

# The Second Article: I Believe in Jesus Christ

Every lesson that we've looked at and will look at really revolves around Christ. His work is the focus of the entire Word of God, and therefore no matter what portion of God's Word you're discussing, it somehow relates to the way Christ saved us. Therefore, in this lesson we're going to take a detailed look at what God's Word has to say about Jesus Christ and his work. To do that we'll need to answer the following questions.

- ◆ Who is Jesus Christ?
- ◆ What is Jesus Christ's work?

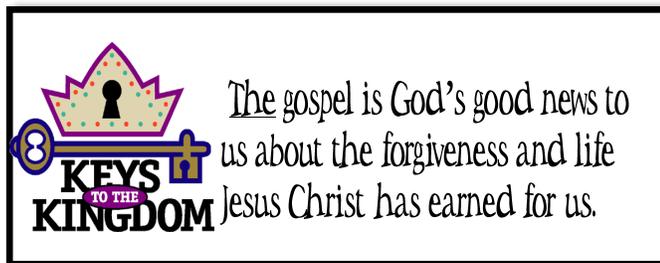
But we need to start with a little background first.

## THE GOSPEL

Use the glossary in the back of your catechism to define these **IMPORTANT** words:

**Romans 1:16** - I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes:

The word gospel means . . .



### WHAT IS GOD'S GRACE?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

**1 Timothy 2:4** - This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

**Ezekiel 33:11** – “As surely as I live,” declares the Sovereign LORD, “I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live.” (Note: “Death” here means eternal death in hell.)

**2 Peter 3:9** - He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance...

**Deuteronomy 23:5** – “...the Lord your God loves you.”

**Psalm 136:1-3** - Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. *His love* endures forever. Give thanks to the God of gods. *His love* endures forever. Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love* endures forever.

**Ephesians 2:4,5** – But because of *his great love* for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.

1. Does God want anyone to go to hell?

2. According to the underlined portions of those passages, what does God want?

3. According to the italicized portions of those passages, why doesn't God want anyone to go to hell?

**Titus 3:4,5** – But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, *not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.*

**Ephesians 2:8** - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, *it is the gift of God.*

4. Is this love something that we earned or deserved?

5. According to Ephesians 2:8, what does the Bible call the loving way God treated humanity?

On the basis of the passages we have looked at, which one of the following would you say is the best answer to the question, “WHAT IS GOD'S ‘GRACE’?”

\_\_\_\_\_ God's grace is the love that we earn when we keep his law.

\_\_\_\_\_ God's grace is the justice he shows by punishing the wicked and rewarding the good.

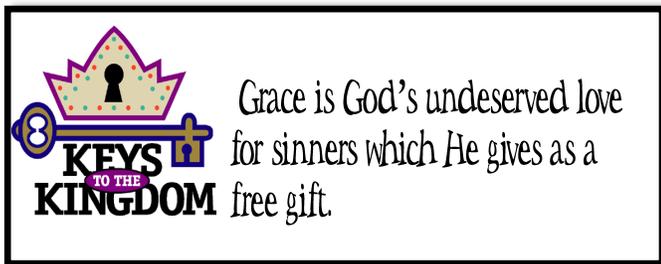
\_\_\_\_\_ God's grace is the undeserved love that he gives to all people as a gift.

\_\_\_\_\_ God's grace is the love that he shows people when they first love others.

death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Romans 11:6 – And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

16. According to the italicized portions of those verses, can you name three things we no longer need to fear?



### WHAT IS THE RESULT OF GOD SHOWING HIS GRACE TO US?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Romans 8:1 – Therefore, there is now *no condemnation* for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Timothy 1:9,10 - This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Hebrews 2:14,15 - Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death -- that is, *the devil* -- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their *fear of death*.

Titus 3:5-7 – [God] saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Romans 5:17 - For if, by the trespass of the one man,

17. Through God's grace, what do we get to look forward to? (Look at the underlined portions of those passages.)

18. Do our good works play any part in our salvation? (Look at Romans 11:6.)

On the basis of these passages, how would you answer that question, "WHAT IS THE RESULT OF GOD SHOWING HIS GRACE TO US?"

### TAKING IT DEEPER...

Agree or Disagree – God loves all good people.

Agree or Disagree – Some people are more deserving of God's grace than others.

Agree or Disagree – Jesus loved us by living a sinless life.

Agree or Disagree – Jesus main job was to show us how to live a God-pleasing life.

Agree or Disagree – Jesus could have saved himself by coming down on the cross.

Agree or Disagree – The virgin birth proves Jesus was the Son of God.

Agree or Disagree – Our Savior had to be both true man and true God.

Agree or Disagree – God shows love and offers forgiveness to those in whom he sees some merit.

God's grace – the undeserved love he has for humankind – is seen most clearly when we look at the way he sent his Son to pay for sins. In the next lessons we will look more closely at God's Son, Jesus, and at how Jesus paid for our sins.

**For Next Time:**

**Complete This Study Sheet**

**Memorize:** THE SECOND ARTICLE  
(Redemption)

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.