Oh To Grace, How Great A Debtor...
(Ephesians 1:6)

Introduction: 1.   We sing the song, "O Thou Fount Of Every Blessing," which has the line, "Oh to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be. Let thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee."

      3.   Why are we indebted to grace? Because the glory of His grace, has made us accepted in the Beloved."

      4.   When discussing grace, people often gravitate to extremes.

        a.   Once saved always saved vs. If saved barely saved.

        b.   The possibility of apostasy vs the probability of apostasy.

      5.   Let's examine a few matters regarding grace.

I.   Salvation Is Not Earned

  A.   Some have said we've not preached grace.

  B.   Maybe some do stand accused; but I think many who make this charge do so due to their lack of understand of what biblical grace is.

  C.   Did you know Jesus never once used the word grace in the gospel accounts? (2 Corinthians 12:9). Did he understand it? Did he preach it?

  D.   (Ephesians 2:8).

  E.   Laboring under the impression you must somehow earn your salvation is not only oppressive, but it must be insulting to God.

II.   Grace obligates

  A.   Many use grace as an excuse for looseness or as a license to sin.

  B.   (Romans 5:20-6:1).

  C.   (Titus 2:11-12) Grace obligates us.

  D.   (Matthew 16:21-22).

    1.   "Far be it from you, Lord" ... literally, "God be merciful to you, Lord."

III.   Our indebtedness to grace demands we persevere.

  A.   Adversity should not dissuade us, but rather should be expected and if viewed properly, even embraced!

  B.   (2 Timothy 3:12).

  C.   (2 Corinthians 11:23-28).

  D.   (1 Peter 4:12-14) "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."

Conclusion: 1.   May we never forget what was done for us.

      2.   May we always live with an ever present sense of our sinfulness and what it cost God to redeem us.