

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TODAY.

>> WELCOME TO GOOD NEWS TODAY, THE PROGRAM WHERE YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND GOOD NEWS, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

>> I'M MARK TESKE, YOUR HOST FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. WE'VE GOT A GREAT PROGRAM, AND HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP. WE'LL BEGIN WITH OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, AND THAT CONSISTS OF OUR SCRIPTURE READING, BEAUTIFUL SINGING, AND A BRIEF STUDY OF OUR SCRIPTURE. TODAY WE'LL BE LOOKING AT ROMANS 6:1-4, A PASSAGE WHERE WE LEARN ABOUT HOW WE CAN ABUSE THE GRACE OF OUR LORD. GET OUT YOUR BIBLES, TURN TO ROMANS 6. I'M GOING TO MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. FOLLOWING OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, FREDDIE CLAYTON JOINS US, AND HE'S URGING US TO COME, REASON TOGETHER. JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT THE ONE WHO NEVER SLEEPS. JOE GUY HAS ANOTHER TRUTH FROM THE TIMELESS TEXT AS HE TALKS ABOUT PRESERVING GOD'S MESSAGE. CHAD DOLLAHITE JOINS US FOR JUST A MINUTE AS HE TALKS ABOUT THE GIFT OF GRACE. AND IN OUR FINAL SEGMENT, WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN: DOES GRACE NEED TO BE APPROPRIATED? THERE'S A LOT OF INFORMATION TODAY ABOUT GOD'S MARVELOUS GRACE, SO I HOPE YOU STAY WITH US. I ALSO HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES OPENED UP TO ROMANS CHAPTER 6, WHERE WE READ BEGINNING AT VERSE 1. WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN? SHALL WE CONTINUE IN SIN THAT GRACE MAY ABOUND? CERTAINLY NOT! HOW SHALL WE WHO DIED TO SIN LIVE ANY LONGER IN IT? OR DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT AS MANY OF US AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST JESUS WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH? THEREFORE WE WERE BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH, THAT JUST AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD BY THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, EVEN SO WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.

>> (SINGING)

>> OUR TEXT FOR TODAY COMES FROM PAUL'S INSPIRED LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME. AND HE SPENT SEVERAL CHAPTERS, THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS, ESTABLISHING THE FACT THAT EVERYONE IS PLAGUED WITH THE PROBLEM OF SIN. HE THEN DEVELOPS THE IDEA OF OBEDIENT FAITH THAT WORKS TO REMOVE THAT PROBLEM OF SIN. AND IN CHAPTER 5, HE DISCUSSES THE NEW LIFE THAT A CHRISTIAN NOW HAS IN CHRIST. AND THAT BRINGS US UP TO THE PASSAGE WE'RE LOOKING AT TODAY. SO THE PASSAGE BEGINS WITH A QUESTION: SHALL WE CONTINUE IN SIN, THAT GRACE MAY ABOUND? YOU SEE, HE'S ALREADY COVERED THE FACT THAT GOD'S GRACE, GOD'S MERCIFUL FORGIVENESS COVERS THE SINS THAT WE'VE DONE. SO HE'S DEALING WITH A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION THAT SOME MAY SAY, WELL, HEY, IF WE SIN MORE, THEN GOD'S GRACE WILL JUST BE EVEN GREATER, AS A WAY OF TRYING TO JUSTIFY THEIR SINFUL ACTIONS. YOU SEE, GOD'S GRACE COVERS THEIR SIN, AND IF THERE'S MORE SIN, GRACE JUST GETS BIGGER. SO DOES THAT MEAN IT'S OKAY TO KEEP ON SINNING, TO KEEP DOING THIS? HIS ANSWER: CERTAINLY NOT! ABSOLUTELY NO. SADLY, ONE TRANSLATION TRANSLATES THAT PHRASE, PUTS IN, GOD FORBID! BUT GOD'S NAME IS NOT THERE IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE AT ALL. THAT'S A EUPHEMISM THAT PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE THERE. BUT HE GOES ON TO EXPLAIN HERE A LITTLE BIT FURTHER WHY WE SHOULDN'T LET THIS HAPPEN. YOU SEE, SINCE WE DIED TO SIN, HOW CAN WE CONTINUE TO LIVE IN IT? IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE, THAT THIS IS WHAT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO GIVE UP. AND THAT DYING TO SIN, THAT'S REPENTANCE. AND AS WE TALK ABOUT WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD: HEAR, BELIEVE, REPENT, CONFESS, AND BE BAPTIZED, THAT REPENTANCE, I'VE MADE A DECISION TO TURN AWAY FROM SIN, TO NOT DO

