THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about grace?

Asked by a THF member on May 21, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 12 numbered quotations · the 42 early Christian passages and 223 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-believe-about-grace

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

Early Christian writers taught that we are saved by God's grace, not by our own works, and that this grace came through Jesus Christ. Grace forgives the repentant and gives the Spirit for a holy life. They also taught that people freely respond to grace and must hold on to the good.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 7

We are saved by grace, not works

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Polycarp repeats Paul's words that believers are saved by grace and not by works, through the will of God in Jesus Christ. Methodius quotes the same verse and adds that grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

1

> “In whom, though now you see Him not, you believe, and believing, rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory;” into which joy many desire to enter, knowing that “by grace you are saved, not by works,” but by the will of God through Jesus Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Polycarp,** *Epistle to the Philippians* (c. 100–155 AD) **Source 7, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

2

> “Since grace and truth certainly came by Jesus Christ, as John 1:17 says, and since by grace we are saved, according to the apostle's word, "and that not of yourselves, nor of works, lest any man should boast," in Ephesians 2:8-9, by the will of God the Word was made flesh and was found in form as a man, as Philippians 2:7 says.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Methodius,** *Concerning Free Will* 1 (c. 270–311 AD) **Source 35, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

God's compassion in Christ sets us free

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus says the same God who spoke to the fathers poured out his compassion on us. He became the Son of man so that people might become sons of God. Ignatius trusts the grace of Jesus Christ to free believers from every bond.

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3 "Who else can reign endlessly over the house of Jacob forever, except Jesus Christ our Lord, the Son of the Most High God, who promised through the law and the prophets that He would make His salvation visible to all flesh; that He would become the Son of man so that humankind might also become the sons of God?"

later in the same passage

"This same God, in His great goodness, poured His compassion upon us."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 12, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

4 "I trust in the grace of Jesus Christ, who will free you from every bond."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 5, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

Grace calls for thanks and faithful work

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Gregory Thaumaturgus says that for this grace we should glorify the Father, who gave his Son, and the Holy Spirit, who works in us. He then urges believers to do the work of faith and live in love.

5 "For this grace, let us glorify the Father, who has given His only begotten Son for the life of the world."

later in the same passage

"Instead, let us do the work of faith. Let us love peace. Let us show harmony. Let us preserve unity."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Gregory Thaumaturgus,** *Twelve Topics on the Faith* 1 (c. 240–270 AD) **Source 25, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Grace gives the Spirit for a holy life

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Liturgy of St. Mark asks God for the grace and gift of the Holy Spirit so believers can live blameless lives. Clement of Alexandria says the baptized, with sins wiped away, have the eye of the spirit full of light.

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6 “Give us the grace and gift of the All-holy Spirit. Enable us to live blameless lives, and guide us to perfect redemption, adoption, and the everlasting joys of the world to come.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 22, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

7 “As, then, those who have shaken off sleep immediately become fully awake within; or rather, as those who try to remove a film over the eyes do not supply light to them from outside, which they do not possess, but by removing the obstacle from the eyes leave the pupil free; so also we who are baptized, having wiped off the sins that darken the light of the Divine Spirit, have the eye of the spirit free, unimpeded, and full of light.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 1.6 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 14, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

God does not force us to obey

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Irenaeus says God does not compel people, so they can reject the Gospel, though it is unwise. Because people are free, God's advice calls them to hold on to the good through obedience. Grace and free choice work together here.

8 “For humans have the power to disobey God and to lose what is good, but such behavior brings significant harm and trouble.”

later in the same passage

“But because humans have free will from the beginning, and God has free will, in whose likeness humans were created, advice is always given to them to hold on to the good, which is achieved through obedience to God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 13, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 6 OF 7

God's mercy forgives those who repent

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria says only the Father can undo past sins, by his mercy and the Spirit. The Apostolic Constitutions tell bishops to welcome the repentant, since God has promised forgiveness to those who turn back.

9 "And this is what it is to repent: to condemn the things past, and to ask amnesty for them from the Father — who alone of all is able to undo what has been done, by His own mercy and by the dew of the Spirit wiping out the previous sins."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 40
(c. 190–215 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 16, page 7 **Read it in the library ›**

10 "Receive those who repent, for the Lord God has promised with an oath to grant forgiveness to those who repent for the wrong things they have done."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions**
(c. 250–380 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 32, page 8 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 7 OF 7

Mercy stays open throughout this life

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian tells even persecutors that no repentance is too late while they live, and that saving mercy is given to the believer. Lactantius says God, as a gentle Father, promises to forgive those who repent and begin again to do right.

