

Grace, Part 2 | Salvation

I. The Centrality of Christ's Work in Salvation

- John 1:14-17
- Full of grace upon grace, realized in Jesus Christ — what a glorious truth!
- Were it not for the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, the best grace any of us could experience would be the Common Grace of life on this earth. But if God had never planned to send His Son, I don't believe anyone other than Adam and Eve would have experienced that Common Grace.
- Adam and Eve would have experienced the grace of the Garden, but they would have sinned, and God would have obliterated them, and none of us would have ever been born. But God had a plan from eternity past. Knowing that mankind would fail Him, but being the loving, merciful, gracious Father that He is, He knew He would send Jesus to do for us what we could never do for ourselves.
- It was that choice that introduced mankind to the most glorious and majestic grace they could ever hope to experience — the grace of God in salvation.

II. God's Grace in Desperation

- John 15:8-11
- Desperation is the work of God whereby a lost sinner recognizes their need for a relationship with God.
- The conviction of the Holy Spirit whereby we recognize that we are spiritually destitute and are — additionally — grieved by that reality, comes as a gracious work of the Holy Spirit whereby He is convicting us of sin, righteousness, and judgement.
- All men are blind, and it's God's people who walk up to the blind person and warns them that they're walking toward destruction. But it's the Holy Spirit who convicts the reality of the situation on their hearts, causing them to truly believe the desperate nature of their situation.
- Praise God that He graciously sends the Holy Spirit to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement!

III. God's Grace in Justification

- Titus 2:11; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 11:1-6
- Justification is the momentary positional transaction where the righteousness of Christ is imputed to the sinner and the wrath of the Father is appeased. Now, there are so many important doctrinal truths there, but I want to focus on the easiest of them all. Justification is a one-time, momentary transaction. For those who are born again, our justification is in the *past*.
- No one can earn the favor of God. It is grace and grace alone rooted in the love of God that causes Him to pour His love on anyone. Grace cannot be grace if it's earned. And since God is eternally and totally gracious, no part of Who He is can be earned. His entire relationship with us is rooted in grace, not works.
- This is so important because we know that we have seen God accurately when our view of Him is raised and our view of ourselves is lowered. God gives grace to the humble and rejects the proud. When we see the situation accurately, we will grieve over our inability but simultaneously rejoice in His gracious over-ability.
- We deserve to be separated from God for all eternity, but He mercifully doesn't give us what we deserve, instead, He graciously gives us the exact opposite — the opportunity to escape the punishment we deserve.

IV. God's Grace in Sanctification

- II Corinthians 3:12-18; Titus 2:11; II Corinthians 12:7-9; Hebrews 4:14-16; James 1; Romans 8
- Whereas Justification is a momentary transaction, Sanctification is a progressive process. It's a process of continual transformation from one degree of glory to another, and it's entirely by God's grace.
- Jesus redeemed us — past tense — to purify us to be zealous for good works — present tense.
- God's grace teaches us to deny sin and live righteously as we keep our eyes fixed on the giver Himself, Jesus Christ. And it's this Sanctifying Grace that enables us to glorify God in the Spirit.
- For the Christian, everything is designed by God to help us grow in our sanctification.
- When we humbly recognize that we cannot be conformed to the image of Christ without the over-abounding grace of Christ, we will live in ceaseless prayer, acknowledging God's expectations and power and maturing through the trial.
- Now, compare your glorious moment of Justification to all of the other glorious moments of Sanctification that have occurred between then and now. And consider how many more glorious moments of Sanctification lie ahead of you in this earthly life.
- Praise God that His grace is sufficient for our every need, otherwise we wouldn't be able to grow in our Sanctification at all.

V. God's Grace in Glorification

- Romans 8:18-25; I Corinthians 5:1-5; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:4; I Corinthians 1:4-9; I John 3:2
- Justification was the past gracious transaction that positionally applied Christ's righteousness to us. Sanctification is the present gracious process through which we practically mature in Christ's righteousness, and Glorification is the future gracious transaction that will practically and perfectly apply Christ's righteousness to us.
- It will be the consummation of God's salvation plan — the moment where our sin nature is destroyed and we — like Christ — will be incapable of sinning for the rest of eternity.
- We need to be eagerly waiting for our coming Savior and the transformation He will bring with Him.
- **We should be eagerly awaiting our Glorification.**
 - It should motivate and consume our daily lives. Every decision we make should be made in light of eternity.
- **We should be eagerly participating in our Sanctification.**
 - How could we be excited about our future conformity to Christ, if we're not excitedly pursuing conformity to Christ right now?
 - Do you remember what John said, *"Everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*
 - Glorification is the final phase of our Sanctification. The maturity we are pursuing now will be realized in eternity.
 - And all of this is possible — our ability to have a relationship with God that results in growth and ultimate maturity is a gracious gift of God.