

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXV

November 15, 2015

No. 46

God' Grace

(Jerry Fite)

Paul writes, *“For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men...”* (Titus 2:11). God’s grace has appeared, so it is possible for us to see and understand it. So, what is grace? God’s “favor” upon man is a good place to begin.

God’s look of favor upon man was certainly not because man was living sinless and holy lives. In fact, our sin separates us from God and brings us into a state of enmity with Him (*Isaiah 59:1-2, Romans 5:10*). Sin always falls short of God’s glory instead of promoting His honor (*Romans 3:23*). God looked with favor upon man despite his sin, and while he was still in sin.

Therefore, we rightly define God’s grace as “unmerited favor”. Because of our sin, we did not deserve God’s favor. Therefore it is “unmerited”. Because of God’s gracious love and mercy, all men can be saved. Because of our sin, we deserve separation from God; because of God’s grace, we have the “free gift” of salvation and the promise

of eternal life. Paul combines these two points when he writes, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (*Romans 6:23*).

We should not for a moment think “free” means without “cost”. Jesus paid the price by facing God’s wrath for sin on the cross, when dying for our sins. He *“...gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a people for His own possession, zealous of good works”* (*Titus 2:14*). No money could redeem us, for it took the precious blood of Christ to redeem us from sin (*I Peter 1:18-19*).

God’s grace is the unmerited favor that He bestowed upon man which moved Him to offer His Son as a gift. While all have died spiritually in their own sin from the first man Adam unto the present, *“...much more did the grace of God, and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound unto the many”* (*Romans 5:15*). Jesus is the gift God gave because of His grace, or

because of his desire to save man from his sin.

The appearance of God’s grace is not an allusion, but is connected with truth in Christ. *“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ”* (*John 1:17*). The message of God’s grace extended through Jesus Christ has appeared in the truth of the gospel of Christ (*Colossians 1:5-6*).

God’s grace has appeared in the gospel in the form of “doctrine” or “teaching. Regardless of our social status, the Christian must *“adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things”* (*Titus 2:10*). Why? *“...for the grace of God hath appeared...”* (*Titus 2:11*). There is a teaching authored by God for the Christian to apply in all aspects of his or her life. The grace of God hath appeared *“instructing us, to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world...”* (*Titus 2:12*). Knowing God’s grace, may we be moved to zealous service!