

grace

/grās/

(in Christian belief) the free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings.

Grace: **charis** (greek): That which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness, good will, lovingkindness, favor; thanks.

**We believe in the scandalous grace of God.
Grace is outrageously unfair, ridiculously extravagant,
and unashamedly the center of the gospel,
and it sure beats judgmental-ism, legalism,
and all other *isms* as well!
Grace always gives second chances, third chances, and never stops
giving chances. Grace has Jesus written all over it.
Grace makes people nervous; because they are always so worried
someone is going to take advantage of it.
But that's what we like about grace.
You can take advantage of it.**

- Mike Yaconelli

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15). Try reading it in [The Message translation](#) so that you might read it in a new way [what one would call "lectio divina," a holy reading]. Jesus' most famous, and least understood teachings. The hidden treasure is that the good father shows grace to both sons, neither of whom got it right or did anything to deserve it.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that at all times, in all things, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

A Word Before

All of Grace was written in a certain frame of mind – that of a ragamuffin.
Therefore,

This book is by the one who thought he'd
be farther along by now, but he's not.
It is by the inmate who promised the parole
board he'd be good, but he wasn't.
It is by the dim-eyed who showed the path
to others but kept losing his way.
It is by the wet-brained who believed if a
little wine is good for the stomach,
then a lot is great.
It is by the liar, tramp, and thief; otherwise
known as the priest, speaker, and author.
It is by the disciple whose cheese
slid off his cracker so many times
he said "to hell with cheese'n'crackers."
It is not by the young at heart
but old of bone who is led these days
in a way he'd rather not go.

But,

This book is also for the gentle ones
who've lived among wolves.
It is for those who've broken free of collar
to romp in the fields of love and marriage and divorce.
It is for those who mourn, who've been
mourning most of their lives,
yet they hang on to *shall be comforted*.
It is for those who've dreamed of entertaining angels
but found instead a few friends of great price.
It is for the younger and elder prodigals
who've come to their senses
again and again, and again, and again.

It is for those who strain at pious piffle
because they've been swallowed by Mercy itself.
This book is for myself and for those who have been around
the block enough times that we dare to whisper
the ragamuffin's rumor –
all is grace.

– All is Grace, pp 26-27

“I found myself in [a] magnificent realm...*terra incognita*...the very heart of Jesus, the place of unconditional love...After that day nothing has ever been the same. I wasn't familiar with the verse then, but it is one I would come to claim and seek to live by, still to this day: **There is only Christ: he is everything.**” (All is Grace, p.91-92)

Brennan has never stopped doggedly reminding us of our deepest longing – that of grace, God's unconditional love for us, runs on, in spite of, as well as because of, us. (p.202)

Now there's no more crowds and no more lights,
still all is grace.
Now my eyes are wrapped in endless night,
still all is grace.
Now I pace the dark and sleep the day
yet I still can hear my Father say –
“all is grace.”

It was easy as a younger man
To squander in the far off land
Where sin was sin, like black is black.
But older brother sin is white,
this doubt that creeps me up at night –
“does Jesus love me still?”

Now I take my meds and hear the game,
still all is grace.
Now old friends drop in and bless my name,
still all is grace.
Now a prodigal I'll always be
yet still my Father runs to me.
All is grace.

– All is Grace, p.205