

Today's Order of Worship

- Announcements: Greg Lowery
- Song Leader: Billy Box
- Opening Prayer: Ralph Burleson
- On the Table: Head - Greg Lowery
Servers - Josh Berryhill
Eddie Dickinson
Bradley Box
- Closing Prayer: David Key
- Preparing the Lord's Supper: Linda Lawrence

Weekly Service Times

	Sunday	
Bible Study		10:00 am
Morning Worship		10:45 am
Evening Worship		5:00 pm
	Wednesday	
Bible Study		7:00 pm

Visit Our Website
www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key
 Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

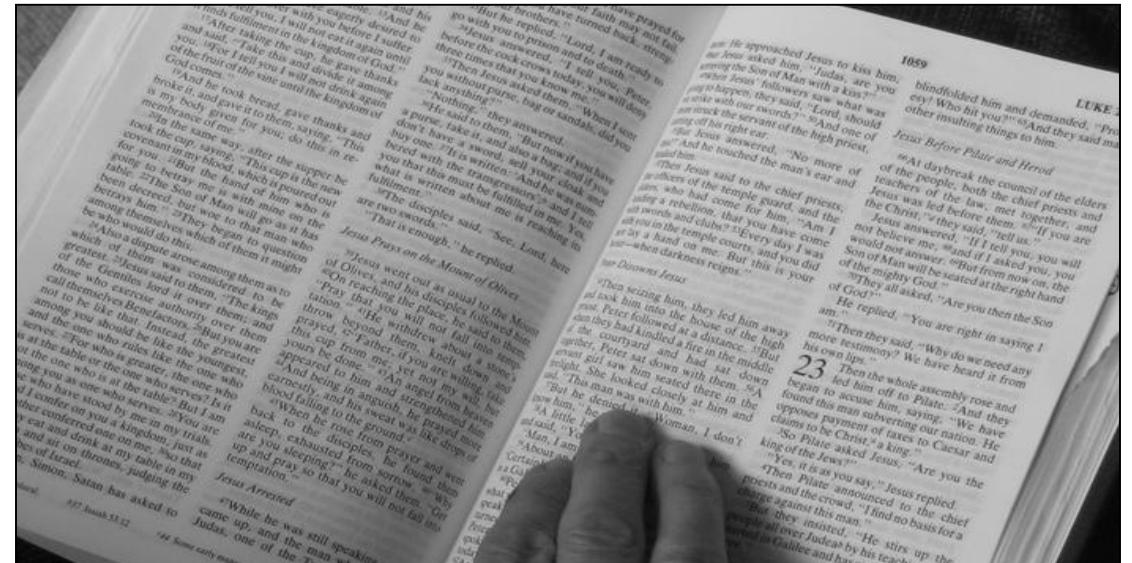
Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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The Church & Salvation



*The
 Brilliant
 Beacon*



Saved By Grace

By Rex A. Turner

Foreword

Without question, mortal man is saved or justified by the grace of God. What, however, is involved in a man’s being saved by the grace of God? Does God’s grace unconditionally cover all men - believers and nonbelievers - as the universalists contend? Is God’s grace operative for all who “just believe” as the Armenians, along with others, contend? Are there no conditions to be met for the availment of God’s grace, other than the condition of faith, as many of the Protestant world contend? Is God’s grace irresistible for-and only for-the limited elect, as the Calvinists contend? Does grace dispense with law? Christians need to know the answers to these questions.

Further, there is within the churches of Christ a growing misconception of the meaning or subject of grace. To illustrate, a gospel preacher and graduate of a denominational seminary is reported to have said in substance: “There are two classes of preachers in the churches of Christ-those that believe that a sinner is saved by works and those who believe that a sinner is saved by grace. I believe that the sinner is saved by the grace of God.” Another preacher is reputed to have said that grace excludes all law.

Now, what faithful preacher has ever contended that man is saved by works only-as the preacher’s assertion would imply? As for the affirmation that grace excludes all law, how does such an assertion comport with Isaiah’s statement that “out of Zion shall go forth the law,” and with Paul’s statement, “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ?” (Isaiah 2:3; Gal. 3:2).

The Grace of God

Grace is defined as unmerited, unearned, and undeserved favor. No man has a right to salvation as a result of his own righteousness or meritorious works. “There is none righteous, no, not one” (Rom. 3:10). God’s offer of salvation to man is positively a matter of grace. The offer is to all men! What a glorious contemplation! What love hath been shown to fallen man!

