

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 2:4-9.**
- B. Tonight, I begin another sermon series. This time will be speaking about Grace.
 - 1. Jan. 12 -- We Need Grace.
 - 2. Jan. 19 -- What Grace Demands.
 - 3. Jan. 26 -- What Grace Provides.
 - 4. Feb. 9 -- The Great Doctrines of Grace.
 - 5. Feb. 16 -- Falling From Grace.
 - 6. Feb. 23 -- Living Under Grace.
- C. As we introduce the subject of grace, tonight, let us take note that the grace of God is predicated on man's need of salvation. This, in turn, is predicated on his lost condition in sin. Man must depend entirely on the unmerited favor of God.

I. THE NEED OF GRACE.

- A. See Rom. 3:23,24. The word "freely" is from the Greek *dorean* meaning "gratis, gratuitously." The sinner, who can never merit salvation, receives justification from the gracious God gratuitously-- nothing to pay for it.
- B. The Nature of Sin:
 - 1. Sin is lawlessness, no regard for law (1Jn. 3:4).
 - 2. All unrighteousness is sin, no mistakes, goofs, etc., all is sin (1Jn. 5:7).
 - 3. Sin is when one does what seems right "in their own eyes" (Jud. 17:6).
 - 4. Sin separates a person from God's fellowship (Isa. 59:1-2).Summing up the matter, the sinner is one who by his acts of lawlessness or unrighteousness has missed the true mark of life: the glory, righteousness, and approbation of his Creator. This unhappy, tragic condition can only be rectified by the grace of God.
- C. The Universality of Sin:
 - 1. No one is considered righteous by God (Rom. 3:9-10).
 - 2. Everyone has sinned (Rom. 3:22-23).
 - 3. The Law put all things (people) under sin (Gal. 3:22).
 - 4. To say that we have not sinned is to lie, and make God a liar (1Jn. 1:8,10).When we recognize the sinful condition of the whole creation, we can readily understand the need that the whole creation has of the gospel of God's grace.
- D. The Consequences of Sin:
 - 1. People reap what they sow in regard to their sin (Gal. 6:7-8).
 - 2. Sin has always received a just recompense from God (Heb. 2:2).
 - 3. God will come in judgment against sin (Rom. 1:18).
 - 4. The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).
- E. The Conviction of Sin:

Any discussion dealing with the grace of God must be calculated to bring to sinful men an acute awareness of their need of divine grace borne out of their dire predicament in sin.

 - 1. The HS will speak in such a way as to convict the world of sin (Jn. 16:8).
 - 2. Peter preached in such a way as to "prick the heart" (Ac. 2:36-37).
 - 3. True repentance is without regret (2Cor. 7:10).
 - 4. One must come to realize they are lost, to find grace (Lk. 15:4).

II. THE MEANS OF GRACE.

- A. See Jn. 1:17.

Jesus Christ is the means or channel of the grace through which men are delivered from the guilt, bondage, and death of sin.

 - 1. Jesus is the one mediator between God and man (1Tim. 2:5).

2. Jesus is our advocate and propitiation for sin (1Jn. 2:1-2).
 3. Jesus' grace has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11).
 4. Grace was freely bestowed in the Beloved, which is Christ (Eph. 1:6).
- B. The Motivation for Grace.
- The basic motivation of God to extend His grace toward sinful mankind is His love for mankind.
1. God commends His love in sending X (Rom. 5:8).
 2. Love is, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent X (1Jn. 4:9-10).
 3. The golden text of the Bible showing God's great love (Jn. 3: 16-17).
 4. God reconciled the world back to Himself in Christ (2Cor. 5:19).
- If God so loved this guilty world that He would sacrifice of Himself to send His Son to die on the cross, then what an unfathomable depth of grace it has motivated.
- C. The Grace of Christ.
1. Jesus is full of grace and truth, giving grace for grace (Jn. 1:14-17).
 2. We shall be saved through the grace of our Lord Jesus (Ac. 15:11).
 3. Jesus' death came about by the grace of God (Heb. 2:9).
 4. By his poverty and grace, we can become (spiritually) rich (2Cor. 8:9).
- When we contemplate our own unworthiness in contrast to the love and grace of X shown in His earthly condescension and poverty, we cannot fail to appreciate what X truly means to us.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Salvation comes by grace through faith.
- B. It is because of sin that man stands in need of grace. Works will not earn salvation.
- C. God's love for sinful man motivated Him to send X. He died making grace available to all.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.