

# We Call Him Father Because We Are In His Son Jesus Christ *Colossians 1:3-6*

The privilege of Prayer to the Sovereign God because of our position in Christ.

<sup>3</sup> **We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,**

Motivation for prayer:

Their fulfilling the command of their Heavenly Father.

<sup>4</sup> **since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;**

This is Spiritual Love from GOD the HOLY SPIRIT.

Before we even look into this verse, look at 1 John 3:23-24

verse 23

**This is His commandment,**

**(1) that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and**

**(2) love one another just as He commanded us.**

(now by fulfilling this command note the results)

verse 24

**The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us by the Spirit whom He has given us.**

## Why the mention of the Holy Spirit here?

Because in Colossians 1:4

verse 4

**...and the love which you have for all the saints.**

The only love that matters to God is love that comes from His Spirit.  
And where did He give such a command?

John 13:34-35

verse 34

**“A new commandment I give to you, (The old commandment was to love your neighbor as you love yourself, but now JESUS CHRIST gives a new commandment) that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**

verse 35

**“By this all men (not just men, but angels and members of human race) will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

**since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus**

( Here is the gospel—clear and simple—by Faith alone in Christ alone, don't add anything to Faith in JESUS CHRIST! It does NOT say invite Christ into your heart. It does not say receive Him into your heart. It says simply BELIEVE!)

Constantly asking yourself ***is this the Faith God is looking for?***

Obviously Paul heard of their Faith in JESUS CHRIST before he started giving thanks for them, and note that what is really important to Paul is the spiritual condition of these believers;

How they understand and apply the two most important doctrines:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Faith in JESUS CHRIST which saves forever and then
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2 <sup>nd</sup>	The most important doctrine for the believer. . . How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit.
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And note that Paul does not say *Faith in Christ Jesus and Faith in the Holy Spirit*. No, Paul mentions one of the most profound results in the believer who is Filled with the Holy Spirit—

## **Spiritual love.**

Galatians 5:22

verse 22

**and the love which you have for all the saints.**

Galatians 5:22 tells us clearly where this Love comes from, not from our corrupted flesh nature, but from the Holy Spirit -

**fruit of the Holy Spirit is love!**

Love is another word that you have to be very careful about.

Words like **Grace, Faith, Salvation, Gospel and Love**, are words that you have to know what the person using these words means by them.

*Most Christians think that if they love from the flesh, then that is the love God is looking for. Love from the flesh is no different that works from the flesh.*

*Unacceptable to God. This is why God gave every one who believes in JESUS CHRIST the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit, so that we can live by Faith in the Holy Spirit and have the Love that God desires flowing through us.*

Remember, there are Three Categories of Love:

(1) **Divine Love—**which comes from members of the Godhead.

(2) **Human Love—**which comes from human beings and

- (3) Spiritual Love—which can come only from a New Spiritual Creation (believer in JESUS CHRIST), and only from that believer when he/she is Filled by the Holy Spirit by Faith.

The Holy Spirit pours into the believer Spiritual Love, when that believer is walking by Faith in the Holy Spirit. It is called ***Spiritual Love*** because it comes from the Holy Spirit through a New Spiritual creation and has spiritual impact, and is the only Love acceptable to God.

Many believers are so impressed with their love that surely God must be impressed, but the truth of the matter is that God is only pleased with Love produced by His Spirit.

Along with Galatians 5:22 also, Romans 5:5

verse 5 **and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us..**

For a full discussion on Spiritual Love, note 1 Corinthians 13. Where we find 16 impacts of this love in the life of the believer who Loves under the Filling of the Holy Spirit. Do not claim that you love another believer or even that you Love JESUS CHRIST if any of these is not present in your soul or in your life.

verse 4 **since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints.**

Note the phrase **you have** this is a Present Active Indicative of the verb meaning **to have**—when we are Filled with the Holy Spirit by

Faith; we now have this Love—and to have this Love means to show this Love--the impact of this Love in your life and toward those who are the object of this Love.

And I love the phrase **for or toward all the saints.**

Right there you can understand that this is not human love—for we do not have human love for everyone. There are those who get on our nerves, etc., but when it is ***Spiritual Love*** it is directed toward everyone who is a believer in JESUS CHRIST and people that means every believer in your life, in your family, your work, your church, your social life, etc., and the only way we can have this Love for every believer is that it must be supernatural!

From God the Holy Spirit.

Motivation for prayer in Verse 4 was because of their faith in JESUS CHRIST and Spiritual Love motivation for prayer in verse 5-8 is confidence in the future.

