

Salvation by Grace

Introduction:

1. Few subjects are more heart-warming, or as heart-warming as that which pertains to the grace of God, Tit. 2:11; Eph. 2:8-9.
2. Yet few subjects are more misunderstood, or more often perverted than the subject “salvation by grace.” Cf. Rom. 5:20; 6:1-4; Jude 4; Rev. 2:6.
3. Title of lesson: Salvation by Grace.

Discussion:

I. Grace Defined.

- A. W.E. Vine: “That which bestows or occasions pleasure, delight, or causes favorable regard – on the part of the bestower, the friendly disposition from which the kindly act proceeds, graciousness, loving kindness, goodwill generally,..especially with reference to the Divine favor or grace., e.g. Acts 14.26 (**Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words**).
- B. The Usual Definition: “unmerited favor.”
 1. This definition is not incorrect, but it is inadequate, as will be noted when we observe the Divine provisions of grace.

II. The Need for Grace.

- A. The Existence of Sin!
 1. Romans 3:10,23; Romans 6:23 Eccl. 7:20; I Kings 8:46
- B. All Sin is Against God!
 1. Evidenced by the fact that sin is a transgression of divine law, I John 3:4.
 2. Evidenced by the confessions made of many who sinned.
 - a. Exodus 10:16; Joshua 7:20; Psalm 51:3-4; Luke 15:17-18.
- C. Sin Alienates (Separates man from God).
 1. Isaiah 59:1-2; Rom. 6:23; Rom. 1:26-27; Eph. 2:12; Col. 1:21.
- D. We Cannot Save Ourselves by:
 1. Our own supposedly good works! Isaiah 64:6.
 2. Religious doctrines which we might conceive in our own hearts. Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12; Col. 1:20-22.
 - a. All scripture is inspired of God, 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 - b. We must not go beyond that which is written, I Cor. 4:6.
 - c. We must not add to or take from the word of God, Rev. 22:18-19.
- E. Through Grace, God provided what we **do not deserve**, and what we **could not provide** for ourselves!

III. The Divine Provisions of Grace.

- A. God Sent His Son into the world.
 1. John 3:16; I John 4:9; Titus 2:11-14.
 2. He sent His Son to be a propitiation for our sins, I John 2:2; 4:10.
 - a. To propitiate means “to appease,” to “make a satisfaction,” to turn away wrath by an offering.
 - b. God initiated the propitiation. Heb. 2:17; Rom. 3:23-26; Rom. 5:8.
- B. God provided the Gospel of Christ.
 1. The Gospel is “the power of God unto salvation...,” Rom. 1:16.
 2. The central facts of the Gospel – the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, I Cor. 15:1-4.
 3. It is the “gospel of the grace of God,” Acts 20:22-24.

IV. For Divine Grace to Save, Divine Grace Must Be Received!

- A. God, by His divine grace, sent Jesus into the world.
 1. Jesus tasted death for all men, Heb. 2:9.
 - a. Yet most people will be lost, Matt. 7:13-14.
 2. Jesus came to His own, but His own received Him not! John 1:11.
 3. Jesus is the Savior, Matt. 1:21; He came to seek and to save, Luke 19:10.
 - a. But He is the “*author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him,*” Heb. 5:8-9.
 - b. Matt. 7:24-27.
 4. One cannot be saved by the grace of God if He refuses to obey the Son of God!
- B. Jesus, by the grace of God, shed His blood for all men, Rom. 5:8-9; Matt. 26:28.
 1. His blood purchased His church, Acts 20:28.
 2. To “*the church*” the saved were “*added,*” Acts 2:47.
 3. The church is the body of Christ, Eph. 1:22-23.
 4. One is reconciled unto God in the “*one body,*” Eph. 2:16.

5. Jesus is the “*Savior of the body*,” Eph. 5:23.
 6. One cannot be saved by the grace of God if he refuses to become a part of the church which was purchased by the blood of the Son of God, Who was sent by the grace of God that He, through His atoning blood could make possible our redemption, Eph. 1:7.
- C. God, by His grace, provided for us the gospel.
1. It is called “*the gospel of the grace of God*,” Acts 20:24.
 2. The gospel must be obeyed, 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
 3. Obedience to the gospel involves:
 - a. Hearing the word, Acts 15:7; 18:8.
 - b. Faith, Mark 16:16; John 8:24; Heb. 11:6.
 - c. Repentance, Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30.
 - d. Confession of faith, Matt. 10:32; Acts 8:36-37; Rom. 10:9-10.
 - e. Baptism for the remission of Sins, Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4.
 4. Note the divine harmony!
 - a. Through baptism, one enters into and put on Christ, Gal. 3:27, Who shed His blood “*for the remission of sins*,” Matt. 26:28.
 - b. Through baptism, which is “*for the remission of sins*” (Acts 2:38) one enters into the “*one body*,” I Cor. 12:13, which was purchased by **the blood** of Christ, Acts 20:28.
- D. Consider Titus 2:11-14.
1. The grace of God brings salvation, Tit. 2:11.
 2. The grace of God that brings salvation teaches us, Tit 2:12.
 - a. To deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.
 - b. To live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.
- E. Consider Titus 3:3-7.
1. What we “*were*” before obedience to the gospel, Tit. 3:3.
 2. After that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, Tit. 3:4.
 3. V. 5, “*He saved us!*”
 - a. **Not** “*by works of righteousness which we have done.*”
 - b. He “*saved us by:*”
 - (1) “*The washing of regeneration,*” V. 5, cf. John 3:5, and by the “*renewing of the Holy Spirit,*” v. 5; cf. Acts 2:38.
 4. That “*being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs...*” v. 7.
- F. Consider Eph. 2:8-10.
1. “*For by grace are ye saved through faith...*” v. 8.
 - a. “*Grace*” is the divine side of salvation; “*faith*” is the human side of salvation. The whole process of being saved “*by grace...through faith...is the gift of God.*” It is not “*of*” ourselves.
 - b. “*Not of works, lest any man should boast,*” v. 9. No one can do enough to **earn** salvation; if he could he could “*boast.*” Moreover, if any man could devise his own plan of salvation and be saved by that plan, he could “*boast,*” which would eliminate the **need** for grace.
 - c. But we are “*His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus,*” v. 10. Salvation is “*in Christ,*” 2 Tim. 2:10, and it is through baptism that we enter Christ Jesus, Gal. 3:27, thereby becoming “*His workmanship.*”
 2. Thank God for His amazing grace! However, divine grace (favor) is not “cheap grace” (it cost God His Son; it cost Jesus His life, it demands that we die to self and become alive unto God, and that thereafter we “*live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.*”

Conclusion:

1. Jesus Christ is the gift of grace, the gospel is the gospel of the grace of God, so why do so many refuse to respond to the need to take advantage of God’s saving grace?
 - a. Perhaps man believe they are “good enough” already. But they are not! Rom. 3:23.
 - b. Many, sadly, are not aware of the provisions of divine grace.
 - c. Some feel they are too sinful to be saved. But they are not! Titus 3:3.
 - d. Many have been misled; they have been told to “just pray the sinner’s prayer.
 2. But Jesus saves those who obey, Heb. 5:9; the gospel must be obeyed, I Peter 4:17-18; 2 Thess. 1:7-9.
- Bobby Witherington, March 20, 2016