

A Grace Encounter

Titus 3:5

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.

Have you ever had a moment when you begin to wrestle with the thought: Am I even saved?... Lord am I right with you?...

- As believers it is easy to begin to blur the lines between the work of Justification and Sanctification...

Sanctified: Set apart, Holy

Justified: Made right, blameless. Just if i'd never done it.

- **The work of Sanctification** requires our yieldedness and obedience to the word of God and the Holy Spirit...
- **The work of Justification** takes place with what Jesus did for us on the cross.

We were unable to save ourselves and we still can't.

When we were saved it was the Grace of God that saved us and caused our hearts to be obedient...

It was never the other way around...

The Gospel is not what you can do for God...

The Gospel is this is what God has done for you...

God is gracious, not because of our good merit...

God is gracious, because of His good merit...

There are a lot of things God will require of you...

The Salvation of your soul is not one of them...

There are certain things that are reserved for the work of the Cross only...

Ephesians 2:8,9

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

The Grace of God Invites us In:

Matthew 22

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

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8 “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

Romans 2

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

The Grace of God is for the least of these...

Do you know any least of these...

Do you know any one who is in desperate need of the Lord's Deliverance...

Grace is for them...

The Grace of God finds its way to the least likely:

Luke 18

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee

stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Our Righteousness is not enough...

“For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.” *Romans 3:23*

“For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” *Romans 6:23*

The Grace of God does the Heavy Lifting...

Freely Give:

Matthew 10

7 And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

What was it about Paul’s Message that he had to say things like:

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?” *Romans 6:1*

Paul Preached the Grace of God

He preached to the destitute

to the irreligious

to the pagan

to the prostitute

to the lost and broken

and he preached Salvation by the Grace of God through Faith in Jesus Christ...

He Gave this message liberally and openly to the outcast and the forgotten gentile world that, during his time, was unreached.

He Gave Jesus away Freely...

The Gospel is was intended to be given Freely...

The cost was paid entirely by Jesus himself on the Cross...

Jesus gets all the Glory...