

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 2:4-9**.
- B. Tonight, we continue the sermon series about Grace.
 - 1. Jan. 12 -- We Need Grace.
 - 2. Jan. 19 -- What Grace Demands.
 - 3. Jan. 26 -- What Grace Provides.
 - 4. Feb. 09 -- The Great Doctrines of Grace.
 - 5. Feb. 16 -- Falling From Grace.
 - 6. Feb. 23 -- Living Under Grace.
- C. Titus 2:11 is sometimes misunderstood to teach that salvation is universal. But what Paul had in mind was that God's grace (in the person of JC) had appeared to all men, offering them the hope of salvation. Men/Women must respond to salvation to be saved by grace.
- D. Grace demands that we act accordingly. God has given the supreme gift and mankind must respond in obedience to this gift for salvation. He/She must access the grace of God. This grace demands four things.

I. GRACE DEMANDS A LOVE OF THE TRUTH.

- A. We love God because He first loved us (1Jn. 4:19).
- B. As we return that love to God (a response to His grace) we are to love the truth.
- C. Notice the following:
 - 1. If you love me, you will keep my commandments (Jn. 14:15).
 - 2. God's word is truth (Jn. 17:17).
 - 3. God's commandments are not grievous (1Jn. 5:3).
- D. God's word is there to help us to better understand ourselves, others, and God Himself. Those who truly love God know how to love Him. The Bible instructs us in that love.

II. GRACE DEMANDS A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.

- A. The word of God will never lead you to where the grace of God cannot keep you.
- B. There are many passages that juxtapose grace and a knowledge of the truth.
- C. Notice the following scriptures:
 - 1. The word of His grace (Ac. 20:24,32).
 - 2. ...heard and knew the grace of God in truth (Col. 1:5-6).
 - 3. The gospel calls one to the grace of God--desert it and desert grace (Gal. 1:6-9).
 - 4. Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God (1Pet. 1:2).
 - 5. Grow in grace and in knowledge (1Pet. 3:18).
- D. "The grace of God, without which salvation is impossible, is absolutely inaccessible apart from a knowledge of the truth!"

III. GRACE DEMANDS FAITH.

- A. Faith is the response to grace. God has told us, in the person of Jesus, what to believe in order to be saved. Did man deserve or earn this information? NO! It was given him as a gift (grace) of God. This gift must be humbly accepted in faith.
- B. But what do we put our faith in, as a response to grace?
 - 1. Faith in God; no atheists, agnostics, or skeptics please (Heb. 11:6).
 - 2. Faith in Jesus; no Buddhists, Hindu, Moonies, etc., please (Jn. 8:24).
 - 3. Faith in the word; no Mormonism, creeds, or Koran please (Rom. 10:17).God is the potential Savior of all men. Those who believe in what He said, and the Son He sent will be saved (1Tim. 4:10).

IV. GRACE DEMANDS THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH.

- A. God is not a respecter of persons (Ac. 10:34). Furthermore, does Titus 2:11 and 1Tim. 4: 10 teach Universalism? NO! Note the following:
 - 1. He can only be our Lord if we do what He says (Mt. 7:21-23).
 - 2. Grace only comes through one's faith (Eph. 2:8-9).
 - 3. True faith is one that is shown in good works (Jas. 2:17-18).
- B. It is a plain, Bible teaching that to be acceptable to God and have access to His saving grace one must respond to that grace in the obedience of faith. This kind of faith, that trusts not in itself, but in God's grace, will save.
- C. Remember the old adage:
"You do not work to be saved, but you are saved and therefore you work."

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Grace demands; our love of the truth, a knowledge of the truth, faith, and the obedience of faith.
- B. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! The gift of grace!
- C. To access God's saving grace, come in faith, believing in Jesus.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, ening Xians.