

There, But For The Grace of God, Go I!

➤ = next PowerPoint Slide

➤ Intro:

- **title of lesson / phrase, saying (origin):** There, But For The Grace of God, Go I!
 - “something that you say which means something bad that has happened to someone else could have happened to you.” (Cambridge International Dictionary of Idioms © Cambridge University Press 1998)

- What attitudes should we have as a result of God’s grace in our lives?

➤ Humble, as a person upon whom God bestows many great and wondrous gifts.

- **illus.:** Feb. 21, 2008, South Bend Tribune, a 17-year-old high school junior named Skylar Diggins, one of the top basketball players in the country whose already been offered a scholarship to play at Notre Dame, said of her mother

- "She's always been there for me. She's been a provider and the strength that holds the family together. I'm blessed and lucky to have the family I do. **It's humbling to be that blessed.**"

- God’s blessings make us humble, if we honest and sincere

- God’s temporal grace in our lives: USA, enjoy so many things, have pleasant and restful lives

- 6 - **pic:** Brother and Sister, kids in Guatemala, boots with holes in the toes, they seem like small adults
- Are you as happy as they are? Should you be happier - rejoicing more?

- Are you humble, knowing that all your blessings come from God, or are you proud and haughty, thinking you’re someone special because of your wealth?

- - **Ja. 1:17** all blessings from God, not ourselves: food, clothing, shelter, jobs, family, etc.

- - **Job 1:20-21** God gives and takes away

- What would you do if he took most out blessings away? – What are you doing now that he’s still giving?

- Then, but for the grace of God, go I . . .

- - God’s spiritual grace in our lives – humility, Jesus die for me

- **Eph. 1:3** all spiritual blessings in Christ

- **Jn. 3:16** God’s gift, Jesus, salvation

- - **Rom. 3:23; 6:23** all sinned, salvation is a gift – Then, but for the grace of God, go I . . .

- **Eph. 2:8** by grace, saved through faith, gift of God

- - **Eph. 4:7-8, 11, 16** God graciously gives us gifts (not supernatural today), to use in His service

- - **Phil. 4:4, 6-7** rejoice, peace that surpasses understanding

- - Possessing and enjoying God’s gracious blessings makes us humble

- **Ps. 8:3-4** (David) What is man that You are mindful of him (NKJ)

- How do you view yourself in the world? – others in the world? – those who are still lost in sin?

- Then, but for the grace of God, go I . . .

- **Thankful, as a person who is graciously blessed above all others** . – if we are humble, we'll be thankful
 - **Col. 1:12** thankful for salvation
- - **Eph. 5:3-4** give thanks rather than sin
- - **1 Th. 5:18** thankful for everything God gives us, not just salvation
 - **Rom. 1:21** sinners do not honor God or give thanks
- - **illus.: song #392: Count Your Blessings**, name them one by one
 - do you? – thankful enough to count your blessings
- - **illus.: parable 10 lepers**
- 2 - **video clip:** lepers, horrible disease, disfigurement, often cast out of society
 - **Lk. 17:11-19** Jesus, ten lepers, all healed but only one returned to give thanks
 - most people in the world aren't thankful, as they should be, for God's blessings – e.g., sending Jesus to die for their sins – thankful enough to obey and pray
- - **Are you thankful**, as you should be? – **Then, but for the grace of God, go I . . .**
 - **Col. 3:15** peace of Christ, be thankful
 - **Heb. 13:15** continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, thanks to His name
- **Compassionate toward people who are not lost**, as people who realize how lost we'd be without God's grace.
 - When we grasp what God has done for us, and we're honest about our lost condition without Christ, we can't help but be compassionate toward people who are still lost!
 - **2 Pet. 3:9** the Lord is patient toward you, "not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance"
 - **1 Tim. 2:4** God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth"
- - **Rom. 8:32a** God did not spare His own Son, so you could be saved – grasp what God's done for us
 - If God loves sinners so much He didn't spare His own Son, how much should we love them?
 - Then, but for the grace of God, go I . . .
- - **1 Cor. 6:9-11a** we've all been sinners and need grace – honest about our lost condition without Christ
 - **Rom. 3:23** all have sinned, fall short of the glory of God
 - **Rom. 6:23** wages of sin is death, free gift of God is eternal life in Christ
 - Then, but for the grace of God, go I . . .
- - **What is your attitude toward people lost in sin?** – unbeliever, brother who stumbles
 - compassion, disdain, abhorrence – Then, but for the grace of God, go I . . .
 - **Rom. 10:1-3 (SR)** Paul's earnest desire, salvation for lost – Do you have an earnest desire?
- **Summary / Inv. – Then, but for the grace of God, go I . . .**
 - **zeal is another attribute** of realizing God's grace in your life (not time this lesson)
 - **inv.:** if you are not a Christian, know the grace that awaits you, you'll be zealous to obey