

THE GRACE OF GOD

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the truth about the *Grace of God* and expose some of the errors.
2. Eph. 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."
3. This text has been a favorite of many preachers who pervert God's truth
 - a. Used to teach that man does nothing to be saved and that Baptism is not essential
 - b. "We cannot do anything to be saved; it is only through the mercy and grace of God sending us Jesus Christ as our Savior." Web-site of "Faithvisuals"
 - c. "What Baptists Believe and Why They Believe it" by J.G. Bow P. 8 & 36
 - d. In recent years some of our own preachers have been teaching the same doctrine -- Steve Flatt & Rubel Shelley - "Saved by Grace Alone"
 - e. "We would like you to worship with us where we hope the first unique and distinctive thing you will notice is the love of God and one another and our appreciation of God's grace, because it's His grace alone that saves us." - Family of God at Southern Hills - 9/4/2000
4. This Passage in Eph. 2:8-9 harmonizes with the other inspired writings and we can understand it...

Discussion

I. GRACE

A. Meaning

1. The original Greek word means "to rejoice", or that which brings joy.
2. Goodwill, loving-kindness, favor
3. Kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved
4. Unmerited favor, mercy
5. Grace of God is his free and everlasting love and favor

B. Grace is the Foundation for redemption

1. ROM 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"
 - a. Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden because of their sin - violation of God's commands
 - b. But God's grace was extended to mankind through his son
2. JOHN 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
3. ACTS 11:23 "Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord."

C. God's part of salvation is GRACE

1. Incarnation - Jn.1:1 & 14
2. Death - Heb.2:9 I Pet.3:18
3. Burial - Jn.19:38,39
4. Resurrection - Acts 1:3
5. Coronation
6. Acts 15:11 "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."

II. ARE YE SAVED

- A. Salvation is the subject of all clauses in these 2 verses
 1. The grace of God is necessary for our salvation
 2. Our faith is also necessary to be saved.

- B. Salvation is the gift of God
 1. Grace is the Gift of God Faith is the gift of God
 - a. God gives man the ability to believe - mind
 - b. God gives man the things to believe - Christ
 - c. God gives man the testimony on which he believes - Bible - [John 20:30-31](#)
 2. Because salvation is by grace through faith, then salvation is a gift of God.

- C. Tit. 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."
 1. Why then are all men not saved?
 2. The grace of God which brings salvation is received through faith
 3. Man has something to do or else all men would be saved.
 4. The Universalist teaches that everyone is going to be saved.
 5. But Bible teaches us that some will be lost - 2Thes.1:8-9
 6. This verse in **Tit.2:11** says that the grace of God has appeared to all men. If there is nothing for us to do then we are saved automatically. But that is not what the Bible teaches.

III. THROUGH FAITH

A. This is Man's part

1. Faith is the way which man accepts salvation
2. Rom. 5:1-2 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."
3. God does for man what man cannot do for himself
4. Salvation is provided by God's grace and received by man's faith!!

B. Not by Faith alone

1. Jas. 2:17 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."
2. Jas. 2:24-26 "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. 25. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? 26. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."
3. Works of Faith
 - a. Teaching
 - (1) Mt. 28:19 Go teach all nations
 - (2) Man comes to God by hearing and learning the truth - Jn. 6:44-45
 - b. Faith - Heb 11:6
 - c. Repentance - Lk. 13:13
 - d. Confession - Rom. 10:10
 - e. Baptism - Mk. 16:16 - Acts 2:38 - I Pet. 3:21

IV. NOT OF YOURSELVES

- A. Salvation is not of man
 - 1. Wasn't prepared by man - salvation was not originated by any man
 - 2. Neither was it earned by man
- B. Man is not free to say and do whatever he wishes in religion
 - 1. God is the author of salvation - Heb. 5:8-9
 - 2. Author determines what is to be written
 - 3. God set the plan of salvation for man to follow
- C. Salvation can't be found in ourselves
 - 1. Men try but it will not work
 - 2. Prov. 16:25 "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."
 - 3. Matt. 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23. And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

V. IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD

A. Gift

1. Something given to another
2. Does it mean that salvation is unconditional?
3. If so then the expression "through faith" has no meaning

B. Salvation is a gift

1. It takes two to perfect a gift
2. One must make an offer and another must accept
3. Joshua 6:2 "And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour."
4. God has offered salvation to all men and we have it when we accept it according to God's terms.

VI. NOT OF WORKS

A. Meritorious works - not earned

1. Works which procure the desired end
2. Not by any works of man
3. Titus 3:4-5 "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"
4. A laborer at the end of the week or month expects his pay - he has earned it.
5. It is a debt owed to him - it is not grace.

B. Eternal life is not earned

1. Man must do something to be saved - Jas. 2:24,26
 - a. God commands certain works
 - b. We do them, but they are God's works
2. After we have done all that God commands we still do not earn our salvation
3. Ill. - We say to a poor person, "Come to our house and we will give you some food and clothing." They come and get clothing and food. Did their coming to your house merit the food and clothing? No, it was a gift - it was by grace not by merit or debt.
4. God says to dying sinful men, "Come to me and receive salvation." We come by believing, repenting, confession, and baptism. Our coming does not merit salvation - it is by grace not by works.

VII. LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST

- A. Boast
 1. Glory
 2. Claim that God owes him eternal salvation
 3. If God owed us salvation, it would not be a gift.
 4. If it were not a gift then Christ would not have been needed.
- B. The grace of God which brings us salvation keeps us from boasting of our salvation.
- C. Mans is saved by doing the works of God. This does not earn salvation, it proves his faith by doing the things God has commanded.!!!

Conclusion

1. Titus 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"
2. This does not mean that we have nothing to do in order to be saved.
3. Titus 2:12 "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"
4. Will You accept the Gift of God's Grace through Faith?
5. There are two sides in Salvation:
 - a. God's Part - providing the Savior - that is GRACE.
 - b. Man's Part - obeying- that is by faith an obedient faith
 - (1) This faith is the means by which we appropriate the Divine Blessings provided by Jesus Christ - the Son of God
 - (2) Acts 10:34-35 "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35. But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."
6. The Grace of God is the means of salvation
7. Eph. 2:8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast."
8. We are not saved by grace alone - The Bible says we are saved by grace through faith