11 "The way to God's mercy stands open, and access is easy for those who seek and grasp the truth."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises*
(c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 27, page 8 **Read it in the library ›**

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12 "Therefore, He who is both Lord and a most gentle Father promises that He will forgive the sins of those who repent, and that He will blot out all the iniquities of the man who begins again to practice righteousness."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 24 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 38, page 9** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages do not explain how grace first moves a person toward God.
- They do not settle later debates about whether grace can be resisted, beyond showing that people are free to disobey.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 42 early Christian passages and 223 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–42, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 43–163, in Bible order), then 102 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *42 passages from 19 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 4) indeed descend into the water full of sins and defilement, but come up, bearing fruit in our heart, having the fear of God and trust in Jesus in our spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · sources 2–3*

2 *Shepherd* (on point 4) Lord, that it is great and glorious, and that He has given His Spirit to those who are worthy of repentance." "Then why, sir," I said, "did not all these… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Shepherd* (on point 6) my questions." He said, "Go on." And I said, "Sir, I heard some teachers say that there is no repentance except the one that happens when we go down into… [continues online] **read ›**

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Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 4–6*

4 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English; on point 2) “trust to the grace of Jesus Christ, that He will free you from every bond of wickedness… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “all them that repent, the Lord grants forgiveness, if they turn in penitence to the unity of God, and to communion with the bishop… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* “grace of the Lord will reward him in all things… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 7*

7 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** which joy many desire to enter, knowing that “by grace ye are saved, not of works… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 8–9*

8 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 6) “she replied, ‘Be it unto me according to thy word.’ ” And by her has He been born, to whom we have proved so many Scriptures refer, and by whom God… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 5) do anything against right reason. We, both men and angels, will be proven guilty of sin unless we repent beforehand. If the word of God predicts that some angels and… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · sources 10–11*

10 *Diatessaron* 54 (1885 English; on point 6) “24:47 and that repentance unto the forgiveness of sins be preached 12 in his name among all the peoples… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Address to the Greeks* 11 (on point 5) I am not driven by a never-ending love of money to go to sea. I do not compete for crowns. I am free from a wild thirst for fame… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 12–13*

12 *Against Heresies: Book III* **Quote 3, page 3** Son of the Most High God, who promised through the law and the prophets that He would make His salvation visible to all flesh; that He would become the Son… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “because man is possessed of free will from the beginning, and God is possessed of free will, in whose likeness man was created, advice is always given to him to… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 14–18*

14 *Instructor* 1.6 **Quote 7, page 4** bound is well loosed by knowledge. Those bonds are quickly slackened by human faith and divine grace, our transgressions being taken away by one Paeonian medicine, the baptism of the… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Stromata* 2.13 (on point 6) who has received forgiveness of sins ought not to sin anymore. For besides the first and only repentance from sins, which is from the sins of the former life, the… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Who Is the Rich Man That Shall Be Saved?* 40 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 5** “Forgiveness of past sins, then, God gives… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Stromata* 2.12 (1885 English; on point 6) “of sins is therefore different from repentance… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *Stromata* 2.13 (on point 6) forgiveness of sins once. But if someone sins after this, then even if he receives pardon when he repents, he ought to be afraid, because he is no longer being… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 19–20*

19 *Against Marcion* 10 (on point 6) husband of Jezebel, guilty of idolatry and of the blood of Naboth, obtained pardon because of his repentance, in 1 Kings 21:29. And Jonathan the son of Saul blotted… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *De Anima (On the Soul)* 21 (1885 English; on point 5) “will be the power of the grace of God, more potent indeed than nature, exercising its sway over the faculty that underlies itself within us — even the freedom of our… [continues online] **read ›**

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Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · sources 21–22*

21 *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 (1885 English; on point 6) “all our sins in Your abundant and unsearchable goodness, through the grace, mercy, and love of Your only-begotten Son… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *Divine Liturgy of St. Mark* 1 **Quote 6, page 4** “us the grace and gift of the All-holy Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 23–24*

