

GRACE, FAITH, AND WORKS

Introduction

- 1) Three of the great themes in the Bible are **Grace**, **Faith**, and **Works**
- 2) These work together in God's great plan of redeeming man from sin
 - a) None of these can be isolated from the others: not grace *alone*, faith *alone*, or works *alone*
 - b) We find them working in conjunction with one another throughout time and scripture
- 3) It is important to understand the proper relationship between grace, faith, and works

I) Scriptural Definitions

A) GRACE

- 1) Unmerited favor of God toward sinners (Titus 2:11; 1 Tim. 1:14)
- 2) Not saved by grace alone (Eph. 2:8)

B) FAITH

- 1) Belief based on the truth revealed by God (Rom. 10:17; 1 Thess. 2:13)
- 2) Not saved by faith alone (Jas. 2:24)

C) WORKS

- 1) Obedience to the commandments of God (Jn. 6:28-29; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 10:34-35; Eph. 2:10; Jas. 2:17-22)
- 2) Not saved by works alone (Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:9)

II) Scriptural Examples of Grace, Faith, and Works Working Together

A) Noah and the Flood (Patriarchal Age)

- 1) **Grace** – God provided salvation (instructions for ark; invitation to enter) for Noah and his family from the destruction of the earth by the flood (Gen. 6:5-14; 7:1, 23)
- 2) **Faith** – Noah believed God's commandments (6:22; 7:5-7)
- 3) **Works** – Noah “did according to all that God commanded him” (6:22; 7:5)
- 4) Without any one of these, Noah and his family would have perished in the flood

B) Israel and the Destruction of Jericho (Mosaic Age)

- 1) **Grace** – God told Israel that He had “given” Jericho into their hand (gift) and what they must do to obtain it (Josh. 6:1-5)
- 2) **Faith** – Joshua believed the promise of God (6:6-7, 12)
- 3) **Works** – Israel obeyed the commands of God to receive the city (6:8-20)
- 4) Without any one of these, Joshua and Israel would not have conquered Jericho

C) Persecutor Saved from His Sins (Christian Age)

- 1) **Grace** – Jesus appeared to Saul of Tarsus, told him to go into the city, and there he would be told what to do (Acts 9:1-6; 1 Tim. 1:14)
- 2) **Faith** – Went into the city where he waited and prayed (Acts 9:8-11; 1 Tim. 1:16)
- 3) **Works** – Arose and was baptized (Acts 9:17-18; 22:16)
- 4) Without any one of these, Saul of Tarsus would not have been saved

****God's grace provides salvation, victory, and blessings – but not without involving man's faith and obedience; this has been true in *every age and dispensation***

Conclusion

The sinner is justified [declared righteous] by **grace** (Titus 3:7), by **faith** (Rom. 5:1), and by **works** (Jas. 2:24). All three must exist and work together. Anyone who teaches salvation by grace alone, faith alone, or works alone is teaching error. Believe and obey the truth.