Amazing Grace!

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday April 19th, 2020

Text: Ephesians 2:1-13

### Intro

1. Ephesians 2:1-13: “Saved by grace” (2:4-5, 8)
   1. “Grace” = *charis [khar'-ece ] (G5485):* unmerited favor; grace (ious), benefit, gift, joy of liberality, pleasure, thank(-s, -worthy).
   2. ***Favor*** *(Luke 1:30);* ***Credit*** *(Luke 6:32-34);* ***Concession*** *(Acts 25:3: NKJ: Favor);* ***Thanks*** *(Romans 6:17);* ***Blessing*** *(II Corinthians 1:15: NKJ: Benefit);* ***Gracious*** *(II Cor. 8:6-7)*
   3. It means it is favor granted to someone who does not deserve it.
2. God’s favor to man is shown in the death of Christ and revealed in the word of God.
   1. Heb. 2:9: Christ, by God’s grace *(G5485),* died for all.
      1. Christ’s death and His blood open the door for all to come into His kingdom. *God didn’t have to.*
   2. Acts 20:32: The word of God is the “word of His grace *(G5485).*”
      1. God has given the guide to life so that we will know by what we will be judged, and know the consequences to our actions. *He didn’t have to.*
3. “Amazing Grace” (1779) by John Newton (1725-1807)
   1. A British sailor and slave trader, and later a gospel preacher.
   2. He became a slave trader, and was even enslaved for a period of time himself.
   3. On 03/10/1748 (a date he never forgot) his ship was nearly wrecked, and he cried out to God for help. When the storm quieted, he found a Bible and when landed, he converted.
   4. He gave up profanity, gambling, and drinking.
   5. Though converted he remained a slave trader till his retirement in 1754.
   6. He authored “Amazing Grace” in 1779 as his spiritual autobiography.
   7. In 1788, 34 years after retiring he aided the abolition of the slave trade in the U.K. He said later that he didn’t feel truly converted till he did so!
   8. “Amazing Grace” was given an American “Plantation” tune in 1835.
4. Grace was necessary for salvation because man is separated from God by sin!

#### Reason for Grace

* 1. Eph. 2:1; 4:18: Sinners are “dead” people, alienated from the “life of God.”
     1. Eph. 2:2-3: Sinners are “in the world.”
     2. Eph. 2:3: Sinners are “children of wrath.”
     3. Eph. 2:11-12: Sinners are “without God and without hope *in the world*.”
  2. In order for there to be salvation, there must be something to be saved from!
     1. Rom. 5:8-9: Christ died so man may be saved ***from the wrath of God!***
     2. Eph. 2:8-9: By God’s grace we are saved through faith.
     3. Acts 15:11: Salvation is by God’s grace*.*
  3. Man needed a Savior because sin separated man from God, and man was lost!

#### Method of Grace

* 1. Eph. 2:5: Grace is in and by Christ – that means His death (sacrifice) accomplished grace.
  2. Heb. 2:9: A price had to be paid for sin. He tasted death for everyone.
  3. Rom. 5:6-10: Man was incapable of saving himself. Man was “helpless.”
  4. Gal. 2:20-21: Man could not be saved by the Law of Moses (If so, Christ died needlessly).
     1. Heb. 10:1-4: The Law of Moses involved the blood of animals.
     2. Heb. 10:10-14: The new covenant involves the blood of the Son of God *(Vs. 29).* One sacrifice for all time (Heb. 9:28; 10:12).
  5. While man was helpless God’s grace provided a means for salvation!

#### “Saved By Grace”

* 1. Acts 15:11: “But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are” (speaking of the Gentiles’ conversion – Acts 15:7)
     1. Who makes the statement here recorded by Luke? *(15:7: Peter)*
     2. *Mt. 10:2:* A man who had been personally associated with Christ.
     3. *Mt. 16:16-17:* One to whom the identity of Jesus had been revealed.
     4. *Mt. 16:19:* The one promised the “keys of the kingdom.”
     5. *Acts 2:1-4:* One of the ones baptized in the Holy Spirit.
     6. *Acts 3:9:* One who could heal the sick and raise the dead.
  2. Acts 15:11: The proof of Peter’s salvation was his faith! “But we believe.”
  3. He understood that this salvation was by God’s grace in the death of Jesus (Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 2:9: By the grace of God, Jesus tasted death for everyone!).
     1. I John 2:25: God has promised eternal life (salvation).
     2. *II Peter 1:5-11:* God has made salvation possible if we possess certain qualities and live our lives a certain way.
     3. II Peter 1:10-11: These qualities grant to us “the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (I Pet. 1:4-5: Heaven).
  4. Grace is the gift of God that brings about salvation for mankind.
     1. *Rom. 3:24; 5:15; Eph. 4:7:* God sent His Son to die for the sins of the world as a free gift unto salvation! – Not a license to continue in sin (Rom. 6:1-2)
  5. Heaven is to be revealed as the ultimate expression of God’s grace: An eternal rest!

## Conclusion

1. The critical question becomes: Is salvation by grace conditional or unconditional?
   1. Grace: Not unconditional – Col. 1:21-23: “if indeed you continue in the faith…”
      1. Titus 2:11-12: Grace instructs us to deny ungodliness and worldliness…
         1. If unconditional—universal salvation is true. (Note: Grace appeared, bringing salvation to all men.)
      2. I Cor. 10:12: If unconditional, why Paul’s admonition to the Corinthians? “Take heed” that one does not fall.
      3. James 2:14-26: If unconditional, why is faith without works dead?
   2. Grace: Conditional – Heb. 5:9: Jesus is the “source of eternal salvation” to those who obey Him! (Titus 2:12: …live sensibly, righteously, and godly!)
      1. Like Naaman’s cure for leprosy (II Kings 5; Luke 4:27) mankind is given the cure for sin, but we must accept the terms! (Heb. 5:9: We must obey Him)
      2. Acts 2:38; 22:16: The cure for sin is given in Christ but we must choose to accept it as did the Jews on Pentecost and Saul of Tarsus!
      3. He asks that we trust Him enough to obey the gospel as He has said (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16) – to repent of sins and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
      4. He asks that we give our lives to the One who gave His for us (Titus 2:14).
2. The gift of God is for those who are obedient! (Heb. 5:9)
   1. Mk. 16:16: Must obey the words of Jesus to be saved! *(Acts 20:32: “Word of His grace;” Gal. 1:6: “Called you by the grace of Christ.”)*
   2. God, by His grace, gave to man the means to be saved! (Rom. 6:3-4: Through obedience to the gospel in baptism we share in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus!)
3. Those obedient to God’s word truly receive “Amazing Grace!” (“How sweet the sound!”) – Pardoned (forgiveness) from sins in Jesus’ blood! (Ephesians 1:7)
4. If you are not a Christian, you are outside the grace of God. Repent and be baptized! Join the family of God and have the promise of eternal life!
5. If a Christian in error, remember Christ shed His blood for you to be an heir of the promise of eternal life. Repent & be renewed!