*How about you? Do you pray in regards to Eternity Future?*

Well, verse 5 gives us some guide lines on this kind of praying.

verse 5

**because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel** (This is yet another verse packed with important Biblical information. First we have an interpretive problem.)

Does the cause—*because*—go back to verse 3 **we give thanks to God ...because of the hope laid up for you?** or does it go back to giving a reason for their loving One Another in

## Spiritual Love?

verse 5

**We give thanks to God because of the hope laid up for you or the love which you have for all the saints because of the hope laid up for you**

We should desire ***Spiritual Love*** for all the saints for three primary reasons:

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- (1) Because it is the New Commandment given to us by our Savior.
- (2) Because by this Love all will know that we are followers of JESUS CHRIST.
- (3) Because of its impact when we stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ and in our eternal dwelling in heaven.

The Greek word ***hope*** is not equivalent to the English hope – (I hope it does not rain, etc.) The Greek word refers to confidence **because of the confidence laid up for you** *Present Middle Participle* to be laid up for preservation—referring to rewards in heaven—given at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Question: **Are you ready for the Judgment Seat of Christ?**

*It is my prayer that before we have completed our study of Colossians that you will be living in eager anticipation of the Judgment Seat of Christ.*

verse 5

**Because of the confidence laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard** (They heard of what lies ahead, after *The Rapture* from their teachers.)

Now the next phrase is most interesting.

verse 5

**in the word of truth, the gospel**

When I first started teaching *'The gospel for Christians'* people were really taken back by the title. Their thinking—the gospel is for non-Christians, on how to become Christians, the gospel is not for Christians. But a true and complete understanding of the gospel is very much in line for the Christian.

First From the gospel we learn about God, what kind of God He is. For instance, **He is PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS and there is nothing we can do for Him but receive by FAITH all He has done for us.**

From the gospel we learn how He loved the world. **for in this manner God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoever believes in Him will have everlasting life.**

Second From the gospel we begin our learning about our Savior, that He of His own free will was ***Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted*** that we might we saved. We learn that He came to reveal GOD the FATHER to us, He came to bring us to the father.

Third The gospel guides on how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit and How to walk in a manner pleasing to God.

Note: Colossians 2:6

**Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him** Now, if you understand that you received JESUS CHRIST by Faith alone, then the gospel reveals to you how you ought to live, how you will be Filled with the Holy Spirit and that is by Faith alone.

You were not saved by repentance or confession or by anything you did or thought other than simple faith, so you are not filled with the Holy Spirit by repentance or confession or by anything you do or think other than simple faith.

Fourth

Next we learn from the gospel about eternity and eternal rewards. By the gospel we are not only saved **from** something but we are also saved **to** something. We are given the eternal reward of eternal salvation and that eternal existence with our Lord includes the receiving of eternal rewards.

## Colossians 1:3

verse 3

**We give thanks to God the father of our Lord Jesus Christ,** (He is called God the Father because He is the Father of His Son, JESUS CHRIST, and since we are in Christ, by Faith alone in Christ, He is our father also.)

**praying always for you** (Paul is in prison, you would think he has enough problems of his own, but no, Paul always, constantly prays for believers he has never seen and the following verses tell us what Paul prayed.)

Prayer motivated by confidence in the future.

- <sup>5</sup> **because of the hope** This is the confidence **laid up for you in heaven,** By God; and what is it that is laid up in heaven? Rewards from the Judgment Seat of Christ.



## of which you previously heard

As light as this may sound it is very important phrase.

1<sup>st</sup> They heard this from the teaching of their faithful pastor

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2<sup>nd</sup> This hope, this confidence was taught to them when they first heard the gospel expounded to them.

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3<sup>rd</sup> They heard this teaching then this hope was stored up inside of them. (this is very important) they heard this *before* the false teachers came in.

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### Here is the Grace of God.

Many times God gives to believers the sound teaching of Truth, then Satan comes in with his counter attacks.

You need to store up as much teaching of the Truth as you can before Satan's counter attack.

### Where Do We First Learn this Principle of Wisdom?

In the garden where Eve was given sound teaching from the Lord Himself, then Satan came in with his shrewdness and distorted the Truth.

Many Christians start off with sound doctrine, only to be 'charmed' away from it by Satan and his false teachers.

Galatians 3:1

**you non-thinking Galatians, who has charmed you**

Away from truth

**before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?**

## Colossians 1:5

<sup>5</sup> **because of the hope/confidence laid up for you in heaven**

People, we should live in lite of eternity, not this temporary life here on earth. Decisions we make about time, money, Bible class, marriage, family, etc., should each be made in the light of eternity with Jesus the Christ.

