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Prevenient Grace



*The grace of God that
prepares us to turn
toward Christ.*

Prevenient Grace in the Bible and
the writings of Ellen G. White

i.e.,

Words that do not exist but matter the most



Arminianism vs. Adventism

New Testament and EGW



■ Preliminary Comments

- Prevenient Grace - a word not found in the Bible
 - Present as an idea

That which counteracts the effects of total depravity by enabling spiritual capacities but which falls short of imparting eternal life.



Arminianism vs. Adventism

New Testament and EGW



■ Preliminary Comments

- ✦ State of Humanity: Psalm 51, Romans 3:23
- ✦ God is the only Saviour



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New Testament and EGV



The Biblical Data

- ✦ Ephesians 2:4-5
- ✦ John 1:9
- ✦ Romans 2:4
- ✦ Titus 2:11
- ✦ Colossians 2:13

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming to the world.

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ.



Prevenient Grace

New Testament and EGW



Ellen G. White

✦ Human Nature and Prevenient Grace

Man was originally endowed with noble powers and a well-balanced mind. He was perfect in his being, and in harmony with God. His thoughts were pure, his aims holy. But through disobedience, his powers were perverted, and selfishness took the place of love. His nature became so weakened through transgression that **it was impossible for him**, in his own strength, to resist the power of evil (SC17)

It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them. . . His grace alone can quicken the **lifeless** faculties of the soul [total depravity], and attract it to God, to holiness (SC18).



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New Testament and EGW



Ellen G. White

✦ **Human Nature and Prevenient Grace**

Repentance is no less the gift of God than are pardon and justification, and it cannot be experienced except as it is given to the soul by Christ. **If we are drawn to Christ**, it is through His power and virtue. The grace of contrition comes through Him, and from Him comes justification (SM1, 391)

"Because of their transgression they [Adam and Eve] were sentenced to suffer death, the penalty of sin. But Christ, the propitiation for our sins, declared: 'I will stand in Adam's place. I will take upon myself the penalty of his sin, He shall have another trial. I will secure for him a probation. He shall have the privileges and opportunities of a free man, and be allowed to exercise his God-given power of choice. I will postpone the day of his arraignment for trial. He shall be bound over to appear at the bar of God in the judgment'" ("Christ the Propitiation for Our Sins," Atlantic Union Gleaner, August 19, 1903).



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- ✦ **Human Nature and Prevenient Grace**

In the matchless gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates around the globe. All who choose to breathe this life-giving atmosphere will live and grow up to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus (SC68).



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Practical Implications of Prevenient Grace

- ❑ Acknowledgment of our depravity (impossibility of achieving sinless perfection)
- ❑ Acknowledgment of God's ownership of the process of salvation
- ❑ Affirmation of the foundation of true assurance
- ❑ Impetus for evangelism



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Implications of rejecting Arminian Soteriology

- ❑ Problems
 - ❑ God is the author of evil and sin
 - ❑ The Biblical doctrine of judgment no longer makes sense

or

- ❑ Humans save themselves