23 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 3 (1885 English; on point 4) “it is the peculiarity of His grace and operations that we have been describing… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Commentary on Matthew* 10 (1885 English) “7:26 But thanks be unto God, that, even if the grace of prophecy was taken from the people, a grace greater than all that was poured forth among the… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · sources 25–26*

25 *Twelve Topics on the Faith* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “rather let us work the work of faith, let us love peace, let us exhibit concord, let us preserve unity, let us cultivate love, with which God is well pleased… [continues online] **read ›**

26 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (on point 4) And again Paul says, "That mortality might be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 27–29*

27 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 11, page 5** “grace Christ bestows; this gift of His mercy He confers upon us, by overcoming death in the trophy of the cross, by redeeming the believer with the price of His… [continues online] **read ›**

28 *Epistles* (on point 6) does not mean from that death which the blood of Christ once destroyed, and from which the saving grace of baptism and of our Redeemer has delivered us, but from… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 6) “because in baptism remission of sins is granted once for all, constant and ceaseless labour, following the likeness of baptism, once again bestows the mercy of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 30–32*

30 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 6) and You turn from the evils of men. You, O Lord, according to Your great goodness, have promised repentance and forgiveness to those who have sinned against You, and in… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) “them the laver of regeneration and the garment of incorruption, which is the true life… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 10, page 5** O bishop, judge with authority like God, yet receive those who repent, for God is a God of mercy. Rebuke those who sin. Warn those who have not turned back… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · source 33*

33 *Disputation with Manes* 1 the holy John, the greatest of the evangelists, also tells us of the giving and diffusing of grace for grace… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · sources 34–37*

34 *Oration Concerning Simeon and Anna* 1 (on point 1) sanction, as it were, of so many and such great blessings might make the justifying gifts of grace sure and unquestionable rights for those who have obtained mercy. And this… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Concerning Free Will* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** “certainly grace and truth came by Jesus Christ, John 1:17 whence also by grace we are saved, according to that word of the apostle, and that not of yourselves… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 1) “certainly grace and truth came by Jesus Christ, John 1:17 whence also by grace we are saved, according to that word of the apostle, and that not of yourselves… [continues online] **read ›**

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37 *Concerning Free Will* 1 (1885 English; on point 4) “Since the mercy of God is everywhere great, let us bless Him, and also because He has sent unto us the Spirit of truth to guide us into all truth… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 38–39*

38 *Divine Institutes* 24 **Quote 12, page 6** on a journey, those who have followed a wandering path were allowed to correct their error by repentance, rashness would be more easily corrected." But it is completely allowed. For… [continues online] **read ›**

39 *Divine Institutes* 24 (on point 5) for life ought to remove every kind of excuse, so that he may place on men the necessity of obedience, not by force, but by shame, and yet still leave… [continues online] **read ›**

Alexander of Alexandria, *c. 313–328 AD · source 40*

40 *Epistles on the Arian Heresy* 1 (on point 2) But when our Lord rose from death and trampled it down, when He bound the strong man and set man free, then every creature wondered at the Judge who for… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *sources 41–42*

41 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 4) You see, beloved, how great and wonderful a thing love is, and that its perfection cannot be described. Who is fit to be found in it except those whom God… [continues online] **read ›**

42 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (1885 English; on point 3) shall we do, then, brethren? Shall we become slothful in well-doing, and cease from the practice of… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *121 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

43 **Genesis 6:8** But Noah found grace before the Lord God. **read ›**

44 **Genesis 15:6** Abram believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. **read ›**

45 **Genesis 33:10** Jacob said, “If I have found favor in your sight, receive the gifts from my hands. For this reason I have seen your face, as one might see the face of God, and you will be pleased with me. **read ›**

46 **Genesis 33:11** Take my blessings that I have brought to you, because God has had mercy on me, and I have all things.” And Jacob urged him, and he took them. **read ›**

47 **Genesis 49:18** waiting for the salvation of the Lord. **read ›**

48 **Exodus 10:17** Now therefore forgive my sin this once more, and pray to the Lord your God, and let him take this death away from me.” **read ›**

49 **Leviticus 21:22** He may eat the gifts of God, the most holy things, and of the holy things; **read ›**

50 **Leviticus 22:19** unblemished males from the herds, or from the sheep, and from the goats are acceptable for you. **read ›**

51 **Numbers 14:18** ‘The Lord is long-suffering, great in mercy, and true, taking away lawlessness and unrighteousness and sins; yet he will by no means acquit the guilty, repaying the sins of fathers upon children to the third and fourth generation.’ **read ›**