<sup>5</sup> **Which you previously heard in the word of truth, taught to them by their faithful pastor-teacher;**

The prepositional phrase **in the word of truth** means this hope laid up for every believer should be taught along with the presentation of the gospel.

Today we have the completed canon of Scripture **the gospel.**

The best way to grasp this vital phrase is:

*Truth describes the content of 'the Word'  
which is the Gospel.*

Or simply,

*The Gospel is the Word of Truth  
or the word of Truth is the Gospel.*

But, of course, this demands a correct understanding of the Gospel which today is a rare gem of wisdom.

Faith is so fundamental to our entire relationship with God.

<sup>1<sup>st</sup></sup> Faith in JESUS CHRIST for eternal salvation (eternal sanctification)

<sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> Faith in the Holy Spirit for spirituality (experiential

sanctification).

Faith in the WORD OF GOD;

Trusting God and everything He says in His word, and Faith in the Promises of God relating to eternity, after death.

1. Face to face with JESUS CHRIST in our Resurrected Body.  
2 Corinthians 5:8; 1 John 3:2
2. Once in eternity no condemnation. Romans 8:1
3. Our appointment of Judgment as unbelievers is cancelled.  
Hebrews 9:27-28 (see also John 16:8-11)
4. We will stand before JESUS CHRIST in evaluation of our lives on earth as to when we walked by Faith in the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 5:10
5. New Home. John 14:1-2
6. Our Inheritance. 1 Peter 1:4-5
7. Things related to pain and disappointments are taken away forever:

Revelation 21:4

<sup>4</sup> **and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”**

They heard of all these things from their Faithful pastor-teacher.

It is the responsibility of every pastor to teach where the

gospel, the saving work of JESUS CHRIST on the cross, takes us **TO** as well as where it takes us **FROM**. Where the gospel takes us to in time of our lives here on earth and where it takes us to in heaven and in eternity.

And where the gospel takes us from in time and in eternity.

As we will see Epaphras was a faithful teacher of the fullness of the gospel truth.

In verse 5 we have the opening statement concerning the gospel, and now this will be followed by several statements about the gospel.

- 1<sup>st</sup> You must first hear the gospel before you can believe the gospel.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The gospel is the Word from God of the truth of Salvation

Now in verse 6 we learn more about the gospel.

**6 which has come to you,**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Now the statement about the gospel is that it has come to you refers to the fact that you have to hear the gospel before you can believe the gospel.

And this is one of the most wonderful gifts we have, that the opportunity to 'bring' to someone the saving gospel of JESUS CHRIST **just as in all the world**. This is an interesting phrase. This tells us that by time of the gospel coming to Colossae it had been taken

throughout the whole world in a multitude of ways.

Of course this spreading began in the Roman Empire but as traders and importers and exporters and travelers traveled the world over, they took with them the news that the Jewish Promised Messiah had come and His name is Jesus.

This is no surprise to those who study the Scriptures that it did not take long for the gospel to spread throughout the world.

Acts 1:8

<sup>8</sup> **but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.**

By the power of and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, the gospel came to the whole world.

Jewish believers were commanded to go throughout the world with the good news of the truth of the gospel.

Matthew 28:19

<sup>19</sup> **JESUS CHRIST speaking to the disciples “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, all the Gentile nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,**

The Gospel had spread throughout the world by the time Paul wrote Romans. (AD 57) Romans 10:18

<sup>18</sup> **But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have; “THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD.”**

The spreading of the truth of the gospel world wide is confirmed in

Colossians. Colossians 1:23

**<sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.**

There are so many ways in which you can study on your own the book of Colossians. Just study chapter 1 and see how much you learn about JESUS CHRIST and how much you learn about the gospel.

Colossians 1:6

**<sup>6</sup> ...the gospel... which has come to you, just as in all the world also, it is constantly bearing fruit**

### **What is the fruit of the gospel?**

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**1<sup>st</sup>** The 1<sup>st</sup> fruit of the gospel is the proclamation of the character of the true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

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**2<sup>nd</sup>** The 2<sup>nd</sup> fruit of the gospel is the declaration of the Messiah Savior – JESUS CHRIST

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**3<sup>rd</sup>** The 3<sup>rd</sup> fruit of the proclamation of the Love of God that He has brought to you this saving Gospel.

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**4<sup>th</sup>** The 4<sup>th</sup> fruit is Grace of God that you are saved totally independent of any work on your part.

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**5<sup>th</sup>** The 5<sup>th</sup> fruit is the number of people who are saved by the Gospel.

