

## LESSON 7

# The Dispensation of Grace

**Objective** : To inspire students to experience and witness the great salvation which is given freely by the grace.

**Bible Portion** : John 1:1-18; Hebrews 1:1-4; Romans 5:1-21; Ephesians 2:4-10

**Memory Verse** : Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God

### **Introduction :**

Remember the tests the Lord had given to human beings from the Dispensation of Innocence to the Dispensation of the Law. Was the Law able enough to save the humanity? The Law just gave the knowledge of sin and disclosed that the entire world is subjected to punishment in the

presence of God. God in his eternal grace formed a way to redeem the mankind who broke the Law and became subjected to punishment. This is what the salvation by grace. The Dispensation of Grace or the Dispensation of Church is the opportunity God has given humanity to experience this salvation.

## **Duration**

The dispensation of Grace started with the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. The way to the throne of grace was opened by tearing the veil, His body. This dispensation will come to an end by the second coming of Jesus Christ

## **Guideline**

The New Testament is the guideline of Godly interventions in the dispensation of Grace. The New Testament, the Life and teachings of Jesus Christ-the mediator of New Testament is a connecting link between the Dispensation of the Law and the Dispensation of Grace. The Acts of Apostles and the Epistles fully reveal the pattern and order of the Dispensation of Grace.

## **Characteristics of the Dispensation of Grace**

### **1. Salvation by Grace**

In all previous dispensations God used to demand justice from side of humanity. But in all those dispensations humanity failed in all tests and the experiences proved that man/woman cannot save themselves from the downfall. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 1:23). Moreover all were subjected to death (Rom. 5:12). In this juncture God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us opened the way to salvation by grace. God's only begotten son offered himself on the cross as great sacrifice carrying out the sin and curse of humanity and fulfilling the Law (Isa. 53:4-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24; Gal. 3:13). By the crucifixion of Jesus, the justice of God, and the sinner must die was fulfilled and we were freed. The only criterion to experience this is the faith (Rom. 3:24-25; Eph. 2:8). Though Jesus Christ experienced death, the death could not prevent Him long, who was sinless. God has raised Him up, having loosed the pains of

death (Acts 2:24). By the resurrection of Jesus we get the eternal life and divine nature (Rom. 6:4-8). In Christ, it's not the remission of sin alone but freedom from the bondage of sin, death and Satan. The resurrected Christ, in the presence of Father interceding for humanity as mediator, High priest, life, light and shepherd. He is the solution for all our problems. How marvelous is the salvation by grace!

## **2. The work of Holy Spirit**

Another important characteristic of the Dispensation of Grace is the works of Holy Spirit. In the previous dispensations for certain purposes at particular point of time some were filled with the Holy Spirit. But in the dispensation of grace God has pleased enough in everyone to be filled with Holy Spirit. In this dispensation God works through Holy Spirit. Jesus in his sermon before his passion promised disciples the gift of Holy Spirit (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7-8; 16:13). After his ascension on the day of Pentecost Holy Spirit in a marvelous way descended on his people and they began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:17). In this dispensation Holy Spirit rests on people and leads them and bless them with gifts and fruits (1 Cor. 12, 13, 13).

## **3. Church-the important factor in the Dispensation of Grace**

Church is the Temple. This temple is built by Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:20-22). It's by the believers who have become living stones by coming closer by the living stone Jesus (1 Pet 1:4-7). Word of God is revealing church as the body of Christ (Eph. 2:23). Holy Spirit unites the believer with the body of Christ. In the dispensation of Grace, God fulfills his purpose through Church. But it is to note specially that church is not an organization. The members of the true church are those who hold on the teachings of Bible, following them and submitting themselves to Christ, the head.

We are fortunate enough to live in the dispensation of Grace. God desires everyone must be saved by grace, filled with Holy Spirit and must live as active members of the body of Christ. No one should lose this great opportunity. How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation (Heb. 2:3).

## Questions

1. What is the duration of the dispensation of Grace?
  2. 'New Testament is the guideline for the dispensation of Grace'. Why?
  3. Explain the characteristics of the dispensation of Grace.
  4. What are the roles of Holy Spirit in the dispensation of Grace?
  5. What is the important factor of the dispensation of Grace? Who is the chief architect? When shall be completed its work?
  6. What is the important teaching of the dispensation of grace?
  7. What are the Biblical books connecting the dispensations of the Law and grace?
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