



Pastor Bob Hoekstra

**A Personal Message  
From  
Pastor Bob Hoekstra, Director  
INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY**

**P.O. Box 2868 Costa Mesa, CA 92628-2868**

**IPM Website: [www.chaplainray.com](http://www.chaplainray.com)**



**Founders:  
Chaplain Ray & Leola Hoekstra**

December, 2009

Dear Friends of IPM,

Once again we are in that blessed season when we celebrate the coming to earth of "The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). What a glorious event is the birth of the Savior, who came to die for our sins that all who believe in Him might have everlasting life and true peace with God. *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).*

Think of it, we who were once enemies of God now are at peace with Him. *"Having abolished in his flesh the enmity . . ." (Ephesians 2:15).* When Christ died on the cross for our sins, He secured for us a unique peace, a desperately needed peace - - a peace that is unlike anything the world can offer. *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid . . . These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 14:27 and 16:33).* Jesus wants people to receive that peace, be blessed by it, and tell others about it. *" . . . as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15).*

These great truths of having peace with God bring to mind another grand word of the Scriptures - - grace. In fact, the Bible frequently links these two words together, grace and peace. *"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus . . . Grace and peace be multiplied unto you*

(over please)

through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord" (Romans 1:7 and 2 Peter 1:2).

Even the order of these words is significant when the Scriptures tie them together - - grace first, and then peace. Yes, it first requires a grand outpouring of forgiving, justifying grace for people to enter into the peace of God. "*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus . . . In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace*" (Romans 3:24 and Ephesians 1:7).

After the Lord saves a soul by grace, He then wants to establish and strengthen that soul by the ongoing impact of His grace. "*Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace . . . Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*" (Hebrews 13:9 and 2 Timothy 2:1).

All of these blessings of grace and peace come to us through the Prince of Peace, our Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout this year, we have watched the Lord save souls and transform lives by His grace and peace. We praise God for our partners in this ministry.

Proclaiming Together the Good News of the Prince of Peace,

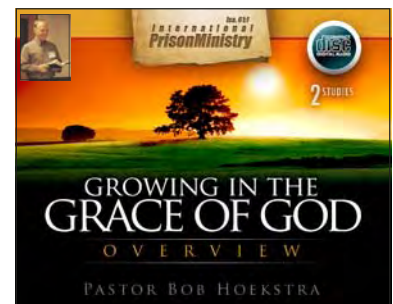
*Bob Hoekstra*

Pastor Bob Hoekstra

(for all of our "Chaplain Ray Family" and the IPM Team)



**NOTE:** Our appreciation gift for this month is *Growing in the Grace of God: a 2-Study Overview*, by Bob Hoekstra. These CD's are a great follow-up for last month's book, *Day by Day by Grace*.



# GROWING IN THE GRACE OF GOD

2 Audio Studies with Pastor Bob Hoekstra

## GROWING IN GRACE

*(Overview Part 1)*

### Introduction:

- ♦ John 1:14, 16, 17 and Luke 22:20
- ♦ Romans 6:14

**“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace”**

### The Law of God:

- ♦ Leviticus 19:1-4 and Matthew 5:48
- ♦ Hebrews 7:18-19 and Galatians 2:16 and 3:2-3
- ♦ Galatians 3:24

**“therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”**

### The Grace of God

- ♦ Romans 3:24 and Ephesians 1:7
- ♦ Acts 20:32 and Hebrews 13:9 and 2 Timothy 2:1

**“... be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”**

I love studying the Word of God. Thanks for your Radio Ministry on KWVE. Grace and peace,  
*Tom F., CA Prison*

## GROWING IN GRACE

*(Overview Part 2)*

### Living Daily by the Grace of God:

- ♦ James 4:6 and Romans 5:2 and 1:17b
- ♦ Colossians 1:6 and John 15:4-5
- ♦ Acts 4:33 and 14:26 and 15:10

**“the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.”**

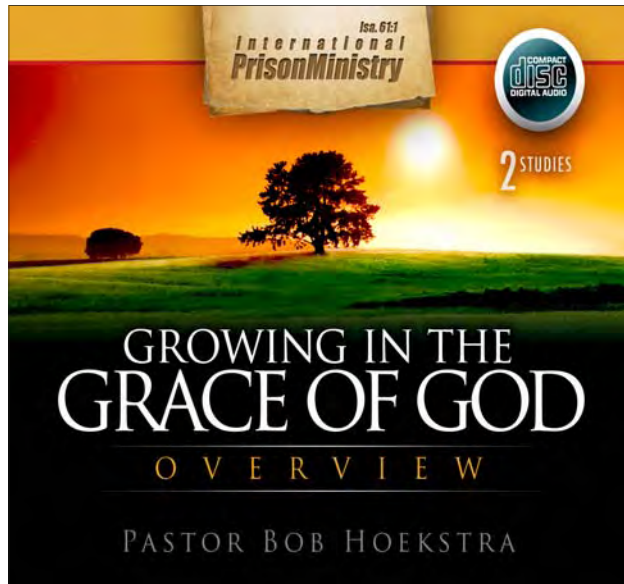
### The Holy Spirit and the Grace of God:

