

Grace That Saves

God's amazing grace is evident when viewed in light of the character of the recipients upon whom God offers and bestows His grace. "*Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.*" (Romans 5:20). When man turns his back on God and righteousness, he suffers the consequences of his own choices and actions. He makes the choice to sin, not God (cf. James 1:13-16). The fault lies in man, who is tempted by his own evil desires and walks in darkness. Thus, all men are sinners. The wages of sin is death, separating the guilty from God and heaven's glory (cf. Romans 6:23).

With immeasurable mercy and love, God "*shows the exceeding riches of His grace*" in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:9). Salvation and eternal life are gifts of God because He saves sinners through faith in Jesus (cf. Ephesians 2:8; Romans 6:23). The enormity of God's grace is seen by the fact that His Son "*died for the ungodly*" (Romans 5:6), meeting "*the righteous requirement of the law*" (8:4), "*whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood*" (2:25). The grace that pardons is found at Calvary's cross where the good Shepherd laid down His life (cf. John 10:11). The unblemished sacrificial death of Jesus removes all boastful works because no reciprocation is of parallel weight or value. God first loved sinners; Christ died for sinners.

Sinners are saved by grace through faith. The response required from sinners, desiring freedom from sin and death, is not one which the individual can earn payment because he labors, but rather, he surrenders and obeys by faith to the One who is love. Sinners must believe in the grace of God centered in Christ Jesus (cf. John 6:29). Believing in Jesus is a condition that men must meet to be saved by grace. Faith is a work but not a work of which the believer may boast. The gospel of Christ saves believers (cf. Romans 1:16). This gospel is "*the word of grace*" (Acts 20:32). God's grace revealed the inspired good news that unveils the mystery of grace that has come down from heaven. This word of grace is "*the perfect law of liberty,*" able to save souls who are doers of God's word and work (James 1:21-22, 25). Grace teaches that men must deny ungodliness and live righteously (cf. Titus 2:11-14). God's grace offers salvation to all sinners, but grace saves those who respond properly to the gospel call to obey by faith the doctrine of the Savior (cf. Matthew 28:18-20; II John 9).