

By Grace I'm Saved

By Maggie Moller

"Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given to you when Jesus Christ is revealed."

(1 Peter 1:13)

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

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

Grace. What does this word mean to you? As I try to think of what "grace" means to me, I am overwhelmed with the vastness of all its aspects. It is a very broad topic, with many sides and applications; but at the root of it all is something very simple. John 3:16 says, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* This message is so simple even very young children can easily grasp its meaning. We sinned and were condemned to eternal separation from God. But He loved us so much despite our wickedness that He provided a way for us to be redeemed so we might spend eternity with Him. The substitution for our sins was the sacrifice of His only Son.

I think we often are guilty of trying to complicate the message of grace, thinking that simplifying it will take away its power. But the simple message of John 3:16 is one of the most powerful sentences that has ever been written. It has been the means of bringing many to the Lord and His grace. I can't put into words what I feel when I hear the word "grace." I'm sure most of us would have a hard time describing the feelings the word brings out in our hearts. I feel a strange mixture of excitement and joy for freedom from my past but also sorrow and heaviness at what the price was for my freedom.

When I think of grace, I see Jesus hanging on the cross with the weight of my ugly, dark sin on His shoulders. But then in glorious light, when He has risen and conquered the grave, He comes to me and picks me up out of the pit of hell and holds me close. He whispers in my ear, "I will never let you go. I have redeemed you. You are mine." Oh, the feeling knowing that the Creator of the Universe loves me so much that He suffered a horrible, painful death and that the Holy Lord of Lords took my sin upon Himself because He wanted to reconcile me to God! Sinful, wicked, worthless ME! I can't make the type or words express my feelings! For me this is grace!!!!

By Grace I'm Saved

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;

My soul, believe and doubt it not;

Why stagger at this word of promise?

Hath Scripture ever falsehood taught?

Nay; then this word must true remain:

By grace thou, too, shalt Heav'n obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;

Our works and conduct have no worth,

God in His love sent our Redeemer,

Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.
By grace! O, mark this word of promise
When thou art by thy sins oppressed,
When Satan plagues thy troubled conscience,
And when thy heart is seeking rest.
What reason cannot comprehend
God by His grace to thee doth send.
By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
So long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
What our whole faith must rest upon,
Is grace alone, grace in His Son.

The Lyricist - Christian L. Scheidt

Christian Scheidt was born in 1709. Very little is known about his life other than he penned the words to this hymn. He very likely lived in Germany, since the lyrics were originally written in German. He passed away in 1761 at the age of 52.

The Composer - Justin H. Knecht

Justin Knecht was born September 30, 1752, in Germany. Growing up, he learned to play the organ, keyboard, and violin. In addition to his instruments, he also learned to sing. After finishing school, he took a position as a music director and led a very active musical life through compositions for the church and the theater. He also taught music theory, composition, and instrument lessons. He passed away at the age of 65 on December 1, 1817, in Germany.

While little is known about the lives of these two Christian men, we do know that they understood and accepted the gift of grace. This is the most important decision anyone can ever make in their lifetime. It is not a decision to be pushed aside until tomorrow. Tomorrow may never come. Please don't delay if you have yet to receive the wonderful grace of Jesus Christ. He is waiting to give it to you; all you have to do is ask.

Works Consulted:

- Hymnary.org
- Cyber Hymnal
- Wikipedia
- NIV Bible