

THE SUPPLIER SIDE OF GRACE

After the Tuesday night bible study, I was asked to explain in more detail the Supplier Side of Grace.

We had been discussing Paul's quotation of Jesus at the pastor's conference at Ephesus that "It was more blessed to give than receive." (Acts 20:35)

This was a well-known beatitude teaching of Jesus. It may have been made during the Sermon on the Mount (Matt.5-7). "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written." (John 21:25)

**Jesus taught that there were two sides to God's grace – the giver side and the receiver side.
This lesson will study five aspects of the Supplier Side of Grace or the giver side.**

1. The supplier side of grace is illustrated in grace salvation.

Supplier: "For **God** so loved the world, that **He gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Supplier: "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man **Jesus Christ, who gave Himself as a ransom for all**, the testimony borne at the proper time." (1 Tim.2:5-6)

Supplier cost: "For you know **the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." (2 Cor.8:9)

Supplier cost: "For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

Receiver gift: "Thanks be to God for **His indescribable gift!**" (2 Cor.9:15)

Receiver gift: "For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is a **gift of God**; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." (Eph.2:8-9)

2. Supplier side of grace bears the cost. Grace is not free to the supplier only to the receiver. To the receiver, it is a gift. Therefore, the boast of grace is with the supplier.

Supplier: "But I have used none of these things. And I am not writing these things that it may be done so in my case; for it would be better for me to die than have any man make **my boast** an empty one." (1 Cor.9:15)

Supplier: "What then is **my reward**? That, when I preach the gospel, I may offer the gospel without charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel." (1 Cor.9:18, 14)

Supplier cost: "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know **that these hands ministered** to my own needs and to the men who were with me." (Acts 20:33-34)

3. The supplier side of grace requires spiritual growth maturity in the doctrine of grace.

“But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” (2 Pet.3:18)

Sign of growth of supplier side: “And this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.” (2 Cor.8:5)

Paul mentions supplier side of grace as 1 of 6 virtues of the spiritual maturity – “But just as you **abound** in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in love we inspired in you, see that you **abound** in this gracious work also.” (2 Cor.8:7)

“And **God is able to make all grace abound to you**, that always having **all sufficiency** in everything, you may have an **abundance for every good deed.**” (2 Cor.9:8; 12:9)

Paul called the supplier side of grace as “surpassing grace” (huperballo / to excel or to go beyond the norm) – “While they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.” (2 Cor.9:14)

4. Paul gave the law of supplier side of grace as the law of the sower.

“Now **He who supplies seed to the sower and bread bread for food**, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. For **the ministry of this service** is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgiving to God.” (2 Cor.9:10-12)

Criticism always comes against the supply side of grace when there is a bill at the end of camp. The bill or cost always belongs to the supplier side of grace and not the receiver side of grace.

You might ask, “why didn’t God pay it?”

“He who ears, let him hear!” Listen to Paul the champion of supplier side of grace – “You yourselves know that **these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me**. In everything I showed you that by **working hard** in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:34-35)

- The bill always belongs to the supplier side of grace and not the receiver side.
- Supplier side of grace knows that his 100% (all he has) belong to the Lord – “First gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.” (2 Cor.8:5)

5. One of the great hindrances to supplier side of grace is covetousness.

“So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, that the same might be ready as a bountiful gift, and not affected by **covetousness** (pleonexia).” (2 Cor.9:5)

There are two Greek words associated with **covetousness**.

- One Greek word is epithumia and refers to the lust or desire of the OSN (Acts 20:33; Rom.7:7-8, 39).
- The other Greek word is pleonexia and refers to greed and OMCD thinking (Mark 7:21-23; 2 Pet.2:3).