

Tuesday 9th February 2021

Chambers Dictionary. "grace *n* easy elegance in form or manner,...the undeserved mercy of God..."

A grace. "*For what we are about to receive may the Lord make us truly grateful*"

Wikipedia. "Grace in Christianity is the free and unmerited favour of God as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowing of blessings."

Ephesians 1: 7, 8 "*In him (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.*"

What is it about the word 'grace' that makes it so important to the Christian faith? And indeed for many other faiths. We talk about a graceful person meaning one who is kind, polite, non-judgemental and who has an easy manner and deportment. Grace is a not uncommon first name. The English word derives from the French with the same spelling and ultimately from the Greek *charis*; (Ancient Greek: χάρις) meaning grace, kindness and life.

It is the phrases from Chambers '...the undeserved mercy of God...' and that from Wikipedia '...unmerited favour of God...' that gives us the clue to the secret of the grace of God. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians wrote about the '*riches of God's grace*' being '*lavished*' on us. Small wonder that the word grace became so central to faith.

For those who believe and are prepared to repent, to be forgiven however much we sin, is a prize to be treasured.