

The Wednesday Word, July 8, 2015: Abounding Grace - Part 3

Grace is threefold: It is for the past, present and future. We see this threefold grace demonstrating itself in the Incarnation ... one of the supremely important truths of the gospel. At the Incarnation, God became a man and was thus able, as a man, to die. The writer to the Hebrews puts it this way,

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (Hebrews 2:14).

In other words, the death of the cross could not have happened if Jesus Christ had not assumed human nature. That's grace for the past!

But in the Incarnation, we are also instructed about grace for the present. At this very moment, we have a great, merciful and faithful high priest in Heaven. He is one of us. He is appearing even now for us before the presence of God. As He appears, He continually supplies His perfection to our constant imperfection. That's grace for the present!

Listen to these grace-filled words:

“We do not have a high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities (our weaknesses) but (one who) was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).

The man who is God, is the God who became man. His incarnation not only gives us grace for the past and present but also pledges us grace for the future. He is coming back for us as the reigning rightful King of the Earth and the cosmos.

In 1 Timothy 1:1, we discover that Christ Himself is our future hope. We read, “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope.” Grace is abounding towards us. Consider this scripture; “Of his fullness have we all received, and grace for grace” John 1:16.

In Christ, grace is replaced by even more grace. That's the heritage of every believer. But, what do we do when the grace runs out? The answer is nothing. Why? Because grace never runs out! In this New Covenant, we have grace following grace, following grace, following grace. It's like standing on the seashore and watching wave after wave coming in one after the other. When one wave crashes, another is on the way. We don't make this happen, we are not called upon to contribute anything to the scene. So it is with grace. It is never ending in its supply to us.

Colossians 2:9 says, “In him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” Fullness is the Greek word ‘Pleroma’ which means, among other things, ‘complete totality.’ It is stunning to grasp that the complete totality of the Godhead dwells bodily in the Lord Jesus Christ. Compare this with what is taught in John 1:16; “For of his fullness (Pleroma) have all we received.” This means that we, therefore, have limitless resources in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Christ, grace is abounding to us.

Celsus, a Greek philosopher of the 2nd century, used to jeer at Christ. He didn't deny Christ's historical existence but, rather, said that Jesus was both illegitimate and a sorcerer. According to Celsus, every reputable teacher typically attracted the noble and wise people of his day, but Jesus attracted the down and outs and the scum of society.

Yes, that part is correct. Thank God it's true. Christ Jesus demonstrates His grace by the kind of people he chooses. But, although we are morally down and out, He does not leave us like that. He clothes us with His righteousness. He saves us by grace and makes us Heavenly royalty. When He returns, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. That's grace! Salvation is all of grace! Abounding Grace.

And that's the Gospel Truth!