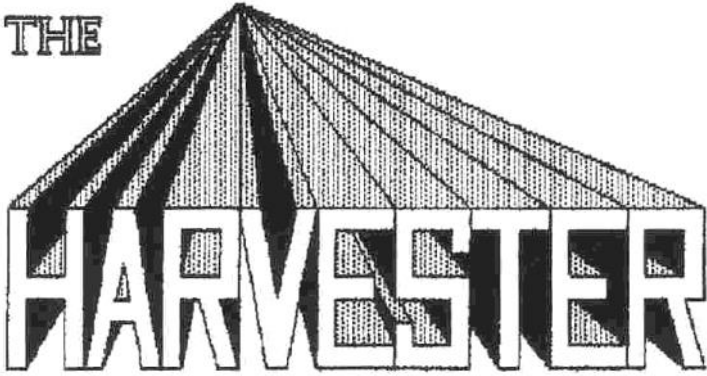


THE



“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)

March 2018

No. 387

SAVED BY GRACE

Many times in my life I've heard people say that we are saved by grace. I believe that this is so because the Bible tells us that we are. I also believe that grace needs something to activate it; we start our car because the battery activates the engine.

God's grace is an unmerited favor to man. Let's ask some questions about grace:

Did man want grace? I think he did.

Did man deserve grace? No.

Did God give man grace anyway? Yes.

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Now let us notice by what means God's saving grace came: *"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"* (John 3:16).

If that isn't clear, notice another scripture from John. *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14).

Before Jesus came there was not the saving grace and truth that Jesus brought to earth. For God so loved us that he sent Jesus to plead for us-- that through his death and the shedding of his blood, we might be saved.

Let us notice again from John, *"And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ"* (John 1:16-17).

In Ephesians 1 we find,

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. (Eph. 1:6-7)

So there is no doubt by whom God's saving grace and truth came from: Jesus Christ.

Let us look at some scriptures about grace. Grace can be seen in members of the church.

Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go

as far as Antioch. 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. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. (Acts 11:19-24)

Barnabas saw grace among the church at Antioch. So, what do you think he saw? Perhaps he saw Christian love for one another, fellowship, zeal, and happiness because the grace of God had made it possible for them to be saved.

We shine as lights if we let grace be seen in us. There is a song we sing which says, "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you." If we let Jesus be seen in us, we continue in grace. We must do our best to do so.

And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. (Acts 13:42-44)

Can we imagine almost a whole city coming together to hear the word of God? Paul and Barnabas continued in the grace of God, and Christ's Body grew because of their preaching.

We are saved by grace, God's unmerited favor. But, that grace is given because we obey the gospel. Let us remember the Bible always condemns any teachings contrary to its teachings. However, the Bible does say that we are saved by grace.

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where-with he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace

in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 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. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:4-10)

So, we are saved by grace, and the scripture we just read said “*through faith.*” Some say we are saved by faith only, but we have to agree that just believing is not good enough, for we are saved by grace also.

One will have to agree that the gospel is about God’s saving grace. Look at this verse about Paul and Barnabas at Iconium:

Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands. (Act 14:3)

Some say we have to believe, and we are saved by grace; there is no need to be baptized. So, I wonder if they have some new doctrine from God. Has God changed His mind since Pentecost? The Bible is plain about what we are to do to be saved. Baptism is that which activates grace like a battery is needed to crank a car.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. (Acts 8:36-38)

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Gal. 3:27)

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mar. 16:16; See also Acts 9:17-18, Acts 10:44-48, Mat. 28:18-20)

But notice another scripture:

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him. (1 Pet. 3:15-22)

We are saved because of our faith. We are saved by grace. We are saved by baptism. We are to grow in grace and knowledge.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. (2 Pet. 3:18)

Adapted from a sermon by EDWARD HERREN
(Woodland, AL)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. How old was Noah when the floods came?
2. When Joseph was in prison, whose dream did he correctly interpret to mean he would be restored to his job?
3. In which book of the Bible would you find the record of Balaam and his donkey?
4. Jesus initially sent the twelve disciples to preach to which group of people?
5. What part of Paul's clothing did Agabus use?

...and remember last month's questions?

1. What color was the High Priest's robe?
BLUE (Exo. 28: 31)
2. How many cities did the Levites possess?
48 (Josh. 21:41)
3. Proverbs describes a "fair woman without discretion" as like a jewel of gold in what? A PIG'S SNOOUT (Prov. 11:22)
4. In which city were Paul and Barnabas worshipped as gods? LYSTRA (Acts 14:8-12)
5. How does Peter say a husband should treat his wife?
WITH HONOR (1 Pet. 3:7)

THOUGHTS ON THE RESURRECTION

For almost two thousand years the prophets had foretold of the coming of the Messiah.

- Gen. 12:1-2 Family of Abraham through Isaac.

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- Psa. 16:10 *“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”*
- Psa. 22:1 *“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”*
- Psa. 22:18 *“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”*
- Psa. 69:21 *“They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”*
- Isa. 7:14 *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*
- Jer. 31:15 *“Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.”*
- Hos. 11:1 *“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”*
- Micah 5:2 *“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”*
- Zec. 9:9 *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”*
- Isa. 53:9 *“And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.”*

Jesus was a teacher without equal. Jesus was 30 years of age when He began to call His disciples (Luke 3:23). For 3 1/2 years His disciples had followed Him, witnessing His miracles and listening to His teaching. No one was ever able to successfully dispute His principles. They were convinced that Jesus did indeed fulfill the prophecies -that He was in fact the

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
March 23 - 25	Napoleon Woodland, AL	Donald Thompson (Wedowee, AL)
March 23 - 25	Gilstrap Morgantown, KY	Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY)
March 30 - April 1	New Bethel Cullman, AL	Tim Lewis (Eubank, KY)

Messiah. Yet He had died by crucifixion and had been buried. Their dreams, their hope, their future - were all in that grave!

But then the resurrection happened.

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words, And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. (Luke 24:1-9)

The disciples' faith had NOT been in vain! And for nineteen centuries since then, on EVERY SUNDAY, Jesus' disciples have commemorated that death and rejoiced in that resurrection.

From Notes of HARRY COBB
(Deceased)