

“THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD WHEREIN YE STAND.”

God is made known to us as the “*God of all grace*,” and the position in which we are set is that of “tasting that He is *gracious*.” How hard it is for us to believe this, that the Lord is *gracious*. The natural feeling of our hearts is “I know that Thou art an austere man;” there is the want in all of us naturally of the understanding of the *Grace of God*.

There is sometimes the thought that grace implies God’s *passing over sin*, but no, grace supposes sin to be so horribly bad a thing that God cannot tolerate it; were it in the power of man, after being unrighteous and evil, to patch up his ways, and mend himself so as to stand before God there would be no need of *grace*. The very fact of the Lord’s being *gracious* shews sin to be so evil a thing, that, man being a sinner, his state is utterly ruined and hopeless, and nothing but *free grace* will do for him—can meet his need.

We must learn what God is to us, not by our own thoughts, but by what He has revealed Himself to be, and that is, “*the God of all grace*.” The moment I understand that I am a sinful man, and yet that it was because the Lord knew the full extent of my sin, and what its hatefulness was, that He came to me, I understand what *grace* is. Faith makes me see that God is greater than my sin, and not my sin is greater than God. . . . The Lord that