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WHAT IS CHURCH? *The church defined.*

ARGYLE AUTUMN PREACHING SERIES | Sep—Dec 2021



NEXT



||

What is church? ***A people of grace.***

EPHESIANS 2:1—10

What is **GRACE**?

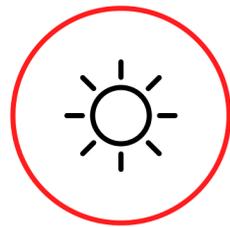
χάρις

/xáris ("grace") answers directly to the Hebrew (OT) term /Kaná ("extension-toward").

Both refer to God freely extending Himself (His favour), reaching (inclining) to people because He is disposed to bless (be near) them.

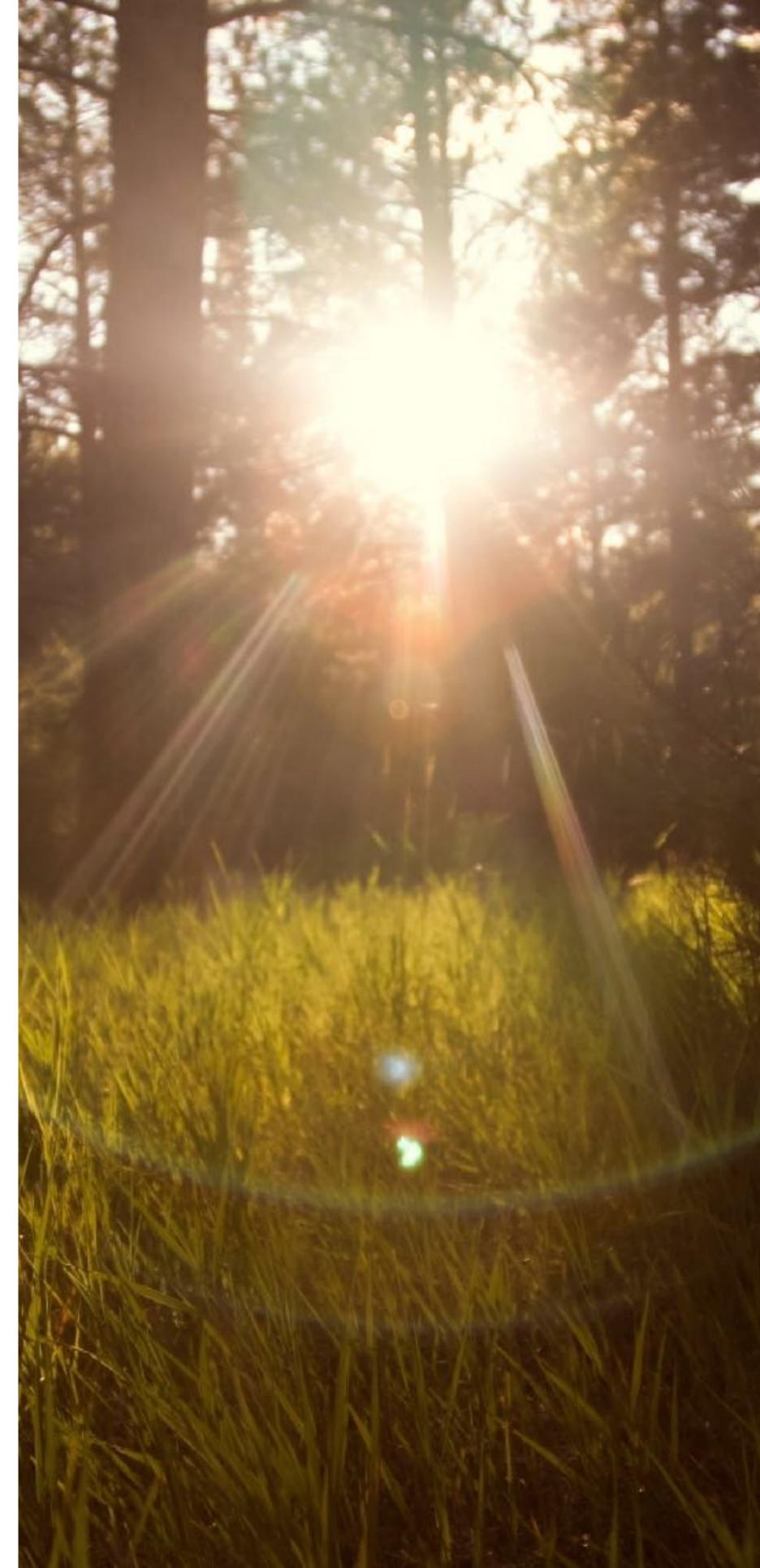


GRACE?



