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Paul speaks of "sound doctrine," which means "healthy or health giving doctrine." This is our mission: producing spiritual health by giving a "window on the word."

Sound Doctrine

Doctrine of Grace

It would be impossible to find a doctrine more germane to the word of God than grace. Man's eternal destiny depends upon his understanding of God's gracious provision of salvation in Christ. Moreover, one's development in the Christian life is based on the imperative "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18)."

The Positive Aspects of Grace

Grace is God's Operating Principle

Ephesians 2:4-5 speaks of "God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us." To an infinite degree, God is both merciful and loving. Turning to the manward side of things we are told we were "dead in our transgressions." God responded to this condition by making us "alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)." God saves man on the grace principle. Grace is unmerited favor extended to the sinner on the basis of the cross work of Christ.

Grace Is the Opposite of Merit

It is helpful to think in terms of the "debt principle" and the "grace principle." In the former, favor is given in return for one's own efforts. In the latter, favor is given on the basis of the merits of Christ.

Romans 4:4 says, "Now to the one who works (the merit principle), his wage is not credited as a favor (the grace principle) but as what is due." (Continued on page 2)

Suggested Studies

1st Timothy - The Importance of Correct Doctrine

It is to Timothy that Paul finally commits his ministry upon his death. I Timothy 4:12-14 and II Timothy 1:6 are indications that Timothy had some potential problems in conducting this ministry. He apparently had a tendency to neglect the exercise of his gift at times and allowed his youthfulness to be misused. Though Paul had a very personal relationship to Timothy, this is set aside in his first letter to Timothy and his apostolic authority is stressed, giving the letter an official tone. I Timothy contains instructions for Christ's servants for all time.

Chester taught a 27-class series on the book of I Timothy. These classes are available on cassette tapes, CD's, or in Mp3 format. They will be sent to you in three separate shipments of 9 classes each if ordered on tape or CD. All 27 classes can be sent on one CD if ordered in Mp3 format. Also available is Chester's commentary on I and II Timothy. If you'd like to order these classes or commentary, please fill out the enclosed order form. Be sure to indicate in which format you'd like your audio classes. Orders can also be placed by emailing them to wtruth@kc.rr.com or calling 1-800-326-4414. In addition, the classes are available for streaming audio or download on our website, www.WordOfTruthKC.org. The commentary is also available for download and is in PDF format. □

The "Grace of God" Booklet

The information in the "Sound Doctrine" article concerning the Doctrine of Grace has been put into a booklet by Chester McCalley called *The Grace of God*. The booklet measures approximately 4 x 6 inches and is just the right size to include in a note to a friend or relative. There is a place to indicate how many of the booklets you'd like on the order form. Mail it to us in the enclosed envelope, call 1-800-326-4414 with your order, or email your order to wtruth@kc.rr.com. □

Grace Is the Condition Under Which Believers Live

Romans 6:14 says we are "not under law but under grace." Notice that not being under the law does not mean we are under nothing. Life under grace is not a "do as you please" matter. Grace disciplines and guides and motivates a believer into conduct pleasing to God.

Titus 2:11-12 speaks of the motivating aspect of grace in "instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age."

Grace Is Manifested in the Cross of Christ

The same passage speaks of "the grace of God (that) has appeared, bringing salvation to all men." Christ bore the guilt and penalty of our sin, satisfying the demands of God's righteousness and creating a grace basis on which man could be saved.

Grace Is Appropriated by Faith Alone

Romans 4:16 says, "For this reason it (salvation) is by faith, that it may be in accordance with grace...." Faith is an act that is not regarded to be in the works category. Romans 4:5 says, it is "to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness." Believing is treated as something other than a work; it stands as opposite of works. Faith is the only valid means of appropriating grace without spoiling it.

Grace Is Inexhaustible

Here is a truth unique to grace: The more grace is used, the more it increases. Appropriating God's grace is like having one's bank account increase every time one withdraws money! John 1:16 says, "For of His (Christ's) fullness we have all received, and grace upon (lit. in exchange for) grace."

Grace Is Never Fully Understood

II Peter 3:18 commands us to "grow in the grace." The word *grow* is a continuous action tense. We are to keep on continuously growing in grace. We never learn it all, there is always more. We can never fully appreciate God's grace because it is inexhaustible.

The Negative Aspects of Grace

Grace Is Not Leniency

Romans 3:24-25 makes clear that the extension of grace is based on the cross work of Christ saying, we are "being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith...."

Grace could not be extended without redemption and propitiation. Both of these entailed the enormous suffering of Christ in His death as the sinner's substitute. The grace that is absolutely free to us was enormously costly to Christ.

Grace Is Not to be Compromised

Romans 11:6 says, "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace."

Any intrusion of human works as a means of obtaining divine blessing destroys grace immediately. If it is by works, it is by works; if it is by grace it is by grace; there is no mixture. □