

Salvation and Grace

Salvation

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This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:22–24

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Ephesians 5:5 (NIV)

5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Sermon Thesis:

The salvation of God is a gift that should make men blush.

Introduction:

Grace is the Greek word charis. It carries several meanings that we attempt to lock down from a religious perspective. Grace is something we all want but struggle to give. That struggle speaks to our depravity in human weakness. One way to come into an understanding of Grace is to see it as a gift. This gift of salvation is not received by all mankind. It is a gift lavished on man that is difficult for him to understand. Yet we must understand that this disproportionate gift of salvation is grounded in God's grace.

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Sermon Outline:

- A. Salvation is grounded in God's Grace.
- B. The Apostle John reveals to us in the Gospel that bears his name...

John 1:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

- C. In the Hellenistic world, the culture in the day of the writing of the Gospel of John. Grace carried two meanings:
 - 1. The demonstration of a ruler's favor...
 - 2. Substantial power inclusive of supernatural power like that of love.
- D. The culture saw grace when it was extended as a gift.
- E. Needless to say salvation is a gift the grace of God. Preaching the Gospel enforces the power and the nature of this gift.

Acts 15:11 (NIV)

¹¹ No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

- F. Men ought to consider their position where grace is concerned.
- G. Understanding where we stand will help us to live in God's grace.

Romans 5:15–17 (NIV)

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

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- H. The one man brought about the sin of many. One man has many sins and the gift of the one man can bring the forgiveness of those sins. His righteousness brings the forgiveness of sins to many.
- I. Remaining in the appropriate position with the grace of God do not treat it with contempt.

2 Corinthians 6:1–2 (NIV)

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says,

“In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.”

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

- J. God as ruler has allowed a favorable judgment on our behalf, one we do not observe.
 - 1. We must never forget it.
 - 2. We must extend it to others as it has been extended to us.
- K. God's Righteousness At Christ Expense was prepared while we were yet sinners and unappreciative of the that gift.

Ephesians 1:5–8 (NIV)

⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,

- L. Salvation is not the gift of an afterthought. Salvation is a lavish gift, the kind that should make us blush with embarrassment and gratitude.
- M. We cannot take credit for God's grace. We do not take credit for the gifts we receive.

Ephesians 2:4–10 (NIV)

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⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 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. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- N. We acted like those who you do not want to give gifts to.
- O. We act like those who do not deserve a favorable ruling.
- P. Our Lord abundantly, lavishly loves us extending grace to the worst of us.

1 Timothy 1:14–15 (NIV)

¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

- Q. Are we better than Paul? What is your position in according to this charis of God?
- R. As we speak and proclaim today, this gift of God is still available for the world.

Titus 2:11 (NIV)

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

- S. It appears like the gift that makes no sense.
- T. It is peculiar to worldly wisdom; its teachings make no earthly sense.
- U. The form of this salvation is spiritual and we are carnal.

Titus 3:4–7 (NIV)

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of

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rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

- V. Baptism is peculiar, a means to receive the gift of God that carnal minds cannot comprehend.
- W. A burial into the death of the one man who brings the forgiveness of sins. We are not baptized so that we can die. We are baptized so that we might live.

Hebrews 2:9 (NIV)

⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

- X. Jesus has already tasted death for us because of our sins. Why don't you decide to live for Him and receive the gift of His grace?

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Conclusion:

We will receive many gifts in our lifetime. None will be like the grace of God. None will be so disproportionate to our expectations. None will bring us the everlasting joy that salvation will bring. Today why not accept the favorable ruling and charis of God?

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Invitation:

Romans 10:17 (NIV) HEAR

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) BELIEVE

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Luke 13:3 (NIV) REPENT

³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Acts 17:30 (NIV) REPENT

³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

Acts 26:20 (NIV) REPENT

²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

Romans 10:9–10 (NIV) CONFESS

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV) CONFESS

¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Matthew 10:32–33 (NIV) CONFESS

³² “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

Acts 2:38 (NIV) BAPTISM

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:3–4 (NIV) BAPTISM

³ Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

1 Peter 3:21 (NIV) BAPTISM

²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Revelation 2:10 (NIV) FAITHFUL; STEADFAST

¹⁰ Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.