## **Grace and Truth**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:14, 16-17, NIV)

Grace and truth: what a beautiful summary of the life of Jesus! The law had given us only rules—rules we were helpless to obey. Grace and truth are ours through Jesus Christ.

## Grace

God always, always works for our very best, even though we do all we can not to deserve it. His attitude toward us is nothing but love, constantly reaching to bless us. Even when we aggressively ignore Him, His attitude is grace: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

Jesus Christ shows God's heart toward us. He is loving, merciful, and forgiving in every circumstance. While being tortured on the cross, in incredible agony, He reached out to bless His tormentors: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34, NIV). That same grace daily seeks to help each one of us.

## **Truth**

In a world of deception and ignorance, Jesus' life and words were pure truth. He spoke the truth, even when it meant being confrontive and unpopular. He lived the truth. He was the truth—the fullness of the complete and holy God in human form.

Jesus has brought this grace and truth to your life and my life. In our dark world we can know the truth. In this life of weakness and failure we can live the truth. And *from the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another* (John 1:16, NIV). Praise to You, Jesus, God of truth and grace!

Hymn: <u>Jesus, Full of Truth and Grace</u>

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