

*The Power of Grace*

A message delivered to  
**MAYER COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1999

**TITLE: The Power of Grace**

**TEXT: Various**

**THEME: God is in control!**

**THRUST: Even in adverse circumstances, The Lord God omnipotent reigns!**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Last week we looked at Hebrews 12:25-29

and saw that refusing the voice of God  
will have disastrous consequences.

We are either consumed *with* God  
or, we will be consumed *by* God.

“Our God is a consuming fire.”

Such a viewpoint of God is to effect our worship!

Remember, *worship* is ascribing to God, His worth.

Our worship does not *set* His value or worth;  
our worship simply acknowledges  
what value *we* ascribe to Him.

The ideal here is that we would ascribe to Him His due!

**Psalm 29:1-2** Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness. (NIV)

**Psalm 99:1-2** The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. <sup>2</sup> Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. (NIV)

How can we expect the *nations* to tremble,  
how can we expect the *earth* to shake  
if the LORD is not *great* in His Zion?

May I suggest to you that our perception of His greatness

in Zion is proportional to our acknowledging that He reigns?

**Psalm 96:7-10** Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. <sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. <sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. (NIV)

How can we *say among the nations*

that *the Lord reigns*, when we do not acknowledge that  
either on the personal level, or when we come together  
to worship as a body of believers.

May I further suggest to you this morning  
that we fail to ascribe to the Lord  
the glory due His name,  
when we fail to acknowledge  
that the Lord God omnipotent reigns,?  
When we thus fail, we are in danger of missing grace!

### Hebrews 12:14-24

1. The *Purpose* of the Grace of God
2. The *Place* of the Grace of God
  - *Refusing* of the Grace of God
  - *Receiving* the Grace of God

#### I. The *Purpose* of the Grace of God

“God’s Grace is the power that God grants to us that enables us to live according to His will.”  
Is it God’s will that we live *Holy*?  
— It is His *Grace* gives us the ability to live that way.  
Is it God’s will that we be at peace with all?  
— It is His *Grace* gives us the ability to live that way.  
Is it God’s will that we live free of bitterness?  
— It is His *Grace* gives us the ability to live that way.  
Is it God’s will that we live free from immorality?  
— It is His *Grace* gives us the ability to live that way.  
Is it God’s will that we live godly in Christ Jesus?  
— It is His *Grace* gives us the ability to live that way.

#### II. The *Place* of the Grace of God

According to **Hebrews 4:16**

The *place* of God’s Grace is at His throne — *prayer*!  
This speaks of *personal (corporeal) responsibility*.  
· *Refusing* the Grace of God - **Esau!**  
· *Receiving* the Grace of God - **Joseph**

According to **Hebrews 12:15**

The *place* of God’s Grace is in His presence — *people*!  
This speaks of *corporate responsibility*.  
· **v.14** *make every effort to live in peace...*  
· **v.15** *see to it that no one misses grace...*  
· **v.22-25** *you have come:*  
○ To Mount Zion  
○ And to The City of the Living God — Jerusalem

- And to Thousands of *Angels* in joyful assembly — Church of the first-born  
—whose names are written in heaven
- And to God — the Judge of all
- And to Spirits of righteous people made complete
- And to Jesus — Mediator of a new covenant
- And to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word....
- *Angels*: much is said about angels today  
... one of the main tenets of the New Age

*Angel = minister*

Generally accepted that *these* Angels are  
the created beings before God's throne.

I take exception with that,

even though it is generally accepted  
and also translated with the word *Angels*.

The reason I take exception is that the emphasis  
of this passage is on *shared* responsibilities.

**v.14** *make every effort to live in peace*

**v.15** *see to it that no one misses grace*

**vs.22-24** the focus is on the *Church*

*Mount Zion* is the foundation of the Church

*Heavenly Jerusalem/City* is the Church

**v.23** which speaks of the *Church of the firstborn*

is connected to *Angels* with the word "to"

while the connections between different aspects  
are signified with the words "and to".

The Christian Church is supposed to be a *sharing in ministry!*

A sharing that is rooted in the ministry of Jesus.

A sharing that has interpersonal ministry as its objective.

Esau could not minister to anyone else

because he was consumed with hatred for his brother's trick.

Joseph could minister to the needs of his brothers

because of a strong conviction that The Lord reigns!

It was such a strong conviction led him to state:

**Gen 50:20** "And as for you, you meant evil against me, {but} God meant it for good in order  
to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive." (NAS)

This same conviction led the Psalmist to write:

"*The Lord reigns....*"

Such a strong conviction also led the Apostle to write:

"*For we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are  
called, according to His purpose.*"

How we perceive the *Grace of God* is a determining factor

in our ability to live by His power, regardless!

*See to it that no one misses Grace.*

When we miss grace, we cannot *minister*  
with the power of God, rather,  
the ministering becomes fleshly and bitter!

When we miss grace, we cannot offer to God  
the worship that is due His name,  
because we are not consumed with Him,  
but with our circumstances, or our gripes.

I once heard a pastor remark,  
after the people in his care  
severely disappointed him:

*“I will **never** pastor another church”*

*They* may have meant it for evil ...  
*but God* wants to use it for good.

What has happened to you?

Has something disappointed you?

Has someone wounded you?

Have your motives and actions been misconstrued?

God’s desire is that you find His grace to recognize  
that *He* is reigning in your circumstances.

The Apostle Paul stated:

*“The things that have happened to me have happened for the furtherance of the Gospel....”*

***That is Grace!***

***That is the power of God!***

***That is what is available to each of us!***

See to it that no one misses grace!

**CONCLUSION:**

***Come, Thou Almighty King*** Charles Wesley ~1757

1.

Come, Thou Almighty King,

help us Thy name to sing;

help us to praise:

Father, all glorious,

o'er all victorious,

come, and reign over us,

Ancient of Days.

2

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,  
gird on Thy mighty sword,  
our pray'r attend:  
come, and Thy people bless,  
and give Thy Word success:  
Spirit of holiness,  
on us descend.

3

Come, Holy Comforter,  
Thy sacred witness bear  
in this glad hour:  
Thou who almighty art,  
now rule in every heart,  
and ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of pow'r.

4.

To Thee, great One in Three,  
eternal praises be  
hence, evermore.  
His sov'reign majesty  
may we in glory see,  
and to eternity  
love and adore!