52 **Numbers 14:19** Forgive the sin of this people according to your great mercy, just as you have been gracious to them from Egypt until now.” **read ›**

53 **Numbers 14:20** And the Lord said to Moses, “I am gracious to them according to your word. **read ›**

54 **2 Chronicles 30:19** “May the good Lord be merciful toward every heart that is directed to seek the Lord God of their fathers, though not according to the purity of the sanctuary.” **read ›**

55 **Psalms 12:8** The ungodly walk all around; according to your loftiness you have greatly cared for the sons of men. (Septuagint Psalm 11:9 (Psalm 12:8 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

56 **Psalms 32:1** Of understanding, of David. Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (Septuagint Psalm 31:1 (Psalm 32:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

57 **Proverbs 28:13** He who covers his own ungodliness will not prosper, but he who sets forth rebukes will be loved. **read ›**

58 **Ecclesiastes 1:2** “Vanity of vanities,” said the Preacher, “vanity of vanities; all is vanity.” **read ›**

59 **Ecclesiastes 1:3** What advantage does a man have in all his labor at which he labors under the sun? **read ›**

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60 **Song of Solomon 3:5** I have charged you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the powers and by the strengths of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases. **read ›**

61 **Isaiah 13:3** I am giving command, and I bring them; giants are coming to fulfill my wrath, rejoicing and insulting together. **read ›**

62 **Isaiah 13:15** For whoever is caught will be overcome, and those who are gathered together will fall by the sword. **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 15:8** For the cry has reached the border of the land of Moab, of Eglaim, and her wailing as far as the well of Elim. **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 55:7** let the ungodly forsake his ways, and the lawless man his counsels; and let him return to the Lord, and he shall receive mercy, for he shall abundantly forgive your sins. **read ›**

66 **Jeremiah 3:9** and her prostitution came to nothing, and she committed adultery with wood and with stone. **read ›**

67 **Jeremiah 19:7** And I will slaughter the counsel of Judah and the counsel of Jerusalem in this place, and I will strike them down by the sword before their enemies and by the hands of those who seek their lives; and I will give their corpses as food to the birds of heaven and to the wild beasts of the earth. **read ›**

68 **Jeremiah 23:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

69 **Jeremiah 31:1** At that time, said the Lord, I will be God to the family of Israel, and they shall be my people. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:1 (Jeremiah 31:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

70 **Jeremiah 31:5** For you have planted vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; plant, and praise. (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:5 (Jeremiah 31:5 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

71 **Jeremiah 50:3** For a nation has come up against her from the north; it will make her land a desolation, and there will be no one dwelling in it, from man to beast. (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:3 (Jeremiah 50:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

72 **Lamentations 1:6** Waw. And from the daughter of Zion all her majesty has been taken away; her rulers became like rams that find no pasture, and they went on without strength before the pursuer. **read ›**

73 **Lamentations 1:7** Zain. Jerusalem remembered the days of her humiliation and of her rejection, all her desirable things that were from days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the oppressor, and there was none to help her; her enemies saw it and laughed at her dwelling. **read ›**

74 **Lamentations 1:8** Heth. Jerusalem has sinned a sin; therefore she has become a thing tossed about; all who honored her have humbled her, for they have seen her shame; and she herself groaned and turned backward. **read ›**

75 **Lamentations 1:13** Mem. From his height he has sent fire; into my bones he has brought it down; he has spread a net for my feet; he has turned me back; he has made me desolate, in pain all the day. **read ›**

76 **Lamentations 1:14** Nun. Watch has been kept over my ungodly deeds; they are twined together in my hands; they have come up upon my neck; my strength has failed; for the Lord has put pains in my hands; I shall not be able to stand. **read ›**

77 **Ezekiel 22:3** and you shall say: Thus says the Lord God: O city that sheds blood in her midst, so that her time may come, and that makes inventions against herself, to defile herself! **read ›**

78 **Daniel 1:9** And God caused Daniel to find mercy and compassion before the chief eunuch. **read ›**

79 **Daniel 4:9** “Belteshazzar, chief of the enchanters, I know that the Holy Spirit of God is in you, and no mystery is too hard for you: hear the vision of the dream that I saw, and tell me its interpretation. **read ›**

