

Grace Which He Lavished Upon Us

“which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ” (Ephesians 1:8, ESV)

1. The first thing that jumps out at us this morning is this word **lavished**.

Lavish – (Adj) 1 sumptuously rich, elaborate, or luxurious. 2 giving or given in profusion.

(Verb) (lavish something on) bestow something in generous or extravagant quantities on.

2. The grace we’ve talked about that is lavished upon us is **Sovereign Free Grace** from the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. The **wisdom** we are talking about here is the “wisdom” in devising the plan of **redeeming mankind**.

*“even as **he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.** ” (Ephesians 1:4–6, ESV)*

*“In him we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,** ” (Ephesians 1:11, ESV)*

*“**who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,** ” (2 Timothy 1:9, ESV)*

4. The **insight** or “prudence” is the executing of the plan by **all the means necessary**.

*“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, **through sanctification by the***

Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ” (2 Thessalonians 2:13–14, ESV)

*“In him you also, **when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him,** were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. ” (Ephesians 1:13–14, ESV)*

*“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **that whoever believes in him** may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, **that whoever believes in him** should not perish but have eternal life. ” (John 3:14–16, ESV)*

*“But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, **if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” (Romans 10:8–11, ESV)*

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*“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For **“everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”** (Romans 10:12–13, ESV)*

5. This required making all the necessary arrangements of **Providence for that purpose.**

*“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? **And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?** And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As*

it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" " (Romans 10:14–15, ESV)

6. In God's providence for this purpose He saves sinners unconditionally.

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him." (1 John 5:1, ESV)

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."(John 3:8, ESV)

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed." (Acts 13:48, ESV)

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10:14–15, ESV)

"And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd." (John 10:16, ESV)

7. There are those that will not believe.

"Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock." (John 10:25–26, ESV)

"But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:16–17, ESV)

"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." (John 3:18, ESV)

“whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” (John 3:36b, ESV)

8. We must be **patient** with them and try and **correct them**.

*“And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. **God may perhaps grant them repentance** leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”* (2 Timothy 2:24–26, ESV)

*“Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, **let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.** For good news came to us just as to them, **but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.** For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, “As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest,’ ” although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.”* (Heb 4:1-3 ESV)

9. What is there to do? **Repent – If Possible!**

*“...like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, **for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.** ”* (Hebrews 12:16–17, ESV)

*“**Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.**”* (Acts 8:22–23, ESV)

10. This grace truly is amazing but do not take it for granted - do not receive the **grace of God in vain!**

*“Working together with him, then, **we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.** For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; **behold, now is the day of salvation.** ”* (2 Corinthians 6:1–2, ESV)