

TRUE GRACE

1 Peter 5:12



FIRST CENTURY GRACE

- Patron - one that uses wealth or influence to help an individual, an institution, or a cause
- Client - one that is under the protection of another
- Benefactor - someone or something that provides help or an advantage : one that confers a benefit (Lk. 22:25).
- Beneficiary - a person or thing that receives help or an advantage from something : one that benefits from something
- Broker - one who acts as an intermediary.

FIRST CENTURY GRACE

- “The willingness of a patron to grant some benefit to another person or group.”
(cf. Rom. 5:15)
- “Used to denote the gift itself, that is, the result of the giver’s beneficent feelings.”
(cf. 1 Cor. 1:4)
- Can be used to speak of the response to a benefactor and his or her gifts, namely, “gratitude” (cf. Col. 3:16)

FIRST CENTURY GRACE

- “Only a gift requited is a gift well and nobly received. To fail to return favor for favor is, in effect, to break off the dance and destroy the beauty of the gracious act.”
- Neglecting to return a kindness, forgetfulness of kindnesses already received in the past, and, most horrendous of all, repaying favor with insult or injury—these were courses of action to be avoided by an honorable person at all costs.

GOD'S GRACE

- God is the ultimate patron and benefactor in that He creates and sustains life (Acts 17:24-28; 1 Cor 8:6).
- We live in His debt from the moment we exist (Rev. 4:9-11).
- God has at times given even greater grace to some (Rom. 2:4).
- He has now given this greater grace to all men (Acts 11:15-18).
- But we have all failed to return grace and even scorned His grace given to us (Rom. 3:23).

GOD'S GRACE

- And so, He has bestowed grace and offered still more grace to His enemies (Rom. 5:8).
- Christians are those who have accepted this additional grace and have therefore become a part of the household (Jn. 1:12-13).
- He has called us friends (Jn. 15:14-15).
- We are able to see all of the gifts in our lives and coming from our great benefactor (Jas. 1:17).
- We can also see whatever those gifts produce as having been produced "by His grace" (1 Cor. 15:10).
- Christ is both our benefactor and our broker (Lk. 23:34).