

GRACE BY ANY OTHER NAME IS STILL GRACE

Romans 5:1-2

Introduction: Some people do indeed have some strange and peculiar ideas about the things of God. For instance "GRACE." It is admitted that God exercises "grace" which can be defined as God's unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor, in offering salvation to those who would believe in His Son, Jesus. Some want to add that man has to help in salvation by doing something alongside God's grace. Some think that God's grace is adequate to save man but not to keep man saved and someone saved could become "unsaved" because God's grace was just to save a person, not to keep that person saved. How strange. How wrong! The grace of God that can save in a moment, by the same process will save forever.

I. GRACE THAT KEEPS IS THE SAME AS THE GRACE THAT SAVES

1. With saving grace the condemnation of man is disposed of. (*1 John 1:7; 2:2*)
 - Sin is sin, no matter who commits it.
 - The death of Jesus Christ and His shed blood covered **all** sin.
 - Those condemned, lost, doomed, damned are so because of **unbelief** in Jesus Christ.
 - If sin can unsave, then anybody can be saved or lost at any moment for Christians also sin.
 - **Christ's blood overcomes sin, not sin overcomes Christ's blood!**
2. With saving grace obligation is disposed of.
 - Is God obligated to keep one saved if he/she is loyal?
 - How can a person be sure he/she has fulfilled all duties?
 - Where in the Bible does it say that a person is obligated to pay for salvation?
 - **Grace is free, it is not an exchange program!**
3. With saving grace human merit is disposed of.
 - God has declared that everybody is sinful and none are worthy in the first place to be saved.
 - **Salvation is from God's goodness, not man's!**

II. GOD INTENDS TO KEEP SAVED ALL WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

1. God's purpose for man is to save, transform and glorify him/her into Christ's image.
2. God's promises are not limited to a moment or a period of time of salvation, but His promise of salvation is that it is forever.
3. Grace encompasses time and all the believer's conditions after belief in Jesus Christ.

III. GOD HAS ALREADY ANTICIPATED AND PROVIDED FOR EVERY POSSIBLE CONDITION OR SITUATION IN MAN'S SALVATION

1. God is well able to keep a person saved. God is total power and the source of all power.

2. God's motive for saving man is love.
 - If God loves the unsaved who are enemies, how much more does He love the believer who has been justified and reconciled.
3. Jesus Christ prays for believers. (*John 17:9-12*)
 - How secure is one for whom Jesus prays?
4. Jesus Christ's substitutionary death.
 - It removed sin's barrier and condemnation. Who therefore condemns the saved?
5. Jesus Christ's resurrection.
 - Jesus was the firstborn and believers are reborn, thus becoming like Him.
6. Jesus Christ's intercession.
 - Jesus guards and acts on the believer's behalf whether the believer knows it or not.
7. Jesus Christ's present advocacy.
 - Jesus does not make excuses for the believer's sins, but presents His own blood as payment.
8. The Holy Spirit's regenerating work.
 - The Holy Spirit brings rebirth, new life, a new nature to the believer that is never removed.
9. The Holy Spirit's indwelling. (*John 14:16*)
 - The Holy Spirit lives within the believer to present him/her to God. He can be quenched but not driven away.
10. Baptism with the Holy Spirit. (*1 Corinthians 12:13*)
 - Baptism with the Holy Spirit unites the believer with Jesus Christ, becoming a part of all that Jesus ever was and ever will be. God sees the believer as a part of Christ.
11. Sealing with the Holy Spirit. (*Ephesians 1:13; 4:30*)
 - The Holy Spirit marks the believer as belonging to God.
12. God's new covenant.
 - God declares that "*...whosoever believes in His only begotten Son, Jesus, shall have eternal life...*"

CONCLUSION:

1. Should/if one believer were to ever be lost again, then all is in vain.
2. The idea of losing one's salvation is not of God, it is of Satan and man's twisted, unbelieving way of thinking.
3. **Grace by any other name is still Grace!**