

The fullness of His Grace

Jn 1:14-18

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" 16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

(NIV1984)

Christmas - the Word became flesh

- God - in a human body!
- When Mary held the baby that Baby was the same One who was & is upholding the universe!
- 100% God & 100% man.

We can't figure that out!

Sustainability

Do you look back on tis year and perhaps feel as tho you've only just made it thru?

Do you look ahead to the coming year and wonder how you will manage?

What about the church?

☞ Do you ever feel as tho' you are scraping the bottom of the barrel of God's mercy? Is there enough for you?

☞ Is there enough in God to get you from where you are now to Heaven?

☞ Is there enough grace to see this church move on in God?

☞ To keep on blessing us again & again?

Full of grace & truth

So Jesus is full of grace & truth. How full is that? What size container are we talking about here?

If Jesus was a man - then there wouldn't be much!

Perfect angel?

God! What size container is full of grace? Infinite!

Infinitely full of grace & truth.

Lam 3:22-23 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Isa 54:10 Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

From His fullness

from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. From His fullness! So, out of His infinite fullness - grace upon grace,

16For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favour upon favour and gift [heaped] upon gift.

AMP

The idea is of grace, blessing being heaped up again & again - as soon as we receive some grace, there's more!

Blessings, grace, undeserved favour that will never run out or cease!

Our sustainability, our staying power doesn't depend on us having to keep the momentum going - it is all based on His fullness.

Thailand - Coren just born, Lin ill - Trying to get Coren to sleep. Feeling so alone, frazzled & empty. Singing "*There is a river....*"

Our confidence in Him

Paul writing to a church in Philippi - many of them he didn't know personally.

Phi 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (NIV1984)

Not confident in their staying power but in Jesus. Confident, persuaded, sure & certain. That's the position we get into if we're resting on the fullness of His grace.

Eph 3:8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

to proclaim to the Gentiles **the unending (boundless, fathomless, incalculable, and exhaustless) riches of Christ [wealth which no human being could have searched out],**

(AMP)

This describes Jesus!

The relationship & communion we have with Jesus is limitless. The depths and heights of it can never be measured or tracked out.

Eph 3 the breadth, length, height & depth of the love of Christ and knowing experientially this love that passes knowledge. Here is something that can satisfy the deepest longing, fill the greatest void - and keep on doing it thru' eternity.

Finding our fullness in Him

Where do you look for for satisfaction & fulfillment? What gives meaning & purpose to your life?

I've had to face this question head on as I've been an office manager, a missionary, a pastor, church planter - an long term unemployed. How do I measure my worth? Am I past my sell by date? If we look to things then our lives will be a rollercoaster ride.

Col 2:9-10 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,¹⁰ and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

All the fullness of what makes God God is in Jesus. And you have been given fullness in Jesus!

How to shock an angel.

Jer 2:12-13

12 Be appalled at this, O heavens,
and shudder with great horror,"
declares the Lord.

13 "My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me,
the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

The angels and heavenly beings are shocked, appalled, dumbfounded and in horror. What would cause so much terror and disgust in the heavenly realms? These two facts -

GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE FORSAKEN HIM, THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER. The angels are so shocked because they know how deeply satisfying God is.

- Angels constantly crying out holy, holy, holy.
- Angels longing to look into the depths and greatness of this salvation.
- Seraphim - burning ones - around His throne.

- Creatures full of eyes constantly gazing on Him.

They've seen the river of delights spoken of in the Psalms. Who wouldn't be satisfied? What appetite or capacity couldn't be filled?

YET THIS IS THE THING THAT SENDS SHOCKWAVES OF HORROR REVERBERATING THRU' HEAVEN - **God's people have turned their noses up at Him and have dug their own cisterns, gone after other things that would promise satisfaction but the cisterns are broken and hold no water.** A fountain of living water or a leaky bucket! There should be no comparison but so often I go after the leaky bucket. A cistern stores. It can stagnate, it isn't fresh. We can even try to live off old experiences of God, something stored up instead of a fresh encounter with the Living Fountain.

So much could be ours, yet so little fills our souls that have become cramped and diminished.

Psa 36:7-8 How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights.

He brought me to His banqueting table!

*Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills the breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.*

*O Jesus, light of all below,
Thou fount of living fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know,
And all we can desire.*

*Celestial Sweetness unalloyed,
Who eat Thee hunger still;
Who drink of Thee still feel a void
Which only Thou canst fill.*

God wants to fill you!

God wants each one of us to be filled with & thrilled with Jesus. He wants Jesus to be the One we rejoice & delight in.

Spend time getting to know Him.

- Prayer
- Worship
- Meditation

The hyper-sufficiency of Jesus.

Bad back.

Jonathan Edwards, Lion & Lamb, meekness & majesty

God met with me.

Nothing can compare with Jesus--> Use that to defeat temptation.

Ps. 90:14