THAT ANYMORE. SO ONCE WE'VE MADE THAT DECISION, DOES IT MAKE SENSE TO CONTINUE IN SIN? OF COURSE NOT. CERTAINLY NOT. WE'VE MADE A DECISION TO TURN AWAY FROM IT, AND THAT'S CHANGED OUR LIFE, THAT'S CHANGED THE WAY WE LIVE. WE DON'T WANT TO DO THOSE THINGS ANYMORE. SO SINCE WE DON'T WANT TO DO THOSE THINGS AND WE'VE MADE COMMITMENT NOT TO DO THEM, IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO LIVE THAT LIFESTYLE. HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT WE WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH AND RAISED TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE. SO IN OUR REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM, WE'RE ACTING OUT THE DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS. WE SEE THAT PATTERN THAT HE'S ESTABLISHED OF WHAT SAVES US AND THEN WHAT WE DO TO APPROPRIATE THAT GRACE, AND WE SEE THOSE WORK TOGETHER. IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE. SO AS WE PUT THIS TOGETHER AND, AND MAKE APPLICATION OF IT, GOD'S GRACE THAT COVERS OUR SIN IS ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL AND WONDERFUL. THAT IS ONE OF THE GREAT BLESSINGS THAT ANYBODY COULD HAVE; BUT FOR US TO KEEP ON SINNING IS TO ABUSE THAT GRACE. NOTICE PAUL'S INSPIRED WORDS TO TITUS, TITUS CHAPTER 2, BEGINNING AT VERSE 11: FOR THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGS SALVATION HAS APPEARED TO ALL MEN, TEACHING US - HIS GRACE TEACHES US - THAT DENYING UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS, WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY IN THIS PRESENT AGE. GOD'S GRACE TEACHES US TO AVOID SIN. SO WE'RE NOT GOING TO CONTINUE LIVING IN IT; WE'RE GOING TO AVOID IT. THE ATTITUDE OF SOME THAT THEY CAN BE LAX IN THEIR CHRISTIANITY, OH, BECAUSE WE HAVE GRACE, THAT WILL MAKE UP FOR IT, THAT'S NOT A BIBLICAL TEACHING AT ALL; THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT ROMANS 6:1-4 IS TEACHING AGAINST. GRACE IS NOT A LICENSE TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT. GRACE ISN'T AN EXCUSE YOU CAN USE TO NOT BE OBEDIENT TO GOD. GRACE TEACHES US TO BE OBEDIENT. IT'S A WONDERFUL THING. LET'S APPRECIATE IT, THANK GOD FOR IT, BUT NEVER ABUSE IT. AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. NOW FREDDIE CLAYTON JOINS US FROM THE PASTIME PORCH, WHERE HE'S WALKING AND TALKING IN THE LIGHT. HE'S ASKING US TO COME, LET US REASON TOGETHER.

