
and His gift of salvation through Christ. This is why Paul pled with Christians “that ye receive not the grace of God in vain” (2 Corinthians 6:1).

Grace's Teaching: The Gospel

One receives God’s grace when he, by faith, receives the gospel. Remember, grace brings salvation by “teaching us!” (Titus 2:11-12). God’s grace gave all men the gift of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel has been “preached to every creature which is under heaven” (Colossians 1:23).

The gospel is God’s grace “teaching us.” This is why the gospel is described as “the gospel of the grace of God,” and “the word of His grace” (Acts 20:24, 32; 14:3). For “it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21).

Grace's Salvation: Continuing In

Contrary to the religious doctrine of some, men can fall from grace. Paul said, “whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Galatians 5:4). Men can fail of the grace of God. Paul warned us to look

“diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God” (Hebrews 12:15).

Just as God does not force the gift of His grace upon unwilling men, neither does He force men to remain in His grace and salvation. Those who are saved must not only receive God’s grace, they must continue in God’s grace. For this reason, Paul and Barnabas encouraged Christians to remain faithful to the Lord “persuad(ing) them to continue in the grace of God” (Acts 13:43).

Be saved by grace: receive grace’s teaching, accept grace’s sacrifice and continue in grace’s salvation. Then praise God for the exceeding riches of his wondrous grace.

This is the 1st of a series of 3 tracts

1st tract: “By Grace Are Ye Saved...”

2nd tract: “...Through Faith”

3rd tract: “Faith that Worketh by Love”

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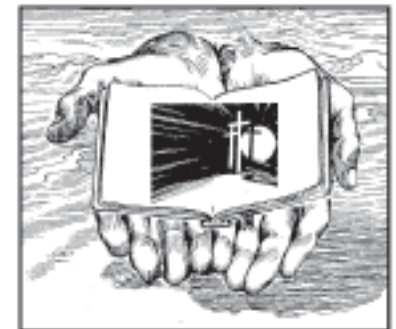
“For the grace of God
that bringeth salvation hath
appeared to all men...”

Titus 2:11

“By Grace are Ye Saved...”

God's Gift of Salvation

1st of a Series of 3 Tracts



Wayne Greeson

"By Grace are Ye Saved..."

God's Gift of Salvation

"For by grace are ye saved" Paul wrote. Most who claim to be Christians know this fundamental truth. But, what is "grace" and how does grace save? Theologians have clouded and confused this simple Bible subject for many. "Poets, priests and politicians, have words to thank for their positions" one song reminds us. Let us cut through the fog of words and understand some simple facts about God's grace and salvation.

Grace's Riches: While We Were Dead In Sins

In Ephesians 2 Paul describes the awful condition of Christians before their salvation. We were: dead in our sins, walking after Satan, living by our lusts and condemned under God's wrath (verses 1-3).

"But God" saved us. Paul describes four qualities of God that moved Him to save us: His rich mercy, His great love, His exceeding rich grace and His kindness (verses 4-7).

God's grace is the "favor" He shows towards men. God showed His

favor by giving men the gift of salvation. That he gave this gift "even when we were dead in sins" shows the richness of His grace (verses 5-7).

Paul concludes: "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" (verses 8-9). Salvation is God's gift given by His favor, not the product of man's works. This is a summary, not a detailed examination of how God's grace saves. To understand the "how" of grace, we must look to other texts.

Grace's Sacrifice: Jesus Christ

God's grace gave the world salvation by the precious gift of His own dear Son. "[M]uch more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded to many" (Romans 5:15; John 3:16). By Christ's grace He became poor and gave himself as a sacrifice for sin (2 Corinthians 8:9). God's grace saves, but only through Jesus Christ and His sacrifice (Hebrews 2:9).

Grace's Scope: Upon All Men

God's saving grace has been shown to all men. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12). Grace's free gift of salvation is available to all men for "by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life" (Romans 5:18).

Some teach that God's grace saves some men "unconditionally" without any regard to anything in the men He saves. If God's grace saves men "unconditionally" and it has appeared to all men, why then are not all men saved? Not all men are saved because God's grace does not bring salvation unconditionally.

Grace "brings salvation" to all men; grace did not force salvation upon any man. Grace's "free gift" came upon "all men"; grace's gift was not compelled upon any man without his willing acceptance. This is the reason not all men are saved!

Before one can be saved by grace, he must willingly receive God's grace

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