

A song that we are going to sing this Sunday evening (3rd) contains the phrase, "Your grace and mercy are free."

Just reflect for a moment on that. If they weren't free what would we have to pay?

The TV programme Third Rock from the Sun revolves around the lives of three geeky men and an attractive young lady. The lovely lady decides to give Sheldon, one of the geeky men, a gift. He is not too pleased. It creates a huge dilemma. He wishes that she never bought and never told him about the gift. He cannot settle and his friends ask him what is the matter. He explains that it is not really a gift because now she will expect something in return. She hasn't given him a gift ... she has given him an obligation. He must now give her something of equivalent value. And, as he doesn't know what the gift is, how will he know how to repay it?

In typical geeky fashion he comes up with a foolproof plan. He purchases and wraps up 4 or 5 gifts of differing value and hides them in his room. When he opens the gift from her he will excuse himself, go to his room, and select the equivalently priced gift. The others he can then return to the shop for a refund. Problem solved.

How much is grace worth?

it is God's grace that so powerfully works within us Acts 4:33

it is through grace that we are saved Acts 15:11

it is the word of his grace that gives us an inheritance Acts 20:32

it is by his grace we are justified and redeemed Rom 3:24

it is through his abundant gift of grace that we reign in life Rom 5:17

it is by being under grace that we are no longer under law Rom 6:14

it is according to grace that we all have differing gifts Rom 12:6

it is grace that works within us 1 Cor 15:10

it is grace that causes thanksgiving to overflow 2 Cor 4:15

it is grace that causes us to excel in giving 2 Cor 8:7

it is through grace that we are rich 2 Cor 8:9

It is his grace that gives us power through weakness 1 Cor 12:9

it is the richness of his grace that gives us redemption and forgiveness of sins Eph 1:7

it is by grace that we preach the boundless riches of Christ Eph 3:8

it is by understanding God's grace that we bear fruit and grow Col 1:6

it is according to the grace of God that Jesus is glorified in us 2 Thess 1:12

it is by his grace that we have eternal encouragement and good hope 2 Thess 2:16

it is because of his grace that he saved us and called us to a holy life 2 Tim 1:9

it is by grace that we are heirs and have the hope of eternal life Titus 3:7

it is by the grace of God that Jesus tasted death for everyone Heb 2:9

it is grace that helps us in our time of need Heb 4:16

it is by grace that our hearts are strengthened Heb 13:9

and it is the God of all grace who will restore us and make us strong,
firm and steadfast 1 Pet 5:10

So, how can we repay God's grace? We can't. If we could then grace would not be grace.

What does Sheldon do? Well, overwhelmed by the value of the gift he has been given, he rushes into the bedroom, picks up every single gift that he has, and gives them all in thankfulness and appreciation.

Pastor Chris Ricketts



The whole Church Prayer Meeting

**Monday 2nd July
6.30pm**