>> TRUTH IS A STRONG FORCE. IT HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM A CONFRONTATION WITH ERROR. IN ENCOUNTERS WITH ERROR, TRUTH WILL ALWAYS PREVAIL, AT LEAST AMONG FAIR-MINDED PEOPLE. WHY IS A SIMPLE AFFIRMATION OF BELIEF IN BIBLICAL MARRIAGE NOW LABELED HATE SPEECH, REGARDLESS OF THE TONE IN WHICH IT'S STATED? NOT THAT LONG AGO, EVERYONE BELIEVED IN ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN FOR LIFE. WHY IS QUOTING A PARTICULAR SCRIPTURE PASSAGE NOW CALLED HATE SPEECH? WE USED TO SPEAK OF AGREEING TO DISAGREE. NOW, THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE ACCEPT BOTH CONTRARY VIEWPOINTS AS VALID; IT JUST MEANS THAT WE CONTINUE REASONABLE, BROTHERLY, RESPECTFUL DISCUSSION ABOUT A DISAGREEMENT WITHOUT RESENTMENT. IN A CONVERSATION WITH A CHRISTIAN FRIEND, WE DISCOVERED WE DIFFERED CONCERNING THAT MATTER WHICH IN THE LONG RUN IS OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE AT ALL. AS THE DIFFERENCE BECOMES OBVIOUS TO BOTH OF US, MY FRIEND SAID, WELL, I GUESS THIS MEANS WE WON'T BE FRIENDS ANYMORE. AN EXTREME CASE? WELL, NO DOUBT; BUT INDICATIVE OF A REAL TREND. NOT ONLY IS IT ASSUMED THAT IF I EXPRESS ANY DIFFERENCE WITH YOU, THEN I HAVE TO HATE YOU, BUT IT ALSO PRESUMES THAT YOU SHOULD HATE ME, TOO. ADMITTEDLY, FRIENDS, I HAVE STRONG CONVICTIONS ABOUT A WIDE VARIETY OF MATTERS, AND I RARELY TALK TO ANYONE VERY LONG WITHOUT FINDING SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH WE DO NOT AGREE. I'M NOT READY, HOWEVER, TO HATE OR TO BE HATED BY EVERYONE ELSE BUT ME. SEXUAL RELATIONS OF MEN WITH MEN AND WOMEN WITH WOMEN ARE PLAINLY DECLARED BY THE BIBLE TO BE SIN. I BELIEVE THE BIBLE. HOWEVER, I DO NOT HATE THOSE INVOLVED IN SUCH ACTIVITY. I AM FORBIDDEN BY THAT SAME BIBLE TO ENGAGE IN HATEFUL ACTIVITIES TOWARDS THEM, AND I DO NOT WANT TO BE HATED BY THEM. I ALSO AM RESTRICTED FROM PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING THAT WHICH IS IDENTIFIED BY THE LORD AS SINFUL AND AS A BARRIER TO ETERNAL LIFE

WHEN ENGAGED THEREIN. WHATEVER HAPPENED TO COME, LET US REASON TOGETHER, SAITH THE LORD? BRETHREN AND FRIENDS, A FAILURE TO SO ENGAGE IS SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE.

>> I AGREE WITH FREDDIE. WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE POINT WHERE PEOPLE WHO DISAGREE CAN SIT DOWN AND TALK THINGS THROUGH. TOO OFTEN. PEOPLE REPLACE REASONED DISCOURSE WITH ACCUSATIONS AGAINST SOMEONE WHO DISAGREES WITH HIM. IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, A PERSON WHO REFUSES TO SIT DOWN AND REASON WITH HIS NEIGHBOR IS BY VERY DEFINITION UNREASONABLE. THANKS, FREDDIE. WELL, IT'S TIME TO GRAB A PIECE OF PAPER AND SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH SO YOU CAN TAKE DOWN OUR CONTACT INFORMATION. YOU CAN USE IT TO ENROLL IN OUR FREE BIBLE COURSE THAT'S GRADED BY ONE OF THE MANY VOLUNTEER TEACHERS FROM THE DUNLAP CHURCH OF CHRIST THAT OVERSEES THIS WORK. THOSE VOLUNTEERS DO AN EXCELLENT JOB, AND WE TRULY APPRECIATE THEIR EFFORTS. YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT US AND ASK A QUESTION. WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR AUDIENCE AND HAVE A VOLUNTEER WHO DOES A GREAT JOB IN ANSWERING THOSE QUESTIONS. THAT'S IN ADDITION TO OUR SPEAKERS WHO ANSWER MANY DIFFERENT QUESTIONS DURING THE PROGRAM. JIM DEARMAN IS GOING TO JOIN US IN JUST A MOMENT.

>> YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT GOOD NEWS TODAY. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FREE BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT US. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. AGAIN, THAT'S GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. YOU MAY PREFER TO E-MAIL US AT GOODNEWSTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. THAT'S GOODNEWSTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. OR CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-384-7221. THAT'S 1-877-384-7221. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. HEARING FROM OUR AUDIENCE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TO US.

>> THE EASIEST WAY TO ENROLL IN OUR BIBLE COURSE IS ON OUR WEBSITE AT GNTTV.ORG. JUST CLICK WHERE IT SAYS BIBLE COURSE, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION, AND WE'LL GET IT OUT TO YOU. WHILE YOU'RE ON OUR WEBSITE, YOU CAN SEE VIDEOS OF OUR CURRENT AND ARCHIVED PROGRAMS THERE. THERE'S SECTIONS FOR EACH OF OUR SEGMENTS, SO YOU CAN WATCH YOUR FAVORITES ON DEMAND. THERE MAY ALSO BE SOME SEGMENTS FROM YEARS GONE BY THAT YOU MISS AND YOU'D LIKE TO SEE AGAIN. WE'VE GOT SEVERAL OF THOSE IN THE SECTION ENTITLED GOOD NEWS TODAY FROM YESTERYEAR. THERE'S SO MANY VIDEOS AVAILABLE THERE FOR YOU TO ENJOY. WE'RE ALSO PLEASED TO PARTNER WITH TRUTH.FM TO BRING YOU A 24/7 STREAM OF GOOD NEWS TODAY ON THEIR WEBSITE. IN ADDITION TO THE GOOD NEWS TODAY CHANNEL, THEY ALSO HAVE SEVERAL OTHERS THAT ALL CONTAIN EXCELLENT BIBLE LESSONS. NOW HERE'S JIM DEARMAN WITH SOME SOUND WORDS FOR US ABOUT THE ONE WHO NEVER SLEEPS.

>> A MOTHER AND HER LITTLE FOUR-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER WERE GETTING READY FOR BED. THE CHILD WAS AFRAID OF THE DARK; AND THE MOTHER, BEING ALONE WITH HER DAUGHTER, WAS A LITTLE UNEASY ALSO. WHEN THE LIGHT WAS OUT, THE LITTLE GIRL CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE MOON OUTSIDE THE WINDOW. MOTHER, SHE ASKED, IS THE MOON GOD'S LIGHT? YES, SAID THE MOTHER. THE DAUGHTER'S NEXT QUESTION WAS, WILL GOD PUT OUT HIS LIGHT AND GO TO SLEEP? THE MOTHER REPLIED, NO, DARLING. GOD NEVER GOES TO SLEEP. THEN OUT OF THE SIMPLICITY OF A CHILD'S FAITH, THE LITTLE GIRL SAID SOMETHING THAT GAVE REASSURANCE TO THE FEARFUL MOTHER. SHE SAID, WELL, AS LONG AS GOD IS AWAKE, THERE'S NO SENSE IN BOTH OF US STAYING AWAKE. GOD IS ALWAYS NEAR AND IS ALWAYS READY TO HELP THOSE WHO WILL TURN TO HIM IN SIMPLE OBEDIENT FAITH.

