

Kingdom Feature, September 2017

## ***"The Sufficiency of God's Grace"***

**By Apostle Jerry Upton**

Tonight we begin a 2-part study on the sufficiency of the Grace of God. Because we are living in the last of the last days it is essential that the children of God understand this vital revelation. I was introduced to the reality of the sufficiency of the Grace of God while I was in prison; therefore, this is not just information that you will be receiving but rather imparted revelation that I experienced on a daily basis.

*"For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."* **II Corinthians 12:6-9**

To better understand verse 9 of this chapter, let's look at it from the Amplified Bible version:

*"But He said to me, My grace (My favor and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for My strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective in [your] weakness. Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses and infirmities, that the*

*strength and power of Christ (the Messiah) may rest (yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me!"*

One of the first things we want to do before completely studying the sufficiency of the Grace of God is to look at why and what brought forth this divine revelation to the Apostle Paul:

**Judges 2:3:** These were the men who vexed the Lord's people, and whose god was not the true God. They would be a snare and trouble to God's Children. We use similar terms to describe those who vex us today, for example: 'that person is a pain in the neck'. It doesn't mean that we have a literal pain in our neck, but that the individual being referred to brings us great discomfort and dismay.

**Ezekiel 2:6:** The briers, thorns, and scorpions are all symbolic of the people of satan which come against the Lord's children to vex them. There are the adversaries of God's servants who come to trouble and attack them.

**Luke 6:44:** We see consistently throughout scripture, the symbolism of what the thorns represent is clear. Here they are false teachers who are the enemies of God's people and come bearing no fruit. Their defining characteristic is that they are thorns and bramble (brier) bushes, not a tree from which to get fruit. Here we see the same consistent signification of thorns and scourges as those who vex the Lord's people. Jesus says they were those of satan bearing no fruit, not messengers of God. Likewise, these thorns which were sent to buffet Paul were not of God, but messengers of satan. Let's look at the book of Hebrews:

**Hebrews 6:8-9:** We see the contrast between the messengers of God, and the messengers of satan. One planting, whose work is signified as thorns and briers, and the other, who God says will bring forth better things, things which accompany Salvation. This

is a clear illustration of thorns as the fruit of the wicked who are under God's judgment. And it's very important to note that the messenger of satan clearly refers to a person, or people, who are utilized to attack those who are magnifying, and glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ.