

# AMAZING GRACE ISN'T JUST A SONG

2 Timothy 1: 8-10

**INTRO:** Turn your Bibles or turn them on to 2 Timothy chapter 1. Did you guys hear about the shopping center that burned down this past week? Nothing was left but Kohl's.

2 Timothy chapter 1. Oh, this chapter contains some of my favorite verses of scripture. These two letters of 1st and 2nd Timothy come from the heart of the Apostle Paul. He is writing to his son in the faith, a young man named Timothy. 2 Timothy is very personal. It feels as if we're eavesdropping when we read it's pages. Paul is about to be put to death, and he knows it. So, he tenderly gives a few last encouraging words to his young protegee'.

Paul was a preacher of GRACE, and for good reason. He had experienced grace in measure like no other man in scripture. From his own conversion, having been one who persecuted the church and had Christians arrested and killed for believing in Christ, YET CHRIST SAVED HIM. He went through many ministry hardships in his years of serving the Lord, so Paul knew well the grace of God of which he spoke. In verses 9 and 10 of our text we have one of the most revealing statements on grace that there is in all of scripture. I want you to read with me beginning in verse 8. I have titled my sermon, "AMAZING GRACE ISN'T JUST A SONG". Let's read...

**2 Timothy 1:8-11** "...do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me, His prisoner. Instead, join me in suffering for the gospel by the power of God. 9 He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works, but by His own purpose and by the grace He granted us in Christ Jesus before time began. 10 And now He has revealed this grace through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the gospel, 11 to which I was appointed as a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher."

As we look at the scriptures today, one thing will be abundantly clear. Paul, although he knew he was about to be executed for preaching the gospel, had great peace and composure, and trust in God. It's from that place that he writes to Timothy of the grace of God. .

Let's notice a few things...

**I) THE PROVISION:** v 9 "He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works, but by His own purpose and by the grace He granted us in Christ Jesus before time began." Grace is mankind's greatest commodity. And it's none other but Christ who gives us grace.

**A. W. Tozer** "Grace is the good pleasure of God that inclines Him to bestow benefits upon the undeserving"

**Grace** "Grace is the beneficent disposition of God toward mankind."  
**Someone has said** "Anything this side of hell is pure grace."

"by the grace He granted us..." (Gr. Didomi) means to give of one's own accord and with favor and good will. When Jesus grants to us grace, He is literally wishing us well!

"by the grace He granted us in Christ Jesus..." **ILLUS:** Back in the 1990s, American Express had an ad campaign for its credit card: "Membership has its privileges." The ad implied that those who were fortunate enough to qualify for this status symbol card also qualified for exclusive swag and rewards. If you were IN the club, you would reap the rewards. (AND A BIG MONTHLY BILL)

**I) THE PROVISION:** v 9 CONTINUED To be IN Christ guarantees certain privileges. GRACE IS AT THE TOP OF THAT LIST! Anyone can know the goodness of grace, but one has to be IN Christ to know it. Because grace comes from Him.

John 1:17 *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”*

Acts 15:11 *“But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.”* The word “of” in this verse denotes ownership.

Ephesians 2:7 *“That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”*

GRACE is exclusive to God and is His for the giving. And when He gives, He does so through His Son, Jesus.

**II) THE PLAN:** v 9 *“He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works, but by His own purpose and by the grace He granted us in Christ Jesus before time began.”* Vincent Before time was reckoned by eons or cycles. Then, in that timeless present, grace was given to us by God’s decree.

Note two truths about Christ; First, His preexistence (before the world began), and secondly, His role as Mediator, in Whom divine grace is made available from God to sinful mankind. OH, WHAT A SAVIOR!

Guy King Grace was not a sudden whim of the Almighty. Before the sin happened, before the sinner came, before the sinner’s world was - the salvation plan was drawn up and ready. The Lamb, Who is the Plan, “was foreordained before the foundation of the world, (1 Peter 1:20)

MacArthur God sovereignly designed salvation, and He sovereignly initiates, sustains, and completes salvation. He has forgiven us, justified us, and delivered us from sin and Satan, from death and hell. In every sense and in every tense—past, present, and future—God is our Savior.

**III) THE PRESENTATION:** v 10 *“And now He has revealed this grace through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the gospel,”* A Holy PLAN always culminates in a Divine PRESENTATION!

*“And now He has revealed this grace...”* (Gr. Phaneroo, Fan-er-o’-o) To manifest, to make visible or known what was previously hidden or unknown.

Jesus came to reveal the grace of God to man! What had been hidden for so long and only witnessed in quick passing glimpses became FULL AWARE and BRIGHTLY DISPLAYED in the life of our Savior Jesus Christ. Isaiah 60:2-3 *“For behold, darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you. And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”*

Titus 2:11 *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,”*

**I) THE PROVISION:** v 9

**II) THE PLAN:** v 9

**III) THE PRESENTATION:** v 10 CONTINUED 1 John 1:1-3 “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us); 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that you also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

John 10:10 “...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

“And now He has revealed this grace through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus...” (Gr. Epiphaneia) gives us the English word “epiphany” It literally means a “shining upon”.

Both the verb, manifest, and the noun, appearing, which have the same root, express the thought of making plain or bringing into view that which was previously hidden. The “appearing” or “epiphany” of Christ, here in context, refers to His Incarnation and His entire earthly ministry. Only here does Paul use the word “epiphany” of Christ’s First Advent. All other uses of this word refer to the return of Christ. WHAT A PRESENTATION!

Now notice the last thing...

**IV) THE POWER:** v 10 “And now He has revealed this grace through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the gospel,”

“...abolished...” (Def. To render powerless.) It takes greater power to abolish something with great power. The gospel has greater power to give life than death does to take it! Oh, how Satan must stand in awe at the power of God to save!

“and illuminated the way to life and immortality...” The true meaning of life as God intended for us to experience is found only in our Savior, Christ Jesus. This eternal, incorruptible (immortal) life can never be taken from us, for Jesus declared...”I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.” (John 10:28)

“...through the gospel.” Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...”

All the glorious truths Paul has described are brought to light “through (by means of) the gospel.” And yet, though God brought these truths to light through the gospel, God’s human agents must take the life and light giving gospel of grace to those who are lost, so they too might experience the gospel’s transforming power.

**CONCLUSION:** The Gospel of Grace, Christ coming, the power of God to save, none of these mean anything unless you accept it. Remember it’s “GIVEN us in Christ Jesus” It’s a gift. Grace is a gift. Salvation is a gift. It’s not forced upon you, but offered to you. You have to receive it. You have to accept it. And you accept the gift by accepting giver, Jesus Christ. SHARE THE GOSPEL! RUN TO THE CROSS