>> WHAT A BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT FROM A FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILD. THANKS, JIM. HAVE YOU EVER MISSED AN EPISODE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY AND WISH YOU COULD WATCH IT? THERE'S A FEW WAYS YOU CAN DO THAT: THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, OR YOUTUBE. YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD OUR APP TO WATCH ON YOUR PHONE, TELEVISION, OR TABLET. THE PROGRAM IS THERE EVERY SUNDAY, SO YOU NEVER HAVE TO MISS AN EPISODE. AND REMEMBER, THOSE APPS ARE ALWAYS FREE. WELL, IT'S TIME TO HEAD OVER TO THE PASTIME PORCH, WHERE JOE GUY IS WAITING FOR US WITH ANOTHER TRUTH FROM THE TIMELESS TEXT. TODAY HE'S TALKING ABOUT PRESERVING GOD'S MESSAGE.

>> YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A LOT OF OLD JUNK IN OUR HOUSE, OR SO STEPHANIE SAYS. WHEN IT COMES TO FAMILY HEIRLOOMS, I SEEM TO BE THE MAIN COLLECTOR OF ALL THE OLD ITEMS ONCE OWNED BY MY ANCESTORS. FROM ALL SIDES OF MY FAMILY, I'VE WOUND UP WITH OLD FAMILY BIBLES, HANDMADE TOOLS, OLD LETTERS, PICTURES, GUNS, FURNITURE, BLANKETS, DISHES, AND ALL SORTS OF THINGS THAT JUST TAKE UP A LOT OF ROOM IN OUR HOME. BUT THIS JUNK IS ALL IMPORTANT TO ME, AND I CARE FOR THOSE ITEMS AS MY PARENTS AND MY GRANDFATHERS AND MY GRANDMOTHERS CARED FOR THEM, AND I'VE HELD ONTO THEM SO THAT ONE DAY I CAN PASS THEM ON TO MY OWN SONS OR GRANDKIDS OR OTHER RELATIVES WHO APPRECIATE THE HISTORY AND THE STORIES BEHIND THEM. WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT GOD'S MESSAGE HAS BEEN PRESERVED FOR US. IT'S BEEN KEPT, FOUGHT FOR, PROTECTED AND PRESERVED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS SO WE AS INDIVIDUALS CAN TODAY HOLD IT IN OUR HANDS, READ IT, AND HEAR AND RECEIVE THE ETERNAL MESSAGE OF SALVATION. IN 1ST PETER 1:10-11, PETER NOTES THIS REMARKABLE FACT. HE SAYS THAT THE PROPHETS INQUIRED AND SEARCHED CAREFULLY INTO WHAT WAS REVEALED TO THEM, AND FORETOLD OF GOD'S GRACE THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY COME TO US THROUGH CHRIST. HE REMINDS US THAT THE OLD TESTAMENT WRITERS EVEN TESTIFIED OF CHRIST AND HIS SUFFERINGS LONG BEFORE THOSE EVENTS ACTUALLY HAPPENED, EVEN THOUGH THEY DID NOT PHYSICALLY KNOW CHRIST, EXAMPLES OF WHICH ARE CLEARLY SEEN IN ISAIAH 52 AND PSALMS 22. READ THOSE CHAPTERS. IT'S AMAZING HOW CLOSELY THEY PREDICTED CHRIST'S SUFFERING A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE IT EVEN HAPPENED. IT'S AS IF THEY WERE LOOKING A THOUSAND YEARS DIRECTLY INTO THE FUTURE AND WITNESSING THE EVENTS THEMSELVES. HE GOES ON TO REMIND US THAT THE MESSAGE WAS REVEALED TO THE PROPHETS, AND THEY WROTE THAT MESSAGE DOWN, NOT FOR THEMSELVES, BUT TO US THEY WERE MINISTERING THE THINGS WHICH NOW HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO YOU THROUGH THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL. THEY WROTE AND TALKED SO THAT YOU AND I WOULD KNOW GOD'S PLAN, SO WE WOULD KNOW THE GOSPEL STORY AND HAVE EVERYTHING THAT WE NEED RELATING TO LIFE AND TO GODLINESS. PAUL TELLS US MUCH THE SAME THING IN EPHESIANS 3:3-5, WHERE HE SAYS HE RECEIVED GOD'S MESSAGE THROUGH REVELATION, WROTE THOSE THINGS DOWN SO THAT WHEN WE READ THEM, WE CAN UNDERSTAND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. WE OWE THOSE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS A GREAT DEBT, AS WE DO ALL WHO HAVE WORKED TO KEEP THE GOSPEL STORY ALIVE AND ACCESSIBLE DOWN THROUGH THE AGES. AND NOW IT'S UP TO US TO CONTINUE THAT HERITAGE TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT MESSAGE IS IMPORTANT TO US SO THE TRUTH OF GOD'S TIMELESS TEXT CONTINUES TO BE TOLD. I'M JOE GUY. THANK YOU FOR VISITING.

