

#102 THE DREAM.....

I am going up to a pulpit to give a sermon to a group of people. Just before I arrive at the pulpit I notice a ring on my finger with a large blue stone. I say to the people, "This blue stone speaks to me of God's grace, blue being a symbol of grace. Why, we live and move and have our being in God and His grace. The sky is blue, the oceans are blue---even in our darkest hours the stars seem to twinkle blue."

Blue often symbolizes grace and is frequently called the heavenly color. Yes, even God's throne is spoken of as being like a blue sapphire, a throne of grace to us. Now the apostle Paul states that as Christians we live and move in God, His being everywhere by His Spirit. He fills the very universe, and we live and move in His gift of grace. God is love, and grace is the means of revealing that love to us mortals.

The blue sky and oceans are vast in scope and are large and unfathomable to us. God's grace is also large and limitless, beyond our understanding. We can experience grace yet not measure its full depths. The stars are numberless and vast distances from earth. They twinkle a white-blue color to us on dark moonless nights. Their blue light beams take thousands of years to reach our planet---radiating long before we were here. So, too, God has been gracious long before man ever came into being.

God's grace toward mankind has been summed up in the gift of Christ as a sin offering for us. He bestows grace and love for they are intrinsic qualities of God's very nature and being. The Lord's love and grace move Him to help even His enemies whose repentance delights Him. If they do not repent, it will not change the fact that God still loves, though it will change the destiny of those souls. When necessary, God can and does limit the display of His love and grace to the wicked and to the rebellious. Love is God's good-will and intention for the very universe and all His creatures.

Nevertheless, God has other attributes like justice, holiness and truth. These are not overridden by mere sentimentality as humans are prone to do. God still loves the most wicked person alive today as He does the most obedient believer, yet the former can not receive the manifestation of that love as can the latter. God has not changed. Man's attitude and submission will determine the manifestation of God's love to him. No grace or virtue of God will ever destroy another. They will work in perfect union for they are the very nature of God. Jesus even said that those who keep His words would have the Father and Himself manifested to them. Paul spoke of his heart's being enlarged to receive more of God.

God is always the same in love and character, yet we are the ones that grow in understanding and experience of Him. God is the great river that is not crossable. He would remove the scales from our spiritual seeing if we would trust and obey Him. Let us ask and trust God to open Himself up to us to a greater degree so we can love and know Him better. Though He has always been the same, we have not known Him fully. Only as we are enlightened can we know to a greater degree the love and grace of God toward us.