WHAT IS GRACE?

God's favour
& generosity
to the
unworthy





EPHESIANS

2:1—3

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.



EPHESIANS

2:4—5

4 But because of his great love for us,
God, who is rich in mercy,

5 made us alive with Christ even when
we were dead in transgressions – it is
by **grace** you have been saved.



EPHESIANS

2:8—9

8 For it is **by grace you have been saved**, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God
9 – **not by works**, so that no one can boast.



||

...the Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Psalm 103:8



|| “Oh, that’s easy. **It’s grace.**”

C. S. LEWIS

Author and scholar, on the uniqueness of Christianity

PARABLES

PARABLES
OF GRACE:

Many of Jesus' parables (stories with a hidden meaning) were about grace



Debtor forgiven



Great banquet



Lost son & sheep



Vineyard workers





|| **“Grace is Christianity's **best gift to the world**, a spiritual nova in our midst exerting a force stronger than vengeance, stronger than racism, stronger than hate.”**

PHILIP YANCEY

What's so amazing about grace?

UNGRACE

EARN IT!

We experience
'ungrace' all
around us



Culture

UNGRACE

EARN IT!

We experience
'ungrace' all
around us



Culture



Religion

UNGRACE

EARN IT!

We experience
'ungrace' all
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Culture

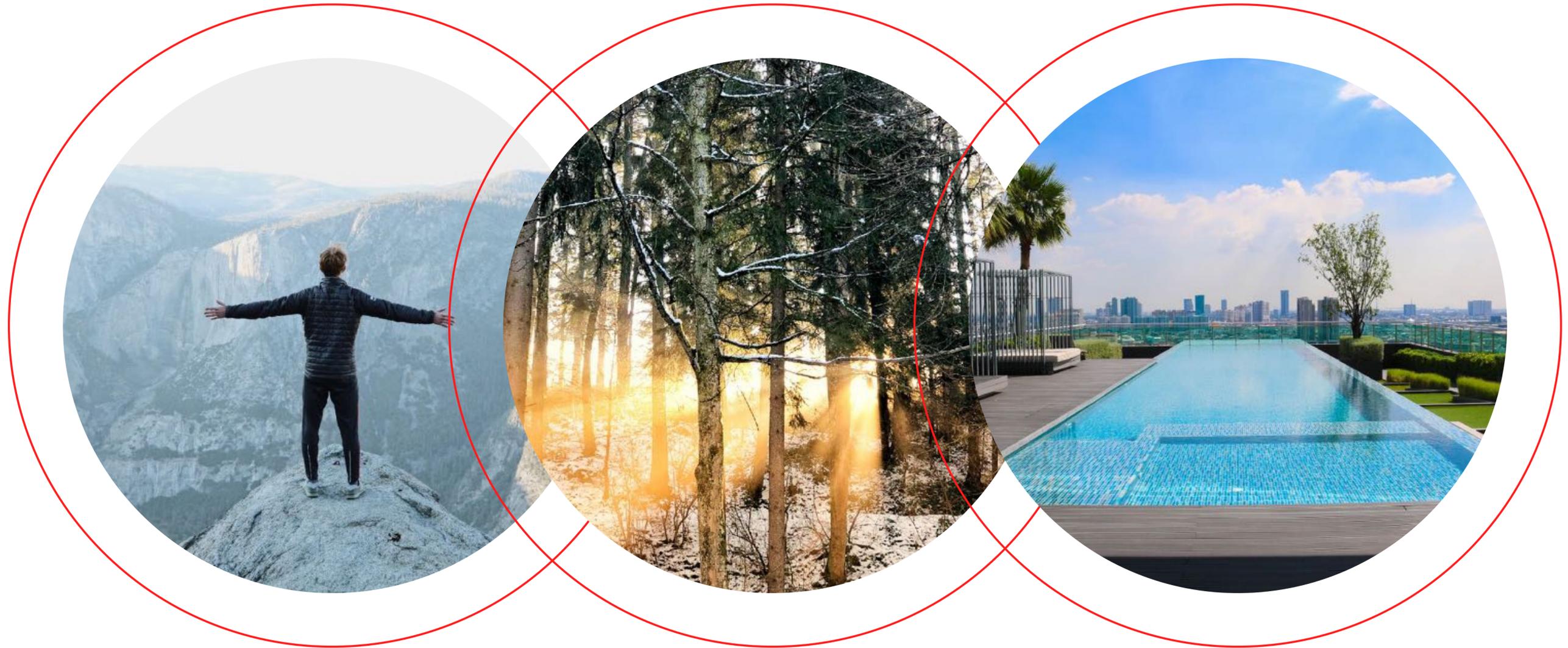


Religion



Bad parenting

GRACE

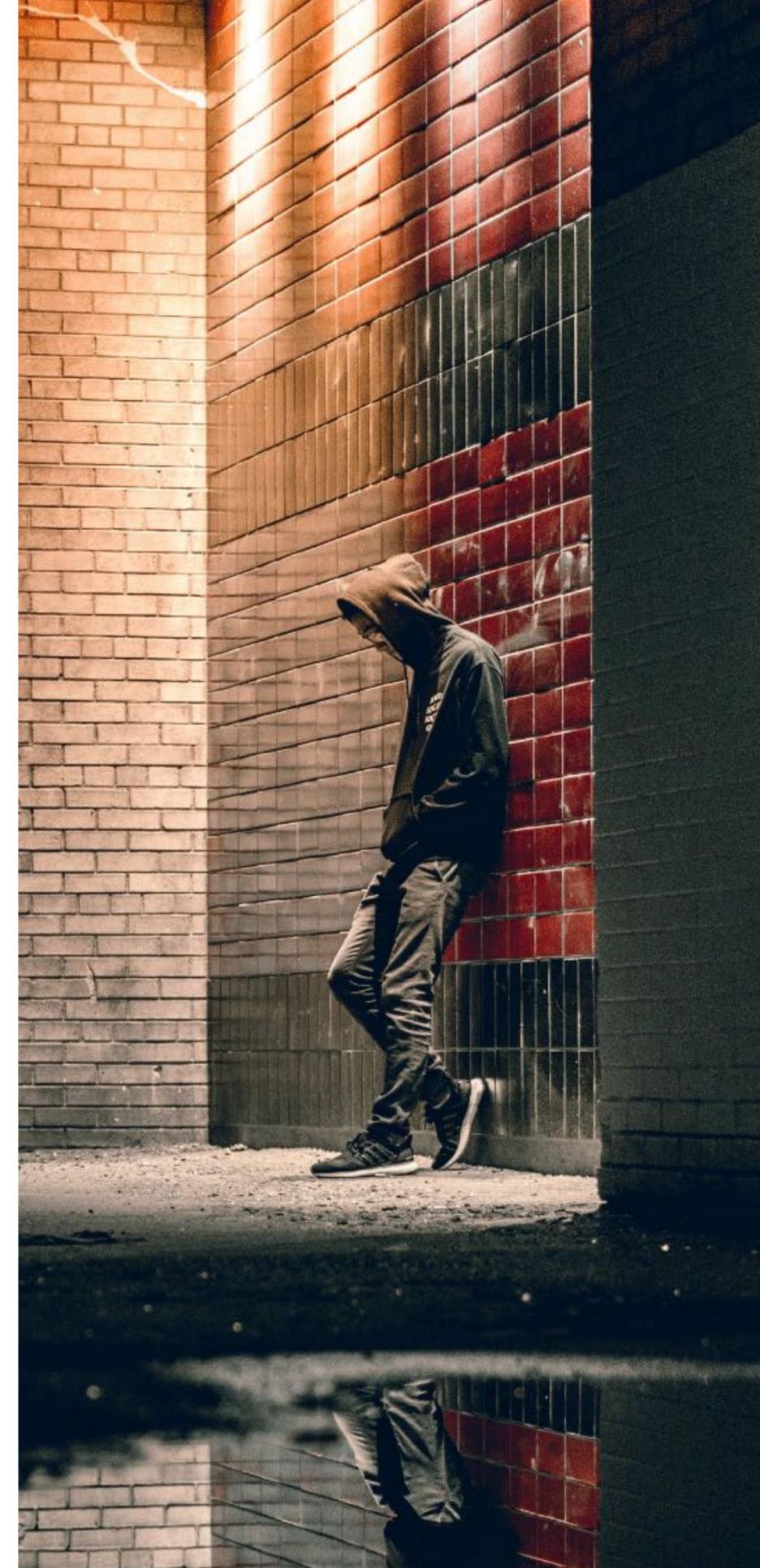


...satisfies our starving souls

GRACE?

||
**REMEMBER
GRACE!**

God's favour
& generosity
to the
unworthy





A STORY OF GRACE

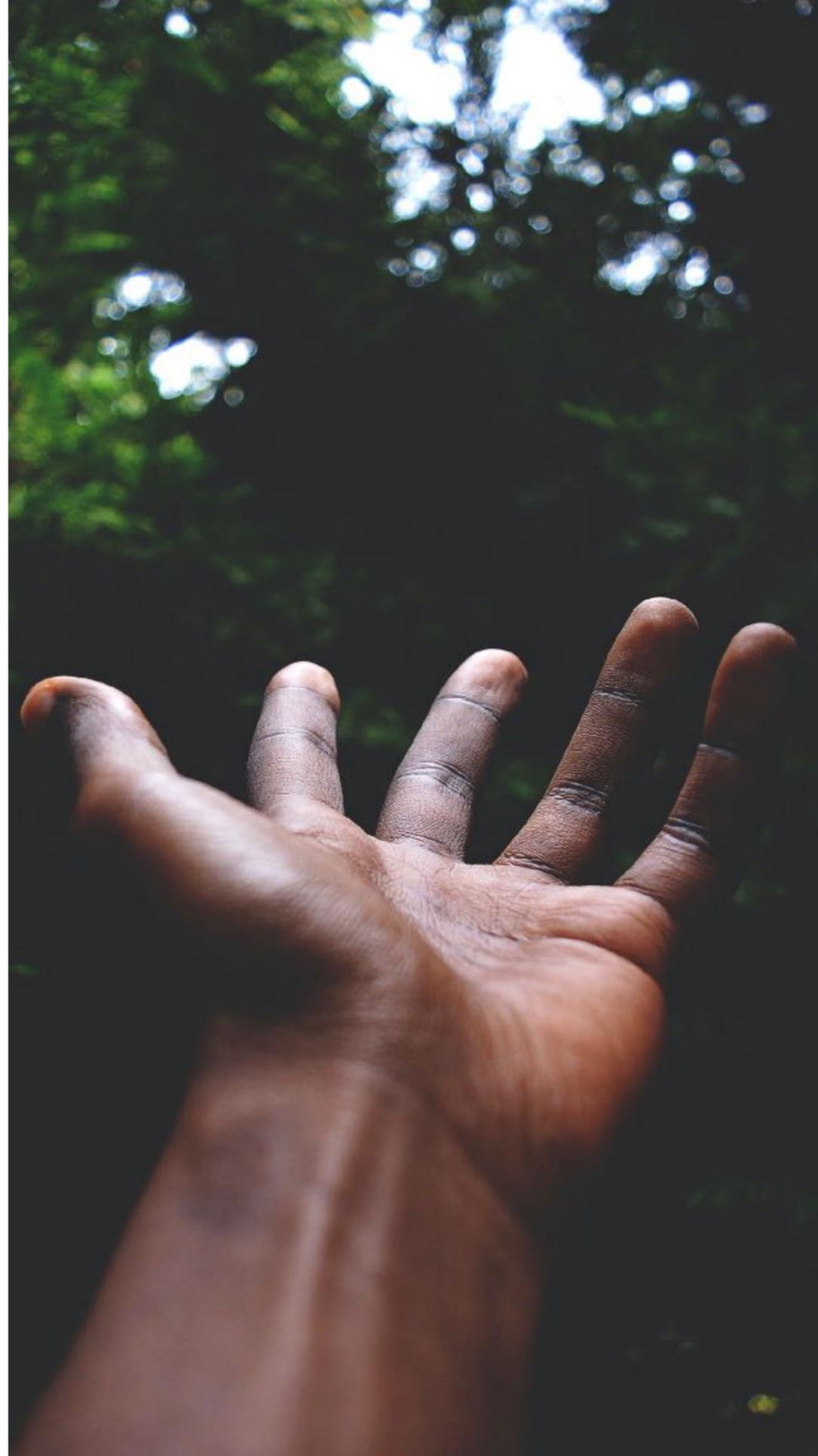
From *PROOF: Finding Freedom through the Intoxicating Joy of Irresistible Grace*