>> THANKS, JOE. IF YOU EVER HAVE ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU'D LIKE TO ASK US, WE'RE READY TO OPEN UP THE BIBLE AND GIVE YOU AN ANSWER. SEND US A LETTER OR AN EMAIL WITH YOUR QUESTION, AND WE'LL GET YOU THAT ANSWER. WE MAY EVEN ANSWER IT IN ONE OF OUR PROGRAMS. IF YOU LISTEN TO PODCASTS, WE'VE GOT SOME GREAT NEWS FOR YOU. GOOD NEWS TODAY HAS FOUR PODCASTS. THERE'S A NEW EPISODE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME THAT COMES OUT EVERY

MORNING, AND IT'S A GREAT WAY TO START YOUR DAY IN THE WORD OF GOD. ON SUNDAY, THE WEEK'S PROGRAM IS RELEASED AS A PODCAST CALLED GOOD NEWS TODAY WEEKLY. IN ADDITION, PODCASTS ENTITLED SOUND WORDS WITH JIM DEARMAN AND HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION ARE RELEASED AS WELL. ALL OF THESE PODCASTS ARE AVAILABLE WHEREVER YOU GET YOUR PODCASTS. NOW, CHAD DOLLAHITE JOINS US FOR JUST A MINUTE, AND HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE GIFT OF GRACE.

>> MAY I HAVE JUST A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME? I HEARD ABOUT A CHURCH THAT WAS HAVING AN ARGUMENT AMONG THEIR MEMBERS ABOUT GRACE. SOME OF THE MEMBERS FELT LIKE SALVATION WAS 80% GRACE, 20% OUR PART. ANOTHER GROUP FELT LIKE SALVATION WAS 80% OUR PART, 20% GRACE. THAT CHURCH EVENTUALLY SPLIT. AND YOU KNOW, THE SAD THING IS THEY BOTH WERE WRONG. SALVATION IS 100% GRACE. AND THAT'S WHAT PAUL IS POINTING OUT IN EPHESIANS 2:8, FOR BY GRACE ARE YOU SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD. BUT DON'T MISUNDERSTAND. WHEN A GIFT IS OFFERED, COMPLYING WITH THE GIVER'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS DOES NOT NEGATE A GIFT BEING A GIFT. OH, SALVATION IS THE FREE GIFT OF GOD; BUT HE TELLS US TO RECEIVE THAT GIFT, WE MUST BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST AS LORD; WE MUST TURN AWAY FROM SIN, TURN AWAY FROM SELF AND TO THE SAVIOR, WE MUST CONFESS JESUS AS LORD, AND WE MUST BE IMMERSSED IN WATER FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. CHRISTIANS ARE THEN CALLED UPON TO LIVE HOLY LIVES THAT REFLECT GRATITUDE FOR THAT UNSPEAKABLE GIFT. JESUS OFFERS SALVATION 100% THROUGH GRACE; BUT HAVE YOU COMPLIED WITH HIS WILL TO RECEIVE THAT GREATEST GIFT OF ALL? I'M CHAD DOLLAHITE, AND THIS IS JUST A MINUTE.

