

“The Gospel of the Grace of God”

Acts 20:24

Introduction:

- A. The good news of the grace of God!
- B. Grace may be a neglected subject.
 - 1. May have been pre-occupied with countering Calvinistic doctrine of grace.
 - a. Emphasize obedience, commandment keeping, Christian living, apostasy without grace.
 - b. Should show the relation of these subjects to the grace of God.
 - 2. May unwittingly create a warped view of salvation.
 - a. That God will accept nothing short of perfection, thus leading to despair.
 - b. That “solely by grace” is only answer to this despair – hence, Calvinism’s growth.
- C. The “grace of God” has several areas of study that need more attention.

Discussion:

- I. Grace Came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17).**
 - A. Was there grace and truth under Moses? (Ex. 33:13-19; Psa. 86:11-15)
 - B. Grace and truth came in their fulness under Christ (vv. 14-17).
- II. Grace Can Be Conditional.**
 - A. Noah found grace, but had build ark (Gen. 6:8, 22).
 - B. Salvation is by grace, yet it is conditional (Eph. 2:8,9)
 - 1. Salvation for sin (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:15,16; 1 Pet 2:21).
 - 2. Salvation eternally in heaven (Heb. 5:8,9; Rev. 2:7, 10, 17, 24-28)
 - C. Grace brings salvation to all men (Tit. 2:11)
 - 1. Not just the “elect” or a particular nation or race.
 - 2. Yet, not all men will be saved, therefore conditional.
- III. Grace Demands Godly Living (Tit. 2:11)**
 - A. Rather than a cover-all grace to cover careless living.
 - B. In both a positive and negative way. (12, 14 - note parallel).
 - C. In the present world with eye on the next world (v. 13).
- IV. Grace Eliminates the Necessity of Perfection.**
 - A. In our past behavior (Rom. 3:9,10,23, 24; 4:1-8).
 - B. In our present behavior (1 John 1:7-10; 2:1-2).
 - C. But, not the necessity of striving for perfection.
 - 1. When cease striving we become wilful sinners (cf. Heb. 10:26-29).
 - 2. When cease studying we become wilfully ignorant (cf. 2 Pet. 3:5).
 - 3. When we cease repenting, confessing and praying for forgiveness we become wilful sinners.
- V. Grace Can Be Received in Vain (2 Cor. 6:1)**
 - A. Can fall from grace (Gal. 5:4).
 - B. Can despise the spirit of grace (Heb. 10:29).
 - C. Cannot continue in sin and have grace abound (Rom. 6:1).

Conclusion:

- A. One sin necessitates grace (Illustrate with two column ledger)
- B. Compare the greatness of salvation with the relative smallness of our obedience.