

- It is called “**common Grace**” because it is not “saving grace”, as is recorded later in this same 9th chapter of John in verses 35-38.
- This “**common Grace**” resulted in this man seeing physically. The “**saving grace**” of God recorded in Jn.9:35-38, resulted in this man seeing spiritually. It was God’s “**saving grace**” that brought about the eternal salvation of this man’s soul.

III. Applications

- A. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are **exceedingly thankful for the Son of God!!!** Thankful that Jesus IS The Clearest Revelation of the Being and Character of God!
- Thankful for being enabled to know Jesus! – that He is their Savior who has paid the eternal wages of their sins and made them forever acceptable in God’s sight, that He is the Son of God whom they gladly worship and serve.
 - Thankful that God is conforming them to the image of His Son!
 - Thankful that Jesus is their Shepherd who leads them in the paths of righteousness! He is the example that they are to follow. Like Him they are to be merciful, just, and loving in their dealings with others. They gratefully acknowledge that God is merciful and gracious, long-suffering, abounding in goodness and truth as well as being omniscient, sovereign, and omnipotent!
- B. Unbelievers should be thankful for the Common Grace that God has already bestowed upon you, and bestowed upon you abundantly, both physically and spiritually.
- It is the recognition of this Goodness of God, this amazing Common Grace that has been poured out on you, that ought to make you like this healed blind man in John 9. He was thankful for Jesus’ goodness to him, refusing to think poorly of Jesus, though pressured to do so. He held tenaciously to the truth about Jesus he did know, and he was open to knowing Jesus as the Son of God and as his personal Savior from sin and the Lord of his life.
 - It is my prayer for you that you will not despise the riches of God’s goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering. **May the Goodness of God lead you to repentance and true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!** (Rom.2:4)

Jesus, The Clearest Revelation of the Being and Character of God

Seeing God the Father IN Jesus, the Son of God

Intro. In John 14:8, Philip, 1 of the 12 disciples of Jesus, made this request of Jesus, as the 11 disciples and Jesus were walking from the upper room to the Garden of Gethsemane, “*Lord show us the Father and it is sufficient for us.*” To which Jesus made this reply recorded in Jn.14:9-11 > “*Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ Do you not believe that I am IN the Father, and the Father IN Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells IN Me does the works. Believe Me that I am IN the Father and the Father IN Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.*” (Some capital letters were added for emphasis.)

I. The Biblical Basis for stating that Jesus is The Clearest Revelation of the Being and Character of God

A. The Scriptures

1. Heb.1:1-3 > “*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 1:3 who being in the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high,*”
2. Col.1:15 > “*He (the Son > 1:13b) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*”
3. Col.2:9 > “*For in Him (Christ > 1:8) dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily;*”

B. NOTE ALSO that this is what the Apostle John wants the readers of his Gospel to know and believe. John stated his purpose for writing the Gospel of John in chapter 20:30, 31 >

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have eternal life in His name.”

- C. FURTHERMORE, keep in mind that Jesus is **the image** to which every believer in Christ is being conformed and to which every believer is commanded to **imitate**.
- Rom.8:29 > “For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”
 - Eph.5:1, 2 > “Therefore **be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.**”

II. A Biblical (Historical) Manifestation of Jesus **Being The Clearest Revelation of the Being and Character of God – John 9:1-12**

- A. The Situation: Jesus having completed His time of teaching in the temple (John 8:2, 20, 59), passed through those in the temple on His way out of the temple. This is the next recorded incident in that same day (John 8:1-10:40).
- B. The Approach to this passage of Scripture: I want to view this historical event through a statement that Jesus, Himself, made to His disciples about this particular incident. It is found in the latter part of Jn. 9:3 > “Jesus answered, *Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but **that the works of God should be revealed in him.***” (that is, the works of God that are manifested in Jesus’ healing of this particular man who was blind from birth.) Let us look for “*the works of God*” in this recorded event in Jesus’ earthly ministry – namely, “*the image*” of the Father IN Jesus and “*the image*” to which God has predestined every believer to be conformed.
1. God’s work of **Mercy** is manifested > in 9:1 “...**He saw a man who was blind from birth.**” Jesus took notice of this man and his infirmity.
 2. God’s work of **Justice** is manifested > in 9:2-5 where Jesus corrected the unjust assumptions that His disciples had expressed regarding WHY this man was born blind.

3. God’s work of **Omniscience** is manifested > in 9:3, Like His disciples, Jesus knew this man was blind from birth, BUT **unlike** His disciples **Jesus knew exactly WHY** this man was born blind: it was so “*...the works of God should be revealed in him.*”
 - This is a manifestation of God’s **omniscience** > God knowing all things that will ever happen throughout all time and eternity. And God’s omniscience (all-knowing) is the result of God’s **eternal decree, foreknowledge** and **predestination** of all things that will ever happen throughout all time and eternity.
4. God’s work of **Sovereignty** is manifested > in this incident by 3 things:
 - **By His choice to do something for this man blind from birth.**
 - **By His choice of means** > using His saliva, the ground and washing in the pool of Siloam
 - **By His choice of persons to whom He will show mercy**
5. God’s work of **Omnipotence** is manifested > in 3 ways:
 - Generally, in giving physical sight to a man blind from birth – a fulfillment of Messianic prophecy (Isa.29:18; 35:5; 42:7)
 - Particularly, in making the insufficient, chosen means capable of accomplishing an impossible cure.
 - Particularly, in enabling this man to be desirous, willing and able to follow the instructions that Jesus gave him.
6. God’s work of **Goodness (Common Grace)** is manifested > in **Jesus’ sympathy and compassion** for this man blind from birth – Jesus **saw** him, **defended** him against false assumptions, and **actively engaged Himself to do the work necessary** to cure this man’s incurable, **physical** blindness. This is the work of God’s amazing **common Grace** !
 - It is called “**common**” **grace** because it is not restricted to any particular category or group of people. This is what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, when He said (Matt.5:45) > “*that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for **He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.***”