>> THANKS, CHAD. IN JUST A MOMENT, WE'LL GIVE OUR BIBLE QUESTION TO ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN.

>> (SINGING)

>> NOW WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY AND TROY: DOES GRACE NEED TO BE APPROPRIATED?

>> ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR THE GRACE THAT GOD EXTENDS?

>> YOU KNOW, I REALLY AM, BECAUSE HOW WONDERFUL IS GOD'S GRACE?

>> OH, IT'S WONDERFUL. THE BEST AMOUNT OF GRACE THAT ONE COULD EVER HOPE TO RECEIVE, RIGHT? AND SO THE QUESTION THAT WE HAVE BEFORE US TODAY IS, DOES THAT GRACE NEED TO BE APPROPRIATED? DOES GRACE NEED TO BE APPROPRIATED IS THE QUESTION THAT'S BEING ASKED.

>> THAT'S INTERESTING. I WONDER WHAT THEY MEAN BY THAT?

>> WELL, IT'S KIND OF DIFFICULT TO BE ABLE TO TELL WHAT ANGLE THEY'RE COMING FROM AND WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN BY THAT. BUT WE WILL GO OFF OF THE WORD WHICH THEY CHOSE TO USE, WHICH IS APPROPRIATED AND TRY OUR BEST TO DEFINE OUR TERMS AND GIVE THE BEST ANSWER THAT WE CAN ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY'VE ASKED. SO THAT WORD APPROPRIATE HAS THREE DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS FOR IT, SO THAT'S WHY WE SAY IT'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT ONE FOR US. BUT THE FIRST ONE WOULD BE FOR ONE TO SET APART OR TO ASSIGN FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR FOR A PARTICULAR USE. AS WELL, TO TAKE EXCLUSIVE POSSESSION OF WOULD BE THE SECOND DEFINITION. AND THEN THE THIRD DEFINITION WOULD BE TO TAKE OR TO MAKE USE OF SOMETHING WITHOUT THE RIGHT TO DO SO, MEANING YOU

DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DO IT, BUT YOU TAKE IT AND YOU USE IT FOR WHATEVER USE YOU WANT TO.

>> I SEE. WELL, THAT'S INTERESTING, BECAUSE BY USING IT - AND TYPICALLY IN OUR SOCIETY TODAY, YOU HEAR THAT WORD APPROPRIATE A LOT; AND A LOT OF TIMES THAT MEANS THAT THEY'VE TAKEN SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T BELONG TO THEM AND TRYING TO USE IT. AND IN THAT CASE, THAT MAKES ME THINK OF WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF GRACE? JUST LIKE GOD IS LOVE THAT WE READ ABOUT IN JOHN 4, GOD IS ALSO MERCIFUL, HE'S ALSO GRACIOUS. IN FACT, 1ST PETER 2:3 SAYS, WHY DO YOU TEST THE LORD IF YOU HAVE TASTED THE LORD IS GRACIOUS? SO WE'VE GOT TO LOOK AT THE SOURCE OF WHO HAS GRACE.

>> RIGHT. SO WE DON'T HAVE THAT ABILITY TO TAKE THAT FROM GOD AT ALL OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. BUT THERE'S TWO PARTS TO THIS. THERE'S TWO PARTS AND TWO WAYS IN WHICH WE WANT TO ANSWER THIS. ONE, WE CAN SAY THAT NO, IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE APPROPRIATED, BECAUSE AS WE SAID, WE DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO GIVE OR TO TAKE THAT IN THE WAY THAT GOD GIVES IT. SO GOD'S GRACE IS UNLIMITED, RIGHT? IT'S UNLIMITED, UNMERITED. THAT'S WHAT GRACE MEANS, UNMERITED FAVOR WHICH COMES FROM GOD. AND THAT'S HIS MERCY THAT HE SHOWED TO US. AND IN TITUS 2:11, THE GRACE OF GOD IS THROUGH SALVATION WHICH HE EXTENDED TO ALL OF MANKIND. SO WE RECOGNIZE THAT GRACE IS EXTENDED TO EVERY MAN, EVERY INDIVIDUAL UPON THIS EARTH. AND SO THAT'S WHY WE SAY IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE APPROPRIATED, NUMBER ONE. BUT THEN ON THE OTHER SIDE, NUMBER TWO, IT DOES NEED TO BE APPROPRIATED, RIGHT?

