

Characteristics of God's Grace

(Part 5)

Directing Grace

We sing these words "*All the way, My Savior leads me, what have to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercy, who through life has been my guide?*" oh what an error when we think the Lord's presence has only been since His regenerating work of my heart, Folks our savior has always loved His people, He has always been with His people!

(Rom 8:32) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

The Heading for Jeremiah 31 in e-sword is this "**The Lord Will Turn Mourning to Joy**" folks this world we walk in is full of Mourning, full of death, full of misery, I don't mean to sound so negative for there is much to enjoy of God's creation! but none of what we see or enjoy here will continue, nothing of this world will last.

(1Pe 1:24) For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

(Psa 103:15-9) As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

For those The Father hath given, those Chosen in Christ Jesus before the Foundation of the worlds, even our misery and mourning will have its end, we will be led to the Joy of God! “All the way my Savior leads me”!

(Jer 31:1) At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

(Jer 31:2) Thus saith the LORD, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.

(Jer 31:3) The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

(Jer 31:4) Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry.

(Jer 31:5) Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things.

(Jer 31:6) For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God.

(Jer 31:7) For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.

(Jer 31:8) Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.

(Jer 31:9) They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Robert Hawker wrote; *“We have here, the Lord speaking most graciously to his people; and giving them exceeding great and precious promises in Christ, confirmed with all the sanction and authority of Jehovah”.*

“Directing Grace” what peace a believer is given when the Lord of Glory declares His works in all things, the fact that all that happens in this world and beyond is by His direction, By His purpose, By Ultimately His will!

(Isa 14:24) The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

We took a break from reading the Psalms for our Sunday morning Scripture reading and have been reading the story of Joseph, the son of Jacob, and we have come to where Jacob has learned of His son Joseph, still alive and thriving in Egypt; Listen to these words!

(Gen 46:1-4) And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac. And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I. And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation: I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again: and Joseph shall put his hand upon thine eyes.

I think of my path in this world before the Lord gave me a new heart as well as since, and I wonder at how He has led me through the ways I came, was it His purpose for me to wonder in all those years in my darkness? The answer is yes! I may not understand what I went through in all those years but I Know this, my Lord tells me it was for my good! (Rms.8:28) and I believe!

Let us be very, very, Very clear, God is not the author of our sin, our sin is ours, it is of us, if we have any will at all, it is a will to sin! The only reason our sin is restrained, is by the Grace of God’s restraining hand! Some say in the day’s of Noah, all men did as was right in their own minds, think about that, also the days of Sodom and Gamora, we think today, sin has become so common it must be close to the end, but folks sin has abounded all along, Cain killed his brother! Sin has been in all men in ways beyond our imagination. **“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it”?** (Jer 17:9)

But it is also clear through the Holy Scriptures, that sin is allowed for the Glory of God! all things including the fall of man, will bring Glory To God.

(Rom 9:13) As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

(Rom 9:14) What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

(Rom 9:15) For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

(Rom 9:16) So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

(Rom 9:17) For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

(Rom 9:18) Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.

(Rom 9:19) Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?

(Rom 9:20) Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?

(Rom 9:21) Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

(Rom 9:22) What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

(Rom 9:23) And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

And Folks, it is by God's Directing Grace that brings a Lost sinful soul unto the knowledge of Himself! **"the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance"** (Rms 2:4).

(2Co 4:6) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is what a shepherd does He leadeth His sheep, He directs them in the way to go! His Sheep! Who causes it to rain? Did Noah shut up the door to the Ark? Who brought all the animals to be saved in the Ark? Folks this is the difference between having religion and knowing The One True God who is Sovereign over all that is, and has chosen to save a people unto Himself, who can turn His hand?

He is called the Deliverer, the Messiah, he shall come and deliver His people from their sins!

(Pro 16:9) A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

(2Th 3:1-5) Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

This too is the work of the Holy Spirit, guiding the loved of God unto His Son Christ Jesus!

We are guided to Know Him as He is, God manifest in the flesh, 100% man, with all the physical traits of man, His body grew from infancy to maturity, He hungered, He thirsted, He laughed, He cried, yet He committed no sin!

We are guided to know Him as 100% God, perfect in all things, everything He did pleased the Father, He came to do His Fathers will, (Heb. 9)

We are guided to see Him as our only Righteousness, we have none of ourselves and God requires righteousness, Christ is our Righteousness.

We are guided to Know His righteous perfect sacrifice of Himself has accomplished it's purpose; **"It is Finished"** His finished work has satisfied the dept of our sin! He is our Atonement! **"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"** (2Co 5:21).

We are guided to see Him as the only sacrifice worthy of God's acceptance; **"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.** (Heb 9:11-12) He was raised for our justification to sit at the right hand of the throne on High! As our great conquering Captain!

(Psa 23:1) **A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

(Psa 23:2) **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

(Psa 23:3) **He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

(Psa 23:4) **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

(Psa 23:5) **Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

(Psa 23:6) **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

Directing Grace

Robert Hawker writes regarding this Psalm;

“God had promised in the Old Testament scripture, to raise up a faithful Shepherd, meaning, Christ. And it is well worth our inquiry, under how many descriptions the several writers of the word of God had it in commission to point him out. He is called God’s Shepherd, (Zec 13:7)
Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

And that no possible mistake concerning him might arise, he is called One Shepherd, (Eze 34:23)
And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

He is called also the Chief Shepherd, (1Pe 5:4)
And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

And the Great Shepherd, (Heb 13:20-21)
Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

And Christ himself takes the appellation of the Good Shepherd, (Joh 10:11)
I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

Reader, how delightful, you and I, like David, can with the same authority say, ‘The Lord is MY Shepherd.’ Depend upon it, if so, we shall never want either food or raiment, neither chastisement nor support, either blessings in providence nor grace. He that is the Good Shepherd, and the Great Shepherd, and Jehovah’s Shepherd, will never suffer his sheep to be unprovided for”.

Through His Grace He will guide us into eternity to be with Him for ever; **I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself;** (Joh 16:12-13)

(1Th 3:11) **Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way;**

(2Th 3:5) **And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.**