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**6<sup>th</sup>** The 6<sup>th</sup> fruit of the gospel is the declaration of how a

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believer is Filled with the Holy Spirit.

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7<sup>th</sup> And the 7<sup>th</sup> fruit is that this gospel instructs on how a believer is to live his/her daily life here on earth.

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Colossians 1:6

<sup>6</sup> **and increasing**, We just examined the fruit now what about how the gospel **increases**? The King James [KJ] leaves this word out in it's reading. ***Which is to come to you as it is in the world and bringeth forth fruit as it doth also in you***

But in the original manuscripts both **bearing fruit** and **increasing** appear and both are in the Present Passive Participle.

Now what is interesting here is that we have the same two words together in verse 10 **bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God** which helps in understanding how Paul distinguishes between the two words.

In the first, you start with a tree and how it produces or bears fruit while in the second you start off with little or none and increases in abundance of knowledge. So if we apply this simple understanding to just a few verses before, in verse six: **the gospel is bearing fruit and increasing** we see that we start with a tree---the gospel-- and see how it bears fruit, that is people are believing it and being saved by it.

Then we move to emptiness (of those who have not yet heard the gospel) and now this increases the number of people who will be hearing the gospel.

So, with this understanding, we start with those who have the gospel and are responding by Faith and being saved, and the gospel is increasing to areas where there was no gospel.

And in both cases the verbs are in the Passive voice which means the gospel itself receives bearing fruit in those who are now believing the gospel and entering the family of God, and in the second case the gospel receives being increased to new areas.

### **So we learn two things about the gospel:**

- 1 Just the hearing the gospel brings glory to God...
- 2 The believing the gospel brings salvation to the believer.

Colossians 1:6

<sup>6</sup> **even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth;**

**even as** The Gospel,  
**in you also or the same way as it**

The gospel—this phrase is referring to the fact that not only was the gospel proclaimed in Colossae but it was being proclaimed throughout the world, with the same effectiveness throughout the world as it has in Colossae.

### **There are two observations being made of the gospel.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> The same gospel has come to you that is spreading



throughout the world.

2<sup>nd</sup> It is bearing fruit throughout the world just as it has produced fruit among you.

**is constantly bearing fruit** that is more and more people are responding to the gospel throughout the world,

**and increasing,** more and more people are believing in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.

**even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it*** the italics is not in the original text.

**Even as in you also since the day you heard** the gospel has been bearing fruit among these believers:

**First:**

They are telling others of JESUS CHRIST who in turn are believing in JESUS CHRIST and

**Second:**

They are growing in the doctrines related to and doctrines that flow from the gospel.

**and understood the grace of God in truth;** This is one of the richest things that can be said of a congregation, that they understood the Grace of God in truth.

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup> We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you

<sup>4</sup> since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;

<sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel

<sup>6</sup> which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth;

<sup>7</sup> just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,

**You have to make up your mind:**

**Is Christ sufficient for all your needs?**

Or do you have to have other things or something else?

