

The Wednesday Word, August 8, 2018: Grace, Grace, Grace - Part 3

In the entire Bible there is no scripture that indicates that we can be saved without Jesus Christ!

In the Old Testament, He is the coming Messiah. He is the promise of grace. In the New Testament, He is the realized Messiah who makes us alive by grace.

Grace always leads us to Christ Jesus who by grace procured our salvation (Romans 5:8).

He Himself is our salvation (John 11:25).

He Himself is the grace of God (Titus 2:11).

Grace is embedded in His very name, for the name of Jesus, means salvation. Do you remember this verse “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)?

Grace leads the Lord’s people to Christ Jesus, and no one else. Grace enables us to “look unto Him” by faith to be saved.

But what about repentance brother? Yes what about it? Is it not important? Yes, it is! But let me ask you...where do we get repentance? It’s the goodness of God exhibited in His Grace that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4). Dear pastor, do you want to see genuine repentance in your church, then preach Christ crucified. There is no other way! It’s Grace, Grace, Grace! Sometimes we pastors find ourselves trying to motivate our listeners by the Law and its demands instead of by the Gospel. However, it takes no spirituality whatsoever to get behind the pulpit and demand change as we warn about bad habits and lax living. This is not Gospel preaching!

But I digress:

We can say that grace is:

1. Free Grace---the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8)
2. Saving Grace---it brings us to eternal salvation (Ephesians 2:8).
3. Sovereign Grace—not of ourselves, but by God’s sovereign will (Ephesians 2:8)
4. Sustaining Grace—created in Christ Jesus unto good works. He ordained beforehand that we should walk (move forward) in them (Ephesians 2:10).

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.

T’was grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home

John Nelson, a preacher in the 18th century had been a stonemason before God saved him. And God used him mightily to lead people to Christ. One day he was talking to a self-righteous individual who said, "I don't need your Saviour. I live right, and I've done good things. I'll take my chances with the rest of the people." Mr Nelson replied, "Well look here my good man, if God let you into heaven, you'd bring discord there, because all the others would be singing 'worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing,' and you'd be singing 'worthy am I, glory to me, because I lived a consistent Christian life.' He said, "If an angel heard you sing a song like that in heaven, why he'd throw you over the wall." And the redeemed folks will all chime in and say, "My soul shall make her boast in the Lord, and nothing else."

There'll be nobody in heaven singing about what they have done
It's Grace! Grace! Grace!

God saves us because He is gracious, not because He sees any goodness inherent in us!

It's Grace! Grace! Grace!

Our certain hope stands on pure Grace, sovereign, unqualified Grace!
It's Grace! Grace! Grace!

God saves us because He is good, not because we are!
It's all of Grace.

And that's the Gospel Truth!