

TRUE GRACE

1 Peter 5:12



FIRST CENTURY GRACE

- Thanksgiving is the foundation of our response (Heb. 12:28; Psa. 92:1-4; 1 Thess. 3:9).
- We must proclaim His excellence among men (Lk. 12:8-9).
- This proclamation should also be in deed (Matt. 5:16).
- There is a standard of behavior that with “worthy” and that which is not (Eph. 4:1; Phil. 1:27; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:12).
- There is also an expectation of loyalty and trust (Matt. 6:24; 1 Pet. 1:5-13).
- This explains how we might come short or fall from the grace of God (Heb. 12:15; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 3:6).
- All of this puts the idea of law vs. grace into a much different light (Rom. 6:12-18).

GRACE EXTENDED

- We are not only to respond directly to God with grace, but also to imitate it in our relationships with others.
- The giving of grace to the poor is considered giving back to God (Matt. 25:31-46).
- But it is also mere stewardship of His gifts to us (2 Cor. 9:10-13).
- To go one further, we become the "clients" in all our giving because God has made us debtors to all (Rom. 1:14-15).
- What would it change if we viewed every relationship through the lens of being beneficiaries (Matt. 5:39-42)?
- We would find ourselves owing love to everyone (Rom. 13:8).