

BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

The Grace of God (2): – Saving Grace: *Faith*

November 8, 2024

Review

Grace: The giving of gifts, or favor to the undeserving

Common Grace: God has given all people common grace – but this is not a saving grace

Point: God has special grace for particular individuals – this grace can only be found in believers

Ephesians 2:8-9 = *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Saving Grace

Definition: This grace is God's favor to those who are undeserving... they are chosen to receive special blessings – salvation and its fruit... Eph 1:4, 11-14; Acts 13:48

(a) Not everyone receives this special grace.

Matthew 22:14 = *For many are called, but few are chosen.*

Point: Many are called to know God through common grace, but only a few have been chosen to believe and be saved

(b) No one seeks or chooses God, but God calls each person to give them special grace... Lk 19:10; Rom 3:11-18

Romans 3:11b = *No one seeks for God*

John 15:16 = *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit*

(c) The recipient of this grace reveals its fruit... i.e. faith, repentance, forgiveness, etc.

1. The Grace of Faith

Natural Mind: The person has the decision over their faith.

➤ Salvation depends on good works and the person's own decisions.

Cf. John 1:13 = *who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God*

Point: Faith is a gift from God and did not originate from man.

Hebrews 12:2 = *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith*

➤ The faith that saves is a gift from God – so that no one may boast... Eph 2:9b

2. Faith as the Only Way to Salvation

Note: Faith *alone* in Christ *alone* is the only way to salvation... Eph 2:8-9.

Point: This is the character of the entire life of one who claims to be saved – living and walking by faith... 2 Cor 5:7.

➤ False faith has errors in the hope of salvation.

➤ No faith = no salvation; false faith = false salvation... i.e. JW, INC, Atheists, etc... Heb 11:6

Warning: The devil uses his cunning to counterfeit faith... 2 Cor 4:4.

Error: There are various ways of salvation, gospels, and saviors...

Texts: 2 Cor 11:4; Gal 1:6-9.

(a) Tradition: Good works + sacraments + human philosophy → faith = salvation
Colossians 2:8 = *See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.*

(b) Forced decision; rituals; elevating man; or idol worship = salvation...
... Cf. Exodus 20:3-5; Hebrews 10:11-12

Positive: There is no other way of salvation except through faith in Jesus Christ alone... Jn 14:6; Act 4:11-12; 1 Tim 2:5-6; Rom 1:17; Gal 2:16

3. The Basis of Faith

(a) The faith received is based *only* on the Word of God... 1 Thes 2:13; Mk 7:9

(b) Faith involves knowledge of Christ... Phil 3:8-10; 1 Jn 5:20

➤ Jesus is God incarnate... Jn 1:1-2; 3, 14

➤ Jesus is the only Son of God... Jn 3:16; 20:31; Act 9:20.

(c) Faith fully trusts in Jesus alone... Rom 10:9-13

➤ Jesus died to redeem sinners... 1 Pt 2:24.

➤ In Jesus alone is forgiveness of sins obtained... Act 16:30f

Acts 2:37-38 = *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

➤ Jesus rose from the dead... Rom 4:25; 1 Pt 1:3

Point: True faith is expressed only when it aligns with the Word

Challenge: Saying "I believe" is not enough

➤ Believe only what the Word of God says – believe only in Christ Jesus!

➤ God is not pleased without true faith...

Hebrews 11:6 = *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him*

➤ To believe, there must be faithful teaching – there is no true faith that occurs through manipulation and human tradition

Romans 10:13-14 = *For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?*

➤ There must be continuous hearing of His Word... Rom 10:17.

➤ There must be standing firm in the One we believe in... In Christ!