Intro:
- title of lesson / phrase, saying (origin): There, But For The Grace of God, Go I!
  - “something that you say which means something bad that has happened to someone else could have happened to you.” (Cambridge International Dictionary of Idioms © Cambridge University Press 1998)
- What attitudes should we have as a result of God’s grace in our lives?

- Humble, as a person upon whom God bestows many great and wondrous gifts.
  - illus.: Feb. 21, 2008, South Bend Tribune, a 17-year-old high school junior named Skylar Diggins, one of the top basketball players in the country whose already been offered a scholarship to play at Notre Dame, said of her mother
    - "She's always been there for me. She's been a provider and the strength that holds the family together. I'm blessed and lucky to have the family I do. It's humbling to be that blessed."
  - God’s blessings make us humble, if we honest and sincere

- God’s temporal grace in our lives: USA, enjoy so many things, have pleasant and restful lives
  - pic: Brother and Sister, kids in Guatemala, boots with holes in the toes, they seem like small adults
    - Are you as happy as they are? Should you be happier - rejoicing more?

  - Are you humble, knowing that all your blessings come from God, or are you proud and haughty, thinking you’re someone special because of your wealth?
  - Ja. 1:17 all blessings from God, not ourselves: food, clothing, shelter, jobs, family, etc.
  - Job 1:20-21 God gives and takes away
    - What would you do if he took most out blessings away? – What are you doing now that he’s still giving?
    - Then, but for the grace of God, go I . . .

- God’s spiritual grace in our lives – humility, Jesus die for me
  - Eph. 1:3 all spiritual blessings in Christ
  - Jn. 3:16 God’s gift, Jesus, salvation
  - Rom. 3:23; 6:23 all sinned, salvation is a gift – Then, but for the grace of God, go I . . .
    - Eph. 2:8 by grace, saved through faith, gift of God
  - Eph. 4:7-8, 11, 16 God graciously gives us gifts (not supernatural today), to use in His service
  - Phil. 4:4, 6-7 rejoice, peace that surpasses understanding

- Possessing and enjoying God’s gracious blessings makes us humble
  - Ps. 8:3-4 (David) What is man that You are mindful of him (NKJ)
  - How do you view yourself in the world? – others in the word? – those who are still lost in sin?
    - Then, but for the grace of God, go I . . .
Thankful, as a person who is graciously blessed above all others. – if we are humble, we’ll be thankful
- Col. 1:12 thankful for salvation
- Eph. 5:3-4 give thanks rather than sin

- 1 Th. 5:18 thankful for everything God gives us, not just salvation
- Rom. 1:21 sinners do not honor God or give thanks

- illus.: song #392: Count Your Blessings, name them one by one
  - do you? – thankful enough to count your blessings

- illus.: parable 10 lepers
- video clip: lepers, horrible disease, disfigurement, often case out of society
  - Lk. 17:11-19 Jesus, ten lepers, all healed but only one returned to give thanks
    - most people in the world aren’t thankful, as they should be, for God’s blessings – e.g., sending Jesus to die for their sins – thankful enough to obey and pray

- Are you thankful, as you should be? – Then, but for the grace of God, go I. . . .
  - Col. 3:15 peace of Christ, be thankful
  - Heb. 13:15 continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, thanks to His name

Compassionate toward people who are not lost, as people who realize how lost we’d be without God’s grace.
- When we grasp what God has done for us, and we’re honest about our lost condition without Christ, we can’t help but be compassionate toward people who are still lost!
  - 2 Pet. 3:9 the Lord is patient toward you, “not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance”
  - 1 Tim. 2:4 God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”

- Rom. 8:32a God did not spare His own Son, so you could be saved – grasp what God’s done for us
  - If God loves sinners so much He didn’t spare His own Son, how much should we love them?
  - Then, but for the grace of God, go I. . . .

- 1 Cor. 6:9-11a we’ve all been sinners and need grace – honest about our lost condition without Christ
  - Rom. 3:23 all have sinned, fall short of the glory of God
  - Rom. 6:23 wages of sin is death, free gift of God is eternal life in Christ
  - Then, but for the grace of God, go I. . . .

- What is your attitude toward people lost in sin? – unbeliever, brother who stumbles
  - compassion, disdain, abhorrence – Then, but for the grace of God, go I. . . .
  - Rom. 10:1-3 (SR) Paul’s earnest desire, salvation for lost – Do you have an earnest desire?

Summary / Inv. – Then, but for the grace of God, go I. . . .
- zeal is another attribute of realizing God’s grace in your live (not time this lesson)
- inv.: if you are not a Christian, know the grace that awaits you, you’ll be zealous to obey