

Faith, Works and Grace

Part III

June 11, 2017

by C Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;
13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

The Lord often gets accused of sending people to hell who never had a chance to be saved.

Oh, there is certainly no question about what we all deserve; we all have sinned and the wages of sin is death.

“But what about all those people who live in remote tribes who have never heard about Jesus?”

Truth is that most of them see more of God’s handiwork on a daily basis than just about anyone else.

We know that all men have been exposed to God’s grace that bringeth salvation.

Romans 1:16-21 The Apostle Paul writes:

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;
19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.
20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:
21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

I read a story recently of a man named Mr. Elijah, who committed suicide at age 65.

After mishandling the funds of his family's business and the harsh words that followed, he walked away from his family feeling unloved and rejected, vowing never to have anything to do with them again.

He grew more and more despondent and depressed and finally, after years and years of a lonely miserable life, he ended his life by jumping 30 stories to his death.

As his survivors were going through his belongings after his death, they found in his old trunk, stacks and stacks of letters from his family members trying to reconnect with him, seeking forgiveness and expressing their sorrow and their love for him...all unopened.

Truly folks, [the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men...](#)but some have simply refused to open the letters.

Thus far in our series on Faith, Works and Grace, we have learned that truly **we are saved by grace.**

The grace of God is extended to us in many forms and in many ways and circumstances; however, in this specific application, the grace of God that saves a man from his sins is that gracious act of pure love on the part of Jesus in His shedding His blood for us on the cross, thereby paying our debt of sin, completely and in full.

We also have learned that **we are saved through faith**; trusting in that gracious act of Jesus wherein He, on the cross, paid for all our sins.

We have learned that it is **not "our faith" that saves us** but rather that gracious act of Jesus that our faith is in.

We have learned that our **salvation is not of works, neither** is our salvation of **ourselves** in any way.

As we go deeper today into this study, the Bible has made it clear as to:

I. What is the grace of God that bringeth salvation?

A. The grace of God is expressed in many way and many forms...yet one is very specific.

1. The grace of God that brings salvation is that gracious act of pure love on the part of Jesus in His shedding His blood for us on the cross.

2. As vs 14 states: Our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, [on the cross] that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

B. This one gracious act of the Lord Jesus is absolutely and completely enough to save you from the penalty of all your sins.

1. **1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation [the complete payment] for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*.

2. By definition, grace is neither of our works nor in any way of ourselves.

Next, we see:

II. The message of God's grace.

A. What does God's grace actually teach us?

1. God's grace teaches us a new way of life.

2. As verse 12 states: Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

3. God's grace declares us free; literally free to do anything with our lives we choose;

4. ...and then shows us by example the right way of life we should choose...

5. ...by example, first by Jesus, and then by others who have chosen to follow Him.

B. Our new life of grace:

1. ...is a life of Liberty; no more bondage to the law or to sin;

2. Is a life free of guilt;

3. Is a life of fulfillment;

4. Is a life that we choose; not one that is forced on us as a slave to our flesh.

Surprising to many is:

III. The product of grace.

A. The product of grace is just the opposite of what many would expect.

1. Most would think: "Hey, now I'm free! I don't have to love you, I don't have to go to Church, I don't have to help others, I don't have to give; I don't have to share what I have."

2. The fact of the matter is that if you are doing any of these things because you think you have to, you have an even bigger problem that you think you do.

B. Grace changes "I've got to" into "Now, I get to!"

1. The works of the law says you've got to keep the law or else.

2. Grace takes believers out from under the law and replaces the bondage of all that duty with the desire to please the Lord and be used of the Lord for His glory.

3. **verse 14 yet again:** *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

4. Now I get to go to Church; now I get to love you; now I get to help others; now I get to give; now I get to be a part of what God is doing in this place!

5. Not only do we now desire to do good works, we are excited; we are zealous about it!

6. We are all still sinners and we all have our moments of discouragement and stress and even sometimes seem to get burned out.

7. However, this past week, as we prepared for Vacation Bible School, I saw good works going on everywhere I looked around here.

8. There was so much work going on around here it looked like somebody kicked a fire ant mound!

9. I saw joy and excitement and commitment and excellence and not one person doing any of it because they had to.

10. ...and getting it done!

Conclusion:

Once you trust completely in that gracious act of Jesus on the cross as the full and final payment for your sins, everything changes.

Our desires change, spiritual discernment changes, our attitudes and motivations change.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

I have noticed a pattern over the years among those particularly who were not saved here and did not grow up in Christian life hearing us preach salvation by grace only, no works...NOT of ourselves:

They have a “just in case” mentality.

Yes, they seem to agree that salvation is by grace...but “just in case” I had better do plenty of good works just to make sure.

Those who believe this don't usually last here at Lighthouse.

You see, if you are depending in any part on your good works or you're abstaining from sin; you have a huge problem...

YOU'RE NOT SAVED!

You are fallen from grace! God has offered you His grace and you have chosen something else!

Galatians 5:1-4

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Grace has freed us from the works of the law. If you are depending on your keeping any aspect of the law for all or any part of your salvation; New Testament or Old; whether circumcision or The Ten Commandments or baptism or anything of ourselves whatsoever; even “just in case”... you have made yourself a debtor to keep the whole law!

And that you cannot do!

Is serving the Lord doing your duty or is it something you are excited about?

Don't have a zeal to serve the Lord? Find out why!