>> YEAH.

>> BECAUSE OF THAT GRACE THAT HE EXTENDS WHICH IS IN SALVATION. IF WE WANT TO APPROPRIATE, IF YOU WILL, AND TAKE HOLD AND TAKE POSSESSION OF ALL OF THE BENEFITS THAT'S INSIDE OF GRACE THAT GOD EXTENDS, THEN IT COMES BY SALVATION, WHICH COMES BY THE GOSPEL, COMES BY WAY OF THE GOSPEL.

>> ABSOLUTELY. AND I THINK THERE'S ANOTHER ASPECT TO IT, THAT IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE, WHICH WE ALL DO, WE ALL WANT THAT GRACE, WE ALSO NEED TO EXTEND IT TO OTHERS.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> BECAUSE JESUS SAYS IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY SHALL RECEIVE MERCY. AND THEN EVEN IN THE DISCIPLES' PRAYER, WHEN HE'S TEACHING THEM ABOUT PRAYER, HE SAYS THAT IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE MEN THEIR TRESPASSES, NEITHER WILL YOUR FATHER FORGIVE YOUR TRESPASS. YOU HAVE TO FORGIVE IF YOU WANT TO BE FORGIVEN. SO I THINK IT ALSO GOES BACK TO THAT, THAT IF YOU WANT GOD'S GRACE, YOU HAVE TO EXTEND IT TO OTHERS.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, HE GIVES GRACE, WE ALSO LIKEWISE NEED TO EXTEND GRACE AS WELL. SO TWO PARTS TO THAT, AS WE SAID. THERE'S THE FIRST ONE WHERE WE UNDERSTAND, AS WE SAID, IT'S THE WORD APPROPRIATED

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>> YEAH, IT'S THE WORD. HOW DO YOU USE THAT WORD, YEAH.

>> - THAT'S CAUSING THE CONFLICT. SO, ON ONE HAND, NO; THEN ON THE OTHER HAND, YES, WE DO WANT TO MAKE SURE WE APPROPRIATE THAT BY BEING ABLE TO TAKE FULL POSSESSION OF THE GRACE THAT GOD EXTENDS AND BY WAY OF OBEDIENCE IN THE GOSPEL, WE CAN HAVE SALVATION.

>> AMEN.

>> THEY DID A GREAT JOB OF COVERING THAT QUESTION, BECAUSE THERE'S DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF THE WORD APPROPRIATE, AND THE ANSWER DEPENDS ON WHICH DEFINITION YOU USE. THANKS, GUYS. WE'VE GOT A LOT OF MATERIAL THAT WE'VE COVERED IN THIS EPISODE DEALING WITH THE SUBJECT OF GRACE. AND WE'D ENCOURAGE YOU TO ALWAYS CHECK ALL RELIGIOUS TEACHING AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD, SEE IF THESE THINGS ARE REALLY THE CASE. BE LIKE THOSE BEREANS IN ACTS 17:11 AND SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES TO CHECK AND MAKE SURE THESE THINGS ARE TRUE. IF YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR OUR PROGRAM AGAIN, HAVE SOME EXTRA TIME TO CHECK THOSE SCRIPTURES FOR YOURSELF, WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO DO THAT. YOU CAN DO IT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, OUR APPS, OR OUR PODCASTS. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, CONTACT US. REMEMBER, WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY