

God's Loving Grace

Sermon Notes – March 22, 2009

Genesis 6:8: “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.”

Grace – Favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that same person deserves. Grace is one of the key attributes of God.

This Sunday March 22, 2009 – I will be preaching a message called “Grace that makes you say, **WOW!**” You may not ever understand the Grace of God, I know that I don’t have a full understanding of it, but I thank God that it was offered to me. Without grace we would never have or could never earn salvation or forgiveness. **THANK GOD FOR HIS GRACE!**

I believe that having a solid understanding of the grace of God is essential to living a victorious life. Grace is so much more than god’s unmerited favor. It is the power and ability of God available to meet our every need without any cost to us. Without grace, we have nothing we are nothing. In fact everything in the Bible – receiving salvation, being filled with the Holy Spirit, fellowshiping with God, and having victory in our daily lives—is based on God’s Grace.

The grace of God was supremely revealed and given in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus was not only the beneficiary of God's grace (Luke 2:40), but He was also its very embodiment (John 1:14), bringing it to mankind for salvation (Titus 2:11). By His death and resurrection, Jesus restored the broken fellowship between God and His people, both Jew and Gentile. The only way of salvation for any person is "through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 15:11).

The grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ is applied to human beings for their salvation by the **HOLY SPIRIT**, who is called “the Spirit of grace” (Heb 10:29). The Spirit is the One who binds Christ to His people so that they receive forgiveness, adoption as children and newness of life, as well as every spiritual gift or grace (Eph 4:7).

In almost all of the parables, the Grace of God is revealed. They start out, “The Kingdom of Heaven is Like,” and then reflect the grace given to the person in the parable. The “Parable of the Workers,” tells how they were rewarded even when they only worked a short time. Likewise the “Parable of the Prodigal Son” tells us about the second chance God offers us.

The theme of grace is especially prominent in the letters of the apostle Paul. He sets grace radically over against the law and the works of the law (Rom 3:24 & 28). Paul makes it abundantly clear that salvation is not something that can be earned or merited; it can be received only as a gift of grace (Rom 4:4)

It's very important that you and I understand that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves and pay for our sins.

- *Rom 3:10 "There is none righteous, no, not one;"*
- *Rom3: 23 " for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"*

So since man could not come to God, God came to man.

- *John 1:1 " In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- *John 1:14 And the Word became 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."*

Jesus became our substitute, paying the debt we owed at no cost to us.

- *Eph 2:8-9 for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*

What you and I could not earn God gave to us freely by His Grace. But His grace affects our lives in so many other areas. I came to realize that God's grace was available to me to make the needed changes in my life. Just as I received my salvation by grace through faith and obedience, I needed to trust and receive every other blessing from God in the same way.