

by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life."

What, then, is "grace"? It is God's free gift of undeserved condescension or favor.

As applied to the unrighteous, it is God's free gift of justification through faith in Christ and His saving work.

As applied to those who are righteous in Christ, it consists of various forms of undeserved blessing, including the blessing of God's help or assistance or enablement in service or suffering.

This brings us to our third question:

III. WERE OLD TESTAMENT BELIEVERS SAVED THROUGH FAITH PLUS GOOD WORKS?

For a partial answer to this question we must look at Romans 4.

1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter?

2 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about – but not before God.

3 What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

4 Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation.

5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

6 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

7 "Blessed are they
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the man