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## **John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners: A Brief Relation of the Exceeding Mercy of God in Christ to His Poor Servant***

*John Bunyan*

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### **GRACE ABOUNDING TO THE CHIEF OF SINNERS JOHN BUNYAN**



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**John Bunyan : John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners: A Brief Relation of the Exceeding Mercy of God in Christ to His Poor Servant*** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners: A Brief Relation of the Exceeding*

## Mercy of God in Christ to His Poor Servant:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A whole new appreciation for this amazing author  
By Craig T. Owens  
One of my favorite books is "Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan. I just finished reading Bunyan's autobiography called "Grace Abounding To The Chief Of Sinners," so now I cannot wait to read Pilgrim's Progress again! John Bunyan's autobiography is almost solely focused around how he became a Christian, and then how he defended himself against the Church of England after he became a follower of Jesus Christ. At times Bunyan's account of his struggle with his self-doubts about whether God would ever receive a sinner such as himself are absolutely heart-wrenching. He clung so desperately to the Scriptures that said God wanted to forgive him, and yet beat himself up with other Scriptures that talked about the vileness of sin. He felt that his sin had so wounded God, that he was unsure if he could ever be forgiven. In a way, I found this quite refreshing. It reminded me of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's warning against "cheap grace," where far too many people trivialize the high price Christ paid on the Cross. But John Bunyan acutely felt his sin. So once he finally received God's forgiveness, he was a changed man who wanted to tell the world about his Savior. Unfortunately for the time in which he lived, his message of salvation wasn't "sanctioned" by the Church of England, which landed him in jail for over a decade. The second-half of his autobiography is a play-by-play account of his interaction with the judges who tried and sentenced him. In this account, we read the words of a man who thoroughly knew Scripture, and knew how to use it! It's a fascinating biography, which I think any reader will enjoy.  
16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Freedom From Anxiety  
By Michael J. Greiner  
If Bunyan were alive today and examined by a psychiatrist, they would say he was struggling with Obsessive Compulsive disorder. This book chronicles his wrestling with his own mind, his own fears, his own anxieties. This is not to say that his battle is not also spiritual, for indeed it is that. His fear is that he has lost his chance at salvation by cursing Jesus, somehow committing an unpardonable sin. No matter how many times he comforts himself with the truth, it seems to be pulled away from him by other fears. Ultimately he determines that even if he is thrown into hell, he will still honor Jesus. Eventually, he is freed from this mental torment after a couple of years. I was helped greatly by this book when in a period of intense anxiety in my own life. It was a great help to know that someone else went through similar things. I have also recommended this book to many who are currently struggling with anxiety. It is said that before using a man greatly, God breaks him. Bunyan's dark night of the soul is here recorded. God would bring him to great weakness and then later use him greatly. This book is worth your money and time.  
One side note: the book is written in a style of English that is dated. You can still follow it, but it takes a little work.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Difficult Read but Worth The Struggle  
By bibliophile  
A classic spiritual autobiography, this book probes deeply into Bunyan's soul as he became a Christian believer and found his way. He struggled long and hard with assurance of his salvation. Eventually he comes to a proper Biblical understanding. Unlike, for example, Augustine's Confessions, Bunyan does not give details of his life that do not relate directly to the subject of his faith. I never did figure out what was "enhanced" about this version.

Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners is the spiritual autobiography of Bunyan, the traveling tinker who became the eminent preacher and author. It is in the genre of Augustine's Confessions and Thomas a Kempis's Imitation of Christ. Written in 1666, Grace Abounding chronicles Bunyan's spiritual journey from a profane life filled with cursing, blasphemy, and Sabbath desecration to a new creation in Christ Jesus.

From the Back Cover  
From his conversion and through many trials and temptations, Bunyan reveals how the grace of the Lord was extended to him so that he learned to surrender all of self and rely totally on Christ.  
About the Author  
John Bunyan was born in Elstow, Bedfordshire, England, in 1628. He learned to read and write at the village school and was prepared to follow his father's trade as a brazier when the English Civil War broke out in 1644 and he was drafted into the Parliamentary army. His military service brought him into contact with Oliver Cromwell's Puritan troops. Beginning in 1648, Bunyan suffered a crisis in religious faith that lasted for several years. He turned to the Nonconformist church in Bedford to sustain him during this period. His first writings were attacks against the Quakers. Then Charles II was restored to the throne and Bunyan was arrested for conducting services not in accordance with the Church of England. He spent 12 years in jail. During this time, he wrote his autobiography, Grace Abounding, in which he described his spiritual struggle and growth. During his last years in prison, Bunyan began his most famous work, The Pilgrim's Progress, a two-part allegorical tale of the character Christian and his journey to salvation. Part I was published in 1678 and Part II in 1684. The second part deals with the spiritual journey of Christian's wife and sons, as they follow in his footsteps. With its elements of the folktale tradition, The Pilgrim's Progress became popular immediately. Well into the nineteenth century it was a book known to almost every reader in England and New England, second in importance only to the Bible. So great was the book's influence that it even plays a major role in Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. Such expressions as "the slough of despond" and "vanity fair" have become part of the English language. Bunyan's other works include The Life and Death of Mr. Badman and The Holy War. He also wrote A Book for Boys and Girls, verses on religious faith for children. Bunyan died in London on

August 31, 1688.