

## **GRACE IS EXPENSIVE**

### **2 Corinthians 6:1-2**

**Introduction:** We sing "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me, I was once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see..." The hymn "Amazing Grace" has become very popular and is played even on bagpipes. Just about everyone is familiar with that grand old tune, but not everyone is familiar with the words or the reason the hymn was written.

Paul, the apostle, mentioned "grace" at least 130 times in his writings and always began and ended his writings with the wonderful word of "grace." It is in sense the greatest word in the Bible because it most truly expresses God's character and attitude toward mankind. "Grace" means to "give pleasure", to the giver and to the receiver. Grace reveals the quality of graciousness of the giver and a quality of gratitude of the receiver. In the simplest terms, "grace" is God's favor to the sinner, shown by being approved to receive His gift of eternal life, salvation.

### **I. THERE HAS BEEN A FALSE EMPHASIS/INTERPRETATION OF GRACE**

1. Christianity has become, on a large scale, an ethical system and grace has been created by people and not by God.
  - As Christianity spread, the costliness of grace faded.
  - Many have the idea that Christian duties assure one of his/her forgiveness of sins.
  - For many, there is the belief that being justified, enables them to sin as much as they want, for all has been taken care of, past, present and future, so all sin is already taken care of.
2. The thought of "cheap grace" is that one's account has been paid for in advance and there is nothing a person has to do for all has been done already.
  - Some believe that grace is a "doctrine, a principle, a system."
  - Grace has been made to mean justification of sin without the sinner having to change nothing and can go on living as before, that all the world has been justified by grace, so one can continue to live as the rest of the world.
  - Sadly, countless are comforted and assured in their possession of "cheap grace," a "grace" that does everything but is in reality a false grace.
3. Shamefully and sadly preachers have preached about an unending stream of God's grace, a grace without discipline, a grace without the cross, a grace without Jesus Christ. A false grace.

### **II. THE COSTLINESS OF GRACE IS SELDOM PREACHED ABOUT OR EVEN MENTIONED**

1. How much does grace really cost?
  - To experience God's grace, a person must respond to God's call.
  - As a pearl of great price, as a treasure discovered in one's field, leaving one's nets, a person has to make a decision.
  - Grace is the gospel offered over and over, a gift asked for, a door which is opened at a knock.

2. Grace is costly because much is involved.
  - Grace calls the believer to follow Jesus.
  - Grace calls for the believer to surrender his/her all in order to live as God wants.
  - Grace condemns a person's sin but grace justifies the sinner.
  - Grace compels a person to submit to the "yoke" of Jesus, to follow Him.
3. Grace is costly because it cost God His Son. God didn't think giving His Son too dear or great a price to pay for our lives, but delivered Him for us.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Grace is expensive.
  - It costs us our lives.
  - It is not a kind of forgiveness of sin which frees us to sin as we want.
  - We are called into discipleship with Jesus Christ.
  - It cost God His only Son.
  - It cost Jesus Christ death on a cross and having our sins heaped upon Him which He paid the penalty for.
2. When thinking of "grace" remember that it calls for surrender, for response on our part and it looks down from the cross to mankind. Grace is costly.
3. Sing that grand old hymn, "Amazing Grace" and think of how much it cost to be able to offer it.