

THE GRACE OF GOD!

I. INTRODUCTION

God's unmerited favor toward humanity and especially His people realized through the covenant and fulfilled through Jesus Christ, (the overflowing favor of God).

II. DEFINITION

Webster: Favor; Divine Favor (proceeding from God, sacred; God-like, heavenly)

Eerdmans Bible Dictionary: The NT word for GRACE, Gk. CHĀRIS, is related to the verb CHĀIRO "rejoice." In secular (lay) usage the term indicates that which brings joy and pleasure or "win favor".

III. TEXT

Luke 1:30, 31

God's favor does not automatically bring instant success or fame. His blessing on Mary, the honor of being the mother of the Messiah (anointed one) would lead to much pain: her peers would ridicule her, her fiancé would come close to leaving her, her son would be rejected and murdered, but through her son Jesus, would come the world's only hope. This is why Mary has been praised by countless generations as the young girl who "found favor" with God. Her submission was part of God's plan to bring about our salvation.

If sorrow (in Thess. 4:13, the Bible tells us to sorrow not) weighs you down and dims your hope. Think of Mary and wait (*Isa 40:31*) patiently for God to finish working out his plan in you.

IV. CONCLUSION

Now people of God, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord and work in His ways and to love Him with all your spirit, soul and body. (*Deut. 10:12*)