

## Saved By Grace

Eph. 2:1-10

In order to understand salvation by grace, we must first understand sin.

Eph. 2:1 "dead in trespasses and sins." Dead spiritually and separated from God.

Verse 2 affirms that before we were saved by grace, we walked according to the world and the devil had control of us and our lives.

v. 3 Living unrestrained lives, they became like the world about them.

They were children of wrath, that is, they had grown up being exposed to wrath and soon became its slaves.

The horrible state of the Gentiles prior to their conversion is described in verse 11 and 12. Those who were once afar off have now been made near by the blood of Christ.

This suggests the true picture of sin. Sin separates one from God. Isa. 59 "Your sins and iniquities have separated between you and...."

Rom. 3:23 "All have sinned and come short..."

Rom. 6:23 "The wages of sin is death, but the gift..."

We all were in bad shape. The picture is dark and dismal. What if Christ had never been born, lived and died on the cross? Without Christ there would be no way we could have been saved. Our state was hopeless. But God took control of the situation, we could not change. Notice verse 4 "But God who is rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us. Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved.)

Our view of the grace of God ought to have a profound impact on everything we think and do as Christians. This was certainly true of the apostle Paul. He simply could not see his life apart from the grace of God. Without Grace, Christianity is nothing. It stands or falls on the matter of grace. What is grace? Grace is unmerited favor. The favor that God bestows on man, being desirous of his salvation.

Thayer in defining the word does so in a way that magnifies this marvelous term.

"Moreover, the word charis contains the idea of kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved. Romans 11:6...the N.T. writers use charis preeminently of the kindness by which God bestows favors even upon the ill-deserving, and grants to sinners the pardon of their offences..." p. 565-666. Grace is something we needed, but did not deserve. The truth of this is seen in the story of the prodigal in Luke 15 and the Samaritan woman taken in adultery. We see it in the direct statements of Jesus:

Luke 23:34 "Father forgive them, they know not ..." John 8:11 "Neither do I condemn thee..." The world did not deserve a Savior to come out of the ivory palaces, but it needed one.

### I. The means and medium of God's grace. (i.e. how did God express or make known His grace?)

Perhaps the clearest statement that can be found relative to the method and medium of grace is John 1:17 "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

2Cor. 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that through He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor that you through His poverty might become rich."

It is only through Christ that we have God's divine grace. That is we receive it by being in Christ. 2Tim. 2:1 "You therefore my son be strong in the grace that is in Jesus Christ."

Titus 2:11-15 "For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us, to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world; looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works."

## II. Salvation and the Nature of God's Grace.

**A. Salvation is by grace.** "For by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." Eph. 2:8 Salvation is a gift, unearned and unmerited.

We do not pay for it. The Love of God has bestowed it upon us. God did for us, what we could not do for ourselves.

### **B. Saving Grace is through faith.**

**1. God's side.** God owes us nothing. All that God did, He did by grace. Grace is the divine side

a. Christ is the gift of God's grace: 2Cor. 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich."

b. His death was an act of God's grace. Heb. 2:9 "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor that He by the grace of God might taste death for everyone."

c. The gospel is a matter of grace. Acts 20:24 "...testifying to the gospel of the grace of God."

Note Gal. 1:6-9 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the Grace of Christ to another gospel, which is not another..."

d. His teaching is a part of grace. Titus 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation..."

**2. Man's side.** God acted by grace, man acts by faith.

It is "by grace, through faith" that we are saved.

This faith is not dead, but active. God's grace is conditioned on man's part. (That is, receiving the grace of God is conditioned by our response to it.)

God purposed the scheme of redemption, promised the Messiah, developed the sacred plan by which we were to be saved, sent his son and offered man every spiritual blessing in Christ, but man must respond to God's grace. Man does this through an active, living, obedient faith. Faith is not for God, it is man who does the believing. God provides what we are to hear, but man does the hearing. He gives the testimony of faith, but man does the believing. God grants repentance, but man must do the repenting. God sent his son, but man must confess faith in His son. God performed what man could not do. It is grace that makes obedience valid.

### **C. Saving Grace is in Christ.**

"Thou therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." 2Tim. 2:1  
2Tim. 2:10 "salvation is in Christ."

Rom. 3:4 "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." We can only be saved in the name of Christ Acts 4:12 "Salvation in no other name..." We have to be baptized into Christ Gal. 3:26 and Romans 6:3-4 in order to receive the blessings promised by God.

### **D. Saving Grace Is not By Grace or Faith Alone.**

The bible teaches we are saved by grace. It teaches we are saved by faith. But we are saved by neither alone. God has made provisions for our salvation. But we are not saved by provisions alone. Man may have such things as food and water provided in his behalf. However if he neither eats nor drinks he will die.

We may provide clothing for a man during a blizzard, but if he refuses to wear it, it will do him no good.

Ex. Of man who falls overboard ready to drown, rope is thrown, he grabs and is saved. Did the man save himself? No, it was by the care, concern and mercy of another that he was saved. But his salvation did not happen without him taking advantage of the favor extended.

Many bible examples:

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, but he had to build and enter the ark.

John 9 the blind man had to "go" and "wash" in the pool of Siloam in order to see.

The bible does not say "faith" without any further acts of obedience. Faith is not nullified by acts of obedience. When one obeys God that does not mean that he has earned God's blessing. Any gift may have conditions attached to it. (Ex. I give you my car, if you pay taxes and have title changed)

### **E. Saving Grace involves Works.**

Since the bible says we are "saved by works" James 2:24-26 and also says "not by works of righteousness which we have done" Titus 3:5, there must be two kinds of works.

#### **1. Works excluded.**

These are those that would seemingly have ground for boasting Titus 3:5. "not by works of righteousness which we have done." This involves human ideas, plans, schemes, and glory. Romans 11:6 "And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace..." Salvation is not the result of meritorious works. There are also works of the law Gal. 2:16 "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law." Gal. 2:15

#### **2. Works included.**

a. Faith is a work. John 6:28-29 "They said therefore unto him, what must we do, that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." These are the works that God has outlined for us to do. Thayer said "...the works required and approved by God." Those who say "there is not a single work that one has to do," are wrong. If this is true, then one does not have to believe since faith is a work. But we know that cannot be right.

b. There are works of the gospel, that is works of faith Gal. 5:6 "faith working through love."

c. There are works of obedience of faith. Heb. 11:6 "without faith it is impossible to please God."

Romans 16:26 "but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith."

Faith must act. A dead faith will not save.

#### **F. Saving Grace and Law Are Inseparable.**

1. According to Titus 2:11-14 God's grace instructs us. It teaches us.

It tells us what to do, how to live etc.

2. God's word is a law of grace.

Paul spoke about "the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus to testify of the grace of God." He also commended the Ephesians, "to God and to the word of His grace which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified" Acts 20:32. We must not forget that law is a means of appropriating God's grace. Law and Grace are not mutually exclusive. The Ephesians were told "for by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" Eph 2:8 Before he said this, these very people had:

1. Heard- "In him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." Eph. 1:13

2. Believed-Eph. 1:13 Yet they were saved by grace.

3. Repented-Acts 20:21 "how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house. Testifying to Jews and also to Greeks repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Yet, they were saved by grace.

4. Been baptized-Acts 19:1-7; v. 5 "when they heard this they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." Ye they were saved by grace. Salvation by grace does not exclude faith, repentance, confession or baptism. They are a part of God's plan, and our duty to fulfill and obey.

"Amazing grace, How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind but now I see."