

Reflecting on Gods Truth

The word 'grace' lies at the heart of the message of the Christian gospel. Grace is the unmerited favour of God whereby God forgives sinners of their sin and separation, through the atoning or sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. The benefits of Christ's death are offered to mankind 'freely'; it cannot be earned or purchased! It is available to rich and poor. God's invitation to receive His grace is 'inclusive'; it is extended to all, irrespective of their past!

Those who reach out to receive the offer of God's grace are assured of His acceptance. God freely forgives my sin in Jesus name i.e., through what Jesus did on my behalf – taking the punishment for my sin, and accepting me just as if I never sinned! But God's grace in the New Testament is not merely a divine 'offer'; it is also a divine 'operation' to transform our lives to the obedience of faith. (see Titus 2:11-12)

The writer of the Book of Hebrews says, "See to it that no one fail to obtain the grace of God" (Hebrews 12:15). Since the writer of this Book is writing to Christians – those who have already received God's grace through an act of faith

(see 3:1), 'How can they (we) be in danger of failing to receive grace'?

The words translated 'see to it' and 'fail to' are present active participles in the original Greek. They emphasise the careful attention each Christian is to pay to safeguarding or overseeing the quality of his love/obedience to God, and not being in a continual state of falling short of a sincere love for God/His Word/ walking in obedience. With such careful, continual attention we shall not fail to receive fully God's wonderful grace.

Pastor J Lowe