

## **GRACE AND WORKS**

### **Introduction:**

- 1. The apostle Paul wrote: “For the grace of God which brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and Godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (Tit. 2:11-14).**
- 2. What about the member of the church who lives a good, moral life, attends every service of the church, but does no work for the Lord?
  - a. Is the Lord pleased with Him?**
  - b. Will he be saved by the grace of God?****
- 3. Must one be active in the Lord’s work to continue in God’s grace?**

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. GRACE GENERATES GRATITUDE.**

- A. Christians want to work for Christ Who died for them.
  - 1. A man was setting up a tombstone in the Civil War cemetery in Nashville shortly after the war. A passerby asked him, “Is your son buried here?” “No,” the man replied, “I was drafted into the army, but I had a wife and seven children so my neighbor’s son volunteered to go in my place. He was wounded in battle and died here in the hospital.” The man had carved on the tombstone these words: “He died in my place.”**
  - 2. Christ died in our place: “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:6-8).****
- B. Paul felt he was the least of the apostles, “but by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me” (1 Cor. 15:10).**

#### **II. GRACE GENERATES GROWTH.**

- A. Growth is a fundamental law of life: “It is grow or die.”**
- B. The Christian life is one of continual growth (2 Pet. 3:18).**

1. We grow by feeding upon God's Word (1 Pet. 2:2).
2. We must advance beyond "milk."

**"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the Word of righteousness, for he is a baby. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:12-14).**

### **III. GRACE GENERATES GODLY LIVING.**

- A. One who has been saved by grace no longer lives in sin:**

**"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:1-4).**

- B. The grace of God "teaches us both negatively and positively (Tit. 2:11,12).**

1. Grace teaches us to "deny ungodliness and worldly lusts."
2. Grace teaches us to "live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world."

- C. We must have an active righteousness.**

1. We are not righteous simply because we don't do certain things.
2. We are righteous because we "practice righteousness" (1 John 3:7).

- D. We serve Christ because we belong to him.**

1. A slave on the auction block shouted defiance at the man who bought him saying, "I'll never serve you." The buyer said, "I did not buy you to serve me. I bought you to set you free." With tears of gratitude, the freed slave said, "Master, I will serve you all the days of my life."
2. Paul wrote: "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:20).

### **IV. GRACE GENERATES GIVING.**

- A. Giving to God is called a “grace” in the Bible (2 Cor. 8:7).
- B. We give because God has given to us.
  - 1. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).
  - 2. The Macedonian Christians gave because they had first given themselves to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:1-5).
- C. How we use the money God has given us is an index to our hearts.
- D. What we should ask ourselves is not, “How much should I give of MY money?” but rather, “How much should I keep of the LORD’S money?”

**V. GRACE GENERATES GOING WITH THE GOSPEL.**

- A. The Lord commanded us to “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).
  - 1. He did not say, “Sit and wait till people come to you.”
  - 2. This is the primary task of the church and of every Christian!
- B. If we are truly grateful for God’s grace saving us, we will want to share it with others.
  - 1. A Christian foolishly said: “I don’t have to teach others. I am saved by grace!”
  - 2. Paul said: “I am a debtor, both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you who are in Rome also” (Rom. 1:14,15).

**Conclusion:**

- 1. “Marvelous grace, infinite grace, the fathomless depths of His love;  
Wonderful grace, glorious grace, sent from the Father above.  
Living for Him, trusting His grace, He lifted my burden away;  
Sharing His love, preparing a place, ever His will to obey.  
  
“I’m going some day, on angels’ wings, where I’ll behold His throne;  
Angels’ refrain, praising His name, ever to sing the new song.  
Christ, my dear Lord, took my place, someday forever I’ll sing,  
Marvelous grace, infinite grace, Jesus, my Lord and my King!”
- 2. We receive the grace of God when we obey the Gospel of grace.
- 3. Have you been saved by grace?