80 **Amos 3:9** Proclaim it to the regions among the Assyrians, and to the regions of Egypt, and say, “Gather yourselves on the mountain of Samaria, and see the many marvels in her midst, and the oppression that is in her.” **read ›**

81 **Amos 3:14** For in the day when I avenge the ungodly deeds of Israel upon him, I will also take vengeance on the altars of Bethel; and the horns of the altar shall be broken off, and they shall fall to the ground. **read ›**

82 **Habakkuk 3:5** Before his face a word will go, and it will go out into the plains; **read ›**

83 **1 Esdras 1:23** And the works of Josiah were upright before his Lord, with a heart full of godliness. **read ›**

84 **1 Esdras 8:94** as has been decided by you and by all who obey the law of the Lord. **read ›**

85 **Tobit 1:13** And the Most High gave me favor and a good presence before Enemessar, and I was his buyer. **read ›**

86 **Tobit 12:8** Prayer is good with fasting and alms and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness. It is better to give alms than to lay up gold. **read ›**

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87 **Tobit 12:9** For alms delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who do acts of alms and righteous deeds will be filled with life; **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:9** Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will stay with him in love, for grace and mercy are for his chosen ones. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:14** And blessed is the eunuch who has done no lawless deed with his hand, nor devised evil things against the Lord; for to him will be given the choice grace of faith, and a more delightful lot in the temple of the Lord. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Solomon 16:7** For the one who turned toward it was saved, not by what he saw, but by you, the Savior of all. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Solomon 16:25** Therefore at that time also, changed into all forms, it served your all-nourishing gift, according to the wish of those who were in need, **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:7** The salvation of the righteous and the destruction of the enemies were awaited by your people. **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:11** For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; he forgives sins and saves in the time of trouble. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:5** Do not be so fearless about atonement as to add sin upon sins. **read ›**

95 **Wisdom of Sirach 5:6** And do not say, “His compassion is great; he will make atonement for the multitude of my sins”; for mercy and anger come from him, and his wrath will rest upon sinners. **read ›**

96 **Wisdom of Sirach 8:5** Do not insult a man who turns from sin; remember that we are all under penalty. **read ›**

97 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:25** Free men will serve a wise household servant, and a man of knowledge will not grumble. **read ›**

98 **Wisdom of Sirach 11:17** The gift of the Lord remains with the godly, and his good pleasure will prosper forever. **read ›**

99 **Wisdom of Sirach 15:15** If you are willing, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is of your own good will. **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:14** He will make room for every act of mercy; each one will find according to his works. **read ›**

101 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:25** Turn back to the Lord and forsake your sins; make your prayer before his face and lessen your offense. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:17** Behold, is not a word better than a good gift? And both are found with a gracious man. **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:21** Before you fall sick, humble yourself, and in the time of sins, show your turning back. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Sirach 21:1** My child, have you sinned? Do not do so again, and pray concerning your former sins. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:13** The grace of a wife delights her husband, and her knowledge will fatten his bones. **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Sirach 37:21** for grace was not given him from the Lord, because he was deprived of all wisdom. **read ›**

107 **Baruch 1:17** because we have sinned before the Lord, **read ›**

108 **Susanna 1:60** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

109 **2 Maccabees 1:2** May God do good to you, and may he remember his covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, his faithful slaves. **read ›**

110 **2 Maccabees 1:3** May he give you all a heart to worship him and to do his will with a great heart and a willing soul. **read ›**

111 **2 Maccabees 8:29** When they had done this, they made a common plea and begged the merciful Lord to be fully reconciled with his slaves. **read ›**

112 **2 Maccabees 9:27** For I am persuaded that he will follow my policy with fairness and kindness and will deal with you accordingly.” **read ›**