By Daniel Montgomery and Timothy Paul Jones

GOD SAYS...

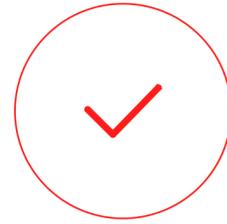
|| **“COME”**

Come and
know me and
know my love
and care



GRACE

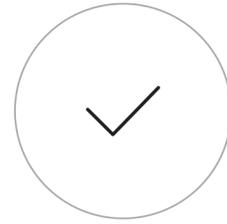
THE EFFECT OF GRACE.



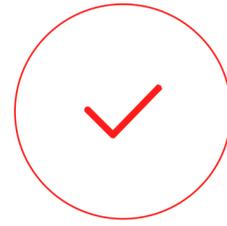
Prevents us slipping into pride or despair or uncertainty

GRACE

THE EFFECT OF GRACE.



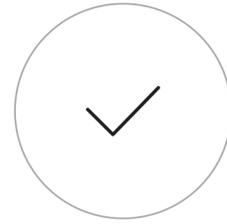
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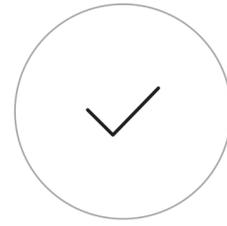
Transforms our understanding of God

GRACE

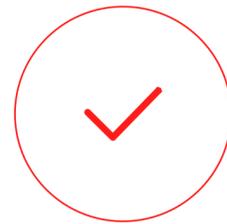
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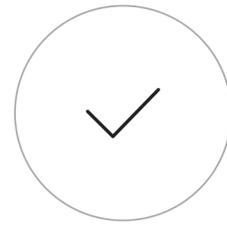
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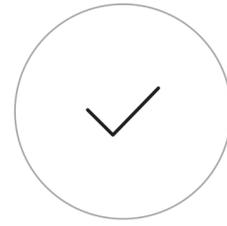
Motivates us to say no to ungodliness

GRACE

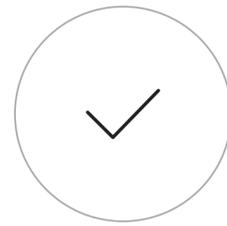
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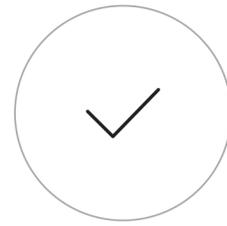
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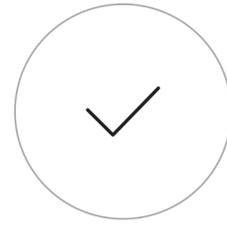
Causes us to treat others the same as God has treated us

GRACE

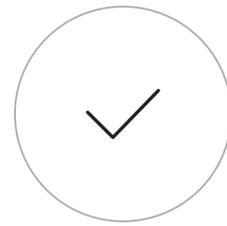
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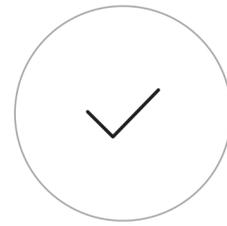
Prevents us slipping into pride or despair or uncertainty



Transforms our understanding of God



Motivates us to say no to ungodliness



Causes us to treat others the same as God has treated us



Means we welcome failures and outcasts to church



COMMUNION: A TABLE OF GRACE.

...we were by nature deserving of wrath. 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. Eph. 2:3—5