## Mercy and Grace

## EPHESIANS 2:8, 9

God the Father is now able to look upon us as righteous. And He is able to express His love for us in countless ways during our lifetime. The word "grace" is used to refer to God's giving to us out of His love for us, a giving that is unrestricted because our former condemnation has been removed, our penalty has been paid, God's righteousness and justice have been satisfied, and we are "in Christ" and share the love that our Father has for His own Son.

Mastery of the Bible's teaching about grace is the most important goal of your Christian way of life. Your production as a believer, your ability to function effectively as a member of your local church, your effectiveness in the use of your spiritual gifts in reaching out to others — all are absolutely dependent on how well you understand the use of grace principles. The following are some of the reasons why the subject of grace is so important to every Christian:

- 1. Grace is the most important single concept in the Word of God.
- 2. Salvation is "by grace through faith", and the Christian way of life functions entirely on grace principles.
- 3. Grace provides that foundational structure for all Bible study. (Book of Ephesians)
- 4. Knowledge of grace principles gives believers great knowledge and confidence in God's plan, His provisions, and His blessings.
- 5. The doctrine of Grace gives believers confidence in witnessing and teaching, both for evangelism and the Christian way of life.
- 6. Grace gives Christians insight into the workings of society and God's actual intentions regarding the future.
- 7. Grace convinces believers that human righteousness is completely out of the picture. Through grace, believers become "conduits of Grace" to society. Families become grace families; churches become grace churches and centers of grace influence.