

“When Grace Is Not Grace”

By Elder Curtis Pugh, 1944 - 2018

Most religious folk think that there are certain things that you must do to qualify for God's grace. In other words, they say, God saves by grace but in order to get God to be gracious to you, you must be do this or that or the other thing. The popular idea is that there is some religious exercise or work that a sinner must do in order to please God and get Him to dispense saving grace.

At least four things are wrong with that approach. First of all, if there is anything a person must do in order to obtain God's grace then grace is not grace. We know that because God's Word says, “And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work,” (Romans 11:6). The context of this verse has to do with God's election (choice) of whom He will save, but the principle extends to all matters of grace. What the verse says is that grace and works cannot be mixed. Either a thing is a matter of grace or a matter of works. Obtaining salvation is either a matter of works or a matter of grace. It cannot be a matter of both works and grace. If you have done something in order to be saved, you have changed grace into works. You have earned God's favor. Grace means unearned favor.

The second thing wrong with the idea that a sinner can do something to qualify for grace is this: there is absolutely nothing that a lost person can do to please God. Proof: “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God,” (Romans 8:7-8). Lost sinners are so bad off because of their fleshly minds – their corrupt sinful minds – that they cannot do anything pleasing to God. Selfishness and greed enter into their motives and are unacceptable to God. Plain words from God's Word, these: and true ones.

The third and fourth things wrong with this approach is that no one naturally understands his lost condition and no one seeks after God. “There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God,” (Romans 3:11). The Holy Spirit must first regenerate the sinner before he or she can understand his or her hopeless and helpless condition. Only in a regenerate condition will a sinner seek after God. That is why the Lord Jesus told Nicodemus “...Ye must be born again,” (John 3:7). Being born spiritually has absolutely nothing to do with a human act of the will. It is “...not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God,” (John 1:13). Remember: “...Ye must be born again.”

Today is Sunday December 08, 2024

WELCOME TO THE SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

“Where the truths of God’s word have been taught
For sixty-three years.” Since October 21, 1961

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Our Prayer List

“Pray without ceasing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son’s Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, 12-year-old Lucas, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O’Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders, Mark and Kathy Johnson.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Act 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, and Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania

Pastor's thought for the week.

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;" 1 Peter 5:2

How does God see people?

Part 6

Genesis 6:5 - 6 *"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."*

Christians must always look at ourselves in the mirror of the bible to see our true self spiritually. Because it is through the contents of the bible that God sees us as His Children. James wrote in James 1:23 *"For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:"* If we look into the mirror of the bible and see not ourselves then we are not right with God, because the scriptures is the believers final judgment. The lost soul is already condemned, their judgment has already been. The Great White Throne is not a judgment to or not to condemn a sinner, but a finalization of their condemnation. *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* John 3:18 That condemnation is because they did not live a better life, or not because they did not do enough works, but because *"he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* Works are for Christians not lost souls, lost souls go about to create their own salvation, even though it is not according to scriptural and spiritual knowledge of the bible. Paul, a lover of his natural nation prayed for their salvation because they refused to believe God. Romans 10:1 - 2 *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge."* Having a "Zeal" for God will not save a lost soul. Trying to work your way to heaven will not save you, going the extra mile does no good for your lost soul. The only people that can do works are saved people, and the only works that God gets pleasure out of are those done according to God's will, and the Truth of His word. We (Christians) must always be aware of the fact that The bible is our judgment unlike the lost souls. We must learn that we are to be *"rightly dividing the word of truth."* and after we learn that truth that we also walk in that truth. We must be *"...not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work..."* James 1:25

Pastor's Thought Continued

Lost souls, no matter how much "zeal" they may have, or how much they believe that have, their zeal will never do one single thing to please God. God will never be, and cannot ever be please with any work done outside of Jesus His Son and our redeemer. Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* This is because Jesus Christ is our strength, because in this flesh we have no strength to please God. This is because of who we are by nature, our old God hating nature has not left our bodies because of salvation, we battle within ourselves between godliness or evilness and without the power of Christ empowering us, we will fail. Christ is our faith and strength to accomplish good works. However, with this said, through the strength given from Jesus there is nothing we cannot do, even moving a mountain is possible. Matt. 17:20 *"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."* As Christians the strength of our faith is how God see's us, are we strong enough in the faith of Jesus to walk in fellowship with Him.

Church information and Happenings

- Happy Anniversary to Brother Medic and Sister Mhalyn Lavina Tuesday December 10th
- Please remember to always pray for our church and prayer list.
- Always be looking for the return of our Lord, it could be any time.

