

GRACE (Jan. 30)

Christ Jesus is the embodiment, the personification of God's grace. Grace is Jesus. Jesus is Grace.

Prophecy of the coming grace: Isaiah 53:1-5 (5) But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed. (I Peter 2:24 – Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.)

Announcement of the imminent arrival of God's grace: Mathew 1:20 -24 (21) And she shall bring forth a son and thou shall call his name JESUS for he shall save his people from their sins. (Jesus means Yahweh is Salvation)

Heaven's announcement that grace is here: Luke 2:8-14

God validates His gift of grace: Luke 3:22 – And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

The plan of grace: John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

This verse states succinctly God's plan of salvation by grace, His Son.

Theological perspectives of grace:

Common grace – (Lat. Gratia communis) God's universal, nonsaving grace in which blessings are given to humanity for physical sustenance, pleasure, learning, beauty, etc., as expressions of God's goodness. (Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms) (Material provisions, withholding of judgment, spiritual provisions, restraining of sin)

Efficacious grace – The grace of God that accomplishes the purpose of salvation.

Cheap grace – a phrase associated with the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45 that points to the acceptance of God's grace in salvation without the desire to repent of sin or live a life of obedience in Christian discipleship.