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Patty Berryhill: having problems with a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

David Warren: he is fighting cancer, please be praying that his cancer will be defeated

Janet Spann: has severe COPD and other health problems, please keep her and her family in your prayers

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Jack Willis (Meg Rutledge’s Father) is fighting cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please pray that she will improve

Nelle Fraizer (Lellie’s Sister); she has some ongoing health problems

Winfred York: is at home and has been placed under hospice care, please continue to pray for him and Mrs. Vertie

Upcoming Events

June 21st – 25th

Gospel Meeting (Dorian Flynn)

Paul wrote: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves (not earned, nor a right through your ownelves), it is a gift (unmerited grace) of God; and not of works (not of works stemming from their own righteousness and/or power), that no man should glory (or boast of his own devices and accomplishments).”

In short, the plan or scheme whereby man might become righteous was a matter of absolute grace on God’s part. All men were under sin (Rom. 3:23). No man had or could have earned his salvation by means of his own meritorious works. True, the Jews had the law of Moses, but the law did not save the Jews from sin. It only convicted them of sin. It was not given to save; but rather, it was given to convict.

God’s grace, as extended to all men, was and is through his Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his body as a propitiation-an appeasement, an atonement, a sacrifice-for the sins of men. Through his propitiation, Christ has provided a means for the redemption-or the buying back-of fallen man.

Christ made the atonement for the sins of men by dying in their place. He gave his life in the place of sinners who deserved to die. This was a matter of meeting the terms of justice which required “life for life.” Adam through sin, so to speak, had taken his own life. His redemption, therefore, could only be obtained on the basis of a life for his life (Deut. 19:21.) Since the “life is in the blood,” Christ left heaven and came to earth through means of a body prepared for him in the womb of the virgin Mary in order that he could give his life-which necessarily required his atoning blood-for the redemption of man (Heb. 10:4-7). God’s gift of his Son for fallen man provided that God could at the same time be just and the justifier of him that hath faith in Christ Jesus (Rom. 3:26).

God is first of all just and righteous, and if he were to “pass over the sins done aforetime” without the demands of violated justice having been met, he would cease at that very point to be a righteous and just God. Christ made an unlimited atonement-that is, he made atonement for all men (Heb. 2:9; 1 John 2:2). Christ’s atonement for all men is certainly contrary to Calvin’s doctrine of limited atonement, or atonement for a certain and predetermined elect only. The atonement which Christ made is predicated, however, on the basis of man’s faith in him, and in the blood that he shed.

While boastful works are excluded by God’s grace, there are works that are included.

The works which are included are works which the Protestant religious world refuses to recognize or grant. To illustrate the fact that there are works which are included, Peter declared at the house of Cornelius: “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him” (Acts 10:34-35). A point of emphasis is that whatever is included under the term “righteousness” is included in the gospel plan of salvation. Certainly, salvation is by faith, but is it by faith only or alone, as the denominational world claims? This is the pertinent question.

Salvation is through faith, but not by faith only! To illustrate, James wrote: “Wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith apart from works is barren? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? Thou seest that faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect.” Paul wrote: “Faith cometh of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17). In short, faith is the result of teaching, and the acts of obedience are the results of faith in God—thus faith is made perfect by obedience. Within this very frame of reference. Paul wrote the Galatians: “For ye are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ.” To the Ephesians, Paul wrote: “We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God afore prepared that we should walk in them.” Paul also wrote the Galatians: “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision:—now observe—but faith working by love.” The conclusion of this whole matter is that a faith that saves is a faith that takes God at his word, believes what he says, obeys what he commands, and becomes what he demands. The faith that saves is a live, energetic, and active faith (James 2:20-21; Rom. 10:17; Gal. 3:26-27; Eph. 2:10; Gal. 5:6).

Conclusion

While the grace of God has been extended to all men, not all men will be saved. The offer of God’s free grace is predicated upon a faith that works by love. Paul emphasized this fact still further in his letter to Titus. He wrote: “The grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men (that is, within the reach of all men), instructing us (observe—instructing or teaching), to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12).

The Spiritual Sword, vol. 7, no. 2, January 1976, p. 21-22.

No Greater Life Than This

By Cliff Holmes

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places, even as He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:3-14)

If God the Father has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, and has chosen us before the world was formed, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love, if He has adopted us as sons in Christ Jesus and granted us redemption and forgiveness of sins through the blood of His only begotten son, and furthermore, He has sealed us with the promised holy spirit, then I ask you this. What better life could we have as we live and toil on this earth? There is no greater life than this.

For this we owe God our love, our fidelity and full obedience to His instructions as set forth in the Word of God, which also gives us the duty to take that very same message to those about us who are lost and dying daily in their sins. Have we received the message as Paul delivered it to the church at Ephesus? To live out His word, there is no greater life.

Obtained at: www.gospelgazette.com