- ♦ Zechariah 4:6-7 and Romans 8:4
  - ♦ 2 Corinthians 3:5-6
- “...for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”**

### Conclusion:

- ♦ 2 Corinthians 4:7,11
- ♦ 2 Peter 1:2-3
- ♦ 2 Peter 3:18a

**“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord . . .”**



God has done so much in the family of IPM so that you are still ministering to prisoners. Inmates do time when they hate each other. All I can do is pray for them, hoping that God will touch their hearts in due time. Everybody needs Jesus every single day and every hour. God bless you.  
*Ernest P., FL Prison*

Thanks be unto God for giving all of us the grace to continue in His calling for us to minister the Word to prisoners.

Yes, Send Gift:  
2 CD Study Album

### Growing In the Grace of God

With Pastor Bob Hoekstra

CD 1: Overview Part 1  
CD 2: Overview Part 2

*Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail*

Dear Pastor Bob, My gift to help prisoners know that the “God of all grace” (1 Peter 5:10) never forgets a prisoner.

- Use this gift for *Bibles For Prisoners* .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- “Forgotten Prisoners Christmas Project” .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Bibles and Books for Russia & India Prisons ...\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Use My Offering *Where Needed Most*.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

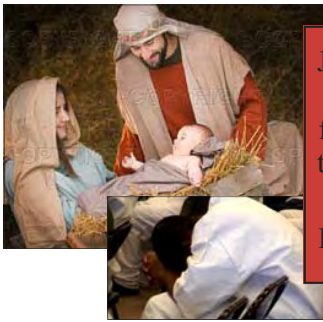
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It is the policy of I.P.M. to use each gift as it is designated by the donor. If any project is completed, any surplus will be used where it is needed most.

INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY  
Website: [www.chaplainray.com](http://www.chaplainray.com)

Mail to: *International Prison Ministry, P.O. Box 2868, Costa Mesa, CA 92628*



Jesus came to give freedom of the heart to prisoners. Isaiah 61:1

## Peace on Earth from the Prince of Peace

Dear Pastor Bob, Thank you for the Bible dictionary and other books. You said in your letter to look up "peace" in the concordance. I will describe what I understand of peace. John 14:27, Eph 6:15, Luke 12:51 are the selected verses I have chosen to describe the freedom from conflict, disturbance, and affliction I have in serving Christ Jesus my Lord. The peace that Christ has given me to give myself permission to live in the present, for yesterday is gone. I cannot alter or change it, nor bring it back. Jesus gave the peace that I have been forgiven and to let it go. I realize that my future is determined on how I live in the present and I choose to abide in His peace. God Bless!

*Ronnie Dewayne F., Ohio Prison.*



### Forgotten Prisoners

Hello Pastor Bob, Thank you for all of your unselfish actions by helping prisoners like me to have access to study scriptures who otherwise would be left to fumble in the dark all by ourselves. I have learned a whole lot and am continuing to learn more and more every day.

I want to let you know, however, that there are a lot of prisoners who do not have any family or anyone out there for them. So they turn to Jesus Christ for strength and support. He has never let any of us down. And when people like you help us out, we all appreciate it very very much. Keep up the good work, Sir. *Jason P., Texas Prison*

*Thank you, IPM, for not ignoring us in lockup, but instead giving us the key to know God through the Bible and books you send.*  
*Wanda B., South Carolina Prison*

### Haven't Heard from My Family in Six Months.

I have not heard from my family in six months and I try not to, but I do worry. I would like prayer so that I will have the strength to overcome temptation, strength to hold on to hope and trust God in everything that comes my way. I am studying God's Word. I will pray and ask God to provide so that you can keep helping others.

*Jose M., Texas Prison*

### The Best Gift



Dear Pastor Bob, My name is Gary W. and you sent me the best gift, a study Bible. Thanks so much. It is wonderful! I just had to write right back so you would know I received it and the other two books. God bless you.

*Gary W., California Prison*

### Word "Peace" in the Bible Concordance

I received the Bible dictionary/concordance. I looked up the word "peace" in my concordance and WOW, the Bible has a lot to say about peace. I have peace in my heart. I am a "babe in Christ" who wants to grow to be Christ-like. I know this is going to take the rest of my life. It will be a great journey with friends like you along the way. I look forward to seeing you all when Jesus calls us home.

*Terry C., No. Carolina Prison*

*With a grateful heart, I thank God for bringing me to my lowest possible point so that I could be brought to the highest pinnacle in Him!*

*Dan E., Missouri Prison*

*Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail*

## Message or Prayer Request for IPM:

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