

## LESSON - 7

# DISPENSATION OF GRACE

**References** : John. 1 : 1 -18 Heb. 1 : 1 -4  
: Romas. 5 : 1 - 21 Ephe. 2: 4 - 10

**Memory Verse**: Ephe. 2:8

**Objective** : Of all the preceding dispensations, the dispensation of grace is the greatest and the most glorious one. Of all others, we who are living in this dispensation are the most blessed and privileged people. We are to understand this fact and possess all its blessings and avail its privileges.

**Introduction** : In each of the old dispensations, God gave various commandments and laws to mankind and required obedience from them. But man in all the dispensations proved inefficient to obey the commandments and were punished. Thus it was found that man could not please God or get saved by his own works and efforts. Then God put forward a new way for mankind through Jesus Christ. Here, Jesus Christ took the punishment upon Himself and freed man from the punishment. The punishment for sin is death (Rom. 3:23). Therefore Jesus Christ died in our substitute. We have to accept this fact by faith. See the marvelous grace of God! However, this grace is available only for a period. This period is known as the dispensation of grace.

### **DURATION :**

The dispensation of grace commenced from the death of Jesus Christ on Calvary and will be closed by the coming of Christ in the clouds.

## **ITS CODE :**

The Old Testament is the book of law whereas, the New Testament is the code of the dispensation of Grace. The first four books known as the Gospels, record the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The Acts of the apostles and the Epistles lay out the doctrines and precedent of the dispensation of Grace.

## **ITS CHARACTERISTICS :**

### ***i. Salvation by Faith :***

In all the former dispensations, man tried to please God by offering sacrifices. Sacrifice was a temporary remedy for sin. According to God's verdict, any violation of law or sinful deed demanded death of the person responsible for it. So man sought for deliverance by the death of an animal in his stead. More sins and repeated violations required more sacrifices. In this way, sacrifices and practices went on endlessly with no satisfaction in man's conscience. Then the Merciful God sent His son Jesus Christ to this earth to take the sins of all mankind and die on the cross. When Jesus died, God counted that all men died with Him on the cross. Since Jesus Christ died in stead of each individual, no more sacrifice is needed for man's deliverance. God has declared life for all who believe in this sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

People know that unless they please God they can not attain salvation. So they do all they can to please God say, by pilgrimages, holy bath, giving alms, charitable deeds etc... But inspite of all the efforts and attempts, man remains all the more desperate and guilt-conscious. This is due to the fact that men are ignorant of God's will and plan for salvation. Before trying to please God, one must know from God Himself what His will is. All that God wants is that we believe in His son Jesus Christ. For the salvation of the mankind, God has done His part. Everything for salvation is 'done' and the work is 'finished'. Our part is to accept it by faith (Rom. 3:24, 25, Eph. 2:8). In this dispensation, the greatest privilege is that salvation is attained freely and unconditionally.

### ***ii. The Work of The Holy Spirit :***

Another speciality is the work of the Holy spirit. In the former dispensations, the Holy Spirit came upon individuals occasionally for particular purposes. But the difference in this dispensation of grace is

that God has sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always to teach and guide us in the will of God (Jn. 14:16-26, 15:26, 16:7-8, 16:13).

### **iii. Open For All :**

In the previous dispensations, promise was given to Abraham, Law was given to the Israelites (Jews) but the salvation through grace is offered to all irrespective of religion caste or creed. It was declared by the angels at the time of Jesus' birth.

**The angel said.** " I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord" (LK. 2:10, 11).

**St. Paul said :** "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men." (Titus 2:11)

### **IV. Equal Privilege For All :**

In the preceding dispensations, all were not equally privileged to enter the worship place for worship. There was discrimination between high-caste and low caste; men and women, master and servant etc. But in grace, there is no discrimination whatsoever. Paul said, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gala. 3:28)

We who are privileged to live in this dispensation of Grace are truly blessed. Make sure that you take full benefit of this opportunity. How will you escape if you neglect so great a salvation by grace? (Heb. 2:4).

### **EXERCISE - 7**

#### **Answer the following questions .**

- 1) What is the duration of the dispensation of grace?
- 2) What is recorded in the Gospels?
- 3) What do the books of the Acts of Apostles and the Epistles tell us?
- 4) What are the characteristics of the dispensation of grace?
- 5) What are the different ways in which people try to please God?
- 6) What is our greatest privilege in the dispensation of grace?
- 7) Why has God sent His Holy Spirit to us?