

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION

LUKE 15:24

For this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

JOHN 1:14-16

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a high rank than I, for He existed before me.'" For of His fullness we have all received, a grace upon grace.

1 PETER 2:24-25

And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

DESCRIPTION

In the fullness of Christ, we have received a full, resolute grace.

VERSES

A critical term in this song (especially the verses) is "grace," and while there are many ways to examine this term and its usage in the New Testament, there are two ways that are particularly helpful as it pertains to this song. The first is grace as an outworking or action and this carries with it a sense of unmerited favor, or a gift. Because it is unmerited in nature, anything pertaining to grace is by definition undeserved. The second way that is helpful to examine the word is by looking at its root, which connotes gladness and rejoicing. Two things can be said to this point: 1) its important to note that God extends grace gladly with joy, not as obligation or begrudgingly; and 2) as the recipients of grace, our souls should be filled to respond in a rejoicing manner of worship unto God.

CHORUS

Much like grace, there are many ways to look at Jesus' atoning work on the cross, but this song is paying particular attention to the substitutionary element of the cross (a theological category often referred to simply as "substitutionary atonement"). Peter highlights this substitution when he writes, "He Himself bore *our sin* in His body" (1 Pet. 2:24). This was/is the ultimate expression of grace as Jesus, God incarnate, does something that we could never do ourselves: eradicate sin, its power, and its guilt.

BRIDGE

Peter mentions in this reconciliation we are made alive, healed, and also under the care of a Shepherd no longer left to stray aimlessly (1 Pet. 2:24-25). The bridge is picking up on this concept being alive, found and accepted by God through grace made fully manifest in the incarnate Christ (Jn. 1:16). A phrase from the Parable of the Prodigal Son is used to illustrate this from when the father celebrates his son's return (Lk. 15:24).