**This book is about the Sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST:  
to God the Father;  
and to you?**

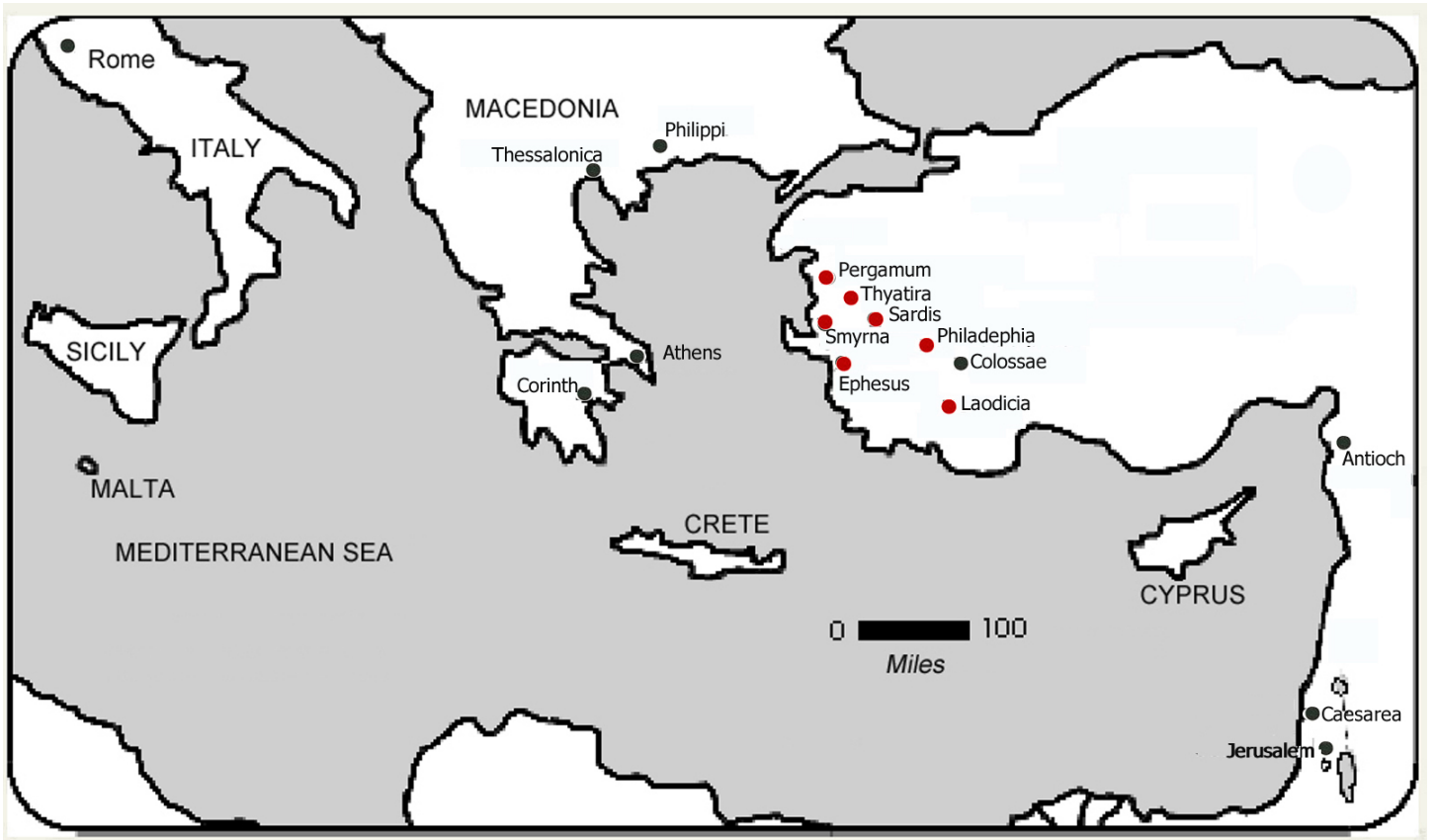
**Is the Word of God sufficient for you?**

**Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?**

**Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?**

Is the World of God sufficient for **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) in your life or do you need outside help?

So we learn so much from the true understanding of the Gospel.





# ALL BECAUSE OF GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

Words and Music by  
STEPHEN R. ADAMS

INTRO.

1. A - maz - ing  
2. Thro' dis - ap -  
3. Then with the

C7 F Fm/D C E7/B Am Am7

grace! Oh, how sweet the sound That saved a poor sin - ner like  
point - ment and dan - ger, too, Thro' la - bors and sor - rows we've  
ran - somed a - round God's throne We'll praise our Re - deem - er and

D7 G7 Dm7/G C G7 C7 F

me! \_\_\_\_\_ Though once I was lost, \_\_\_\_\_ Yet now \_\_\_\_\_ I'm  
come! \_\_\_\_\_ But God's grace has guid - ed safe - ly  
King! \_\_\_\_\_ We'll tell how His mer - cy for sin did a -

F#dim 3 C/C C D7/A G7 C

found, Tho' I was blind - ed \_\_\_\_\_ now \_\_\_\_\_ I see! \_\_\_\_\_  
through; And it will sure - ly \_\_\_\_\_ lead \_\_\_\_\_ us home! \_\_\_\_\_  
tone, Thro' count-less a - ges this song \_\_\_\_\_ we'll sing! \_\_\_\_\_

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CHORUS

G7 C Dm7 C7 E F C G

(1-2) And it's all \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause of God's a - maz - ing grace! \_\_\_\_\_  
 (3) "It was all \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause of God's a - maz - ing grace! \_\_\_\_\_

C Am Am7 D7 Dm7 G

Be - cause on Cal-v'ry's moun-tain He took my place! \_\_\_\_\_  
 Be - cause on Cal-v'ry's moun-tain He took my place!" \_\_\_\_\_

G7 G C Gm7(sus) C7 F

And some-day, some glo-rious morn-ing I shall see Him face to face, All be -  
 Oh! some-day, some glo-rious morn-ing I shall see Him face to face, All be -

1-2 C F G6 G7 C D.S. 3 C rit. F C/G G7 C Fine

cause of God's a - maz - ing grace! \_\_\_\_\_ cause of God's a - maz - ing grace! \_\_\_\_\_