the intense and sustained disposition of God towards evil and those who abandon themselves to it.

But wrath, as used of God, does not suggest an impulsive, emotional reaction, as the term frequently does with humans.

Rather, divine wrath is the reflection of a deliberate and measured reaction of a perfectly holy Being toward sin — a response that is entirely consistent with the righteous nature of a loving God.

Standing over against the starkness of sacred wrath, is the dazzling concept of grace.

### **Grace Defined**

“Grace” derives from the Greek, charis. In secular Greek, charis was related to chairo, “to rejoice.” As far back as Homer it denoted “sweetness” or “attractiveness.”

Charis came to signify “favor,” “goodwill,” and “lovingkindness” — especially as granted by a superior to an inferior.

In the New Testament, “grace” (156 times) takes on a special redemptive sense in which God makes available his favor on behalf of sinners, who actually do not deserve it.

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### Service Times

#### Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.  
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

#### Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

#### Preacher:

Russ Earl

#### AM Sermon:

Guest Speaker: Stacy Ferguson

#### PM Sermon

Acts against the Church (Acts 12)

#### Sunday AM Bible Class:

PIBC Report – Stacy Ferguson

#### Wednesday Bible Class:

Proverbs 8 – R. Earl

#### In SEARCH of the Lord’s Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

#### The Truth in Love

on Channel 19 Sundays @ 8am

#### The Gospel of Christ TV Program

on Saturday @ 7:30am on Channel 53

#### Media & Podcast network

Visit [www.biblewaymedia.org](http://www.biblewaymedia.org) for more info.

The Oologah church of Christ only uses the **KJV, NKJV or ASV** translation of the Bible in classes & sermons.

There is tremendous emphasis in the New Testament upon the fact that human salvation is the result of Heaven's grace. This beautiful truth should never be minimized. At the same time, it must not be perverted.

Unfortunately, much too often those with only a superficial concept of grace have hijacked the term and foisted upon it a sense alien to scriptural teaching.

Let us consider some of the precious Bible truths associated with the concept of salvation by grace.

### **Grace Is for Everyone**

God's grace has been offered to the entire human family.

“For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men” (Tit. 2:11).

This cannot mean that every soul will be saved. Such a conclusion would contradict numerous other passages.

What this does suggest is that Heaven's grace is potentially available to all who care to access it by means of the divine plan of redemption (cf. Rom. 5:1; 6:3-4, 17).

This reality is in direct conflict with the Calvinistic notion that God, before the foundation of the world, chose only specific persons to be recipients of his grace.

### **The Grace and Knowledge Connection**

The access to God's grace is by means of an objective body of revelation. Paul noted:

“For the grace of God hath appeared . . . instructing us” (Tit. 2:11-12).

Christianity is a taught religion. Isaiah, speaking of the messianic age, exclaimed: “he will teach us of his ways” (Is. 2:3). Jesus himself declared:

“It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught of God. Every one that hath heard from the Father, and has learned, comes unto me” (Jn. 6:45).

God's grace is not dispensed apart from an instruction that requires both understanding and obedience.

In these days when there is a tendency to stampede folks into the church, with minimal comprehension of what they are doing, this is a crucial matter to emphasize.

**\*Continued next week.**