113 **3 Maccabees 3:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

114 **4 Maccabees 13:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

115 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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116 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
117 **4 Maccabees 15:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
118 **1 Enoch 1:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
119 **1 Enoch 1:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
120 **1 Enoch 1:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
121 **1 Enoch 1:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
122 **1 Enoch 1:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
123 **1 Enoch 22:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
124 **1 Enoch 92:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
125 **Luke 7:48** He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” **read ›**
126 **John 1:16** And from his fullness we have all received, even grace for grace. **read ›**
127 **John 1:17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **read ›**
128 **Acts 3:19** Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, **read ›**
129 **Acts 12:2** He killed James, the brother of John, with the sword. **read ›**
130 **Acts 13:38** Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; **read ›**
131 **Acts 15:11** But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.” **read ›**
132 **Romans 1:5** through whom we received grace and apostleship for obedience of faithfulness among all the nations for his name’s sake; **read ›**
133 **Romans 3:24** being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **read ›**
134 **Romans 4:4** Now to him who works, the reward is not counted as grace, but as something owed. **read ›**
135 **Romans 5:2** through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **read ›**
136 **Romans 5:15** But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if by the trespass of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. **read ›**
137 **Romans 5:16** And the gift is not like what came through the one who sinned; for the judgment came from one trespass to condemnation, but the gracious gift came from many trespasses to justification. **read ›**
138 **Romans 9:16** So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who has mercy. **read ›**
139 **Romans 11:6** And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. **read ›**
140 **1 Corinthians 1:3** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **read ›**
141 **1 Corinthians 1:4** I always thank my God for you, for the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus, **read ›**
142 **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. **read ›**
143 **1 Corinthians 6:11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and in the Spirit of our God. **read ›**
144 **1 Corinthians 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am. His grace which was given to me was not futile, but I worked more than all of them; yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. **read ›**
145 **2 Corinthians 6:1** Working together, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— **read ›**
146 **2 Corinthians 9:15** Now thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! **read ›**
147 **Galatians 2:16** yet knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, even we believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by the faithfulness of Christ and not by works of the law, because no flesh will be justified by works of the law. **read ›**
148 **Galatians 5:4** You are alienated from Christ, you who desire to be justified by the law. You have fallen away from grace. **read ›**
149 **Ephesians 1:7** In him we have our redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace **read ›**

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150 **Ephesians 2:5** even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **read ›**

151 **Ephesians 2:8** for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **read ›**

152 **Ephesians 4:7** But to each one of us, the grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. **read ›**

153 **Colossians 1:14** in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. **read ›**

154 **1 Timothy 1:14** And the grace of our Lord overflowed with faithfulness and the love that is in Christ Jesus. **read ›**

155 **Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **read ›**

156 **Titus 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, **read ›**

157 **Titus 3:7** that being justified by his grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. **read ›**

158 **Philemon 1:14** But I wished to do nothing without your consent, so that your good deed would be voluntary, not compelled. **read ›**

159 **James 2:17** Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. **read ›**

160 **James 2:18** But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith by your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **read ›**

161 **James 2:24** You see then that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith. **read ›**

162 **1 Peter 3:21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now also saves us—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but the appeal of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **read ›**

163 **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *102 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 9:18

Exodus 32:34

Deuteronomy 32:10 · 32:23

Psalms 18:26 · 33:6

Proverbs 11:5

Isaiah 1:18 · 35:3

Jeremiah 2:12 · 2:13 · 5:8

Ezekiel 47:1

Daniel 7:13

Jonah 3:10

Matthew 4:9 · 5:16 · 9:29 · 10:22 · 11:11 · 11:17 · 11:27 · 12:38 · 16:21 · 18:17 · 19:17 · 26:56

Mark 2:10 · 3:28 · 5:9

Luke 1:35 · 1:38 · 1:79 · 2:29 · 5:16 · 7:26 · 7:32 · 7:37 · 10:21 · 14:11

John 1:3 · 1:13 · 1:18 · 3:9 · 3:36 · 4:9 · 4:10 · 5:45 · 5:46 · 6:40 · 19:34 · 19:36 · 20:22

Acts 1:8 · 2:24 · 2:38 · 8:17 · 17:3

Romans 5:8 · 7:15 · 8:5

1 Corinthians 1:8 · 3:12 · 3:13 · 3:16 · 6:19 · 8:1 · 12:3 · 12:4 · 12:11 · 12:13 · 13:8 · 13:11 · 14:20

2 Corinthians 3:6 · 5:4 · 6:4 · 6:6 · 6:16 · 7:1

Galatians 1:1 · 2:2 · 3:23 · 3:26 · 3:28 · 4:7

Ephesians 4:8 · 5:8 · 6:14

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Philippians 1:5
Colossians 2:4
2 Timothy 3:8 · 4:6
Hebrews 6:4 · 10:26 · 10:39 · 12:16
1 Peter 1:2 · 1:8
1 John 3:9
Jude 1:2
Revelation 22:1

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early Christians believe about grace?” on May 21, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY