

THREE THINGS ABSENT IN GRACE

Romans 5:12-21; 11:5-6; Ephesians 2:8-9

Introduction: Man is indeed a strange creature and wants to "have his hand in everything." People sing about hymns like "Amazing Grace," "It is Finished," etc., and then turn right around and try to add or take away from God's grace and salvation. Why do some think that God needs their help and that they need to add to or correct some of God's doings, such as salvation by Grace and Grace alone? "Believe in Jesus, but.....," " be baptized, and...."etc. God has made it perfectly clear that He needs none of our help in what He has already done for our salvation. Looking at God's Grace, there are three things conspicuously absent.

I. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO RECOGNITION OF HUMAN GUILT

1. Grace MUST be free! If there is the slightest hint of human demerit, it is not grace. It is not grace if it is withheld for any reason of human fault or weakness.
2. *Isaiah 53:6* - Jesus Christ banished human unworthiness while at the Cross.
 - Sin and demerit of human lives was totally removed by Jesus while at the Cross.
 - *"...The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all..."*
3. Grace waits for Justice for Justice removes EVERY barrier between God and mankind.
4. There is no such thing as God's justice being partly satisfied.
 - There is no such thing as God being partly free to act in Grace.
5. Only by the ABSOLUTE removal of ALL obstacles has the way been made clear for TOTAL GRACE SALVATION.
6. This is the Gospel! This is the GOOD NEWS!

II. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO RECOGNITION OF HUMAN OBLIGATION

1. It is not Grace if the slightest human obligation is required for payment. Grace is FAVOR, a Gift.
 - *John 10:28; Romans 6:23*
2. For Grace to work, God has eliminated every work of man, past, present, future, from Salvation.
 - *Ephesians 2:8; Romans 3:24*
3. Salvation can be had only as a Gift. "Belief" is man's part! God must be Free to offer Grace.

III. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO RECOGNITION OF ANY HUMAN MERIT WHATSOEVER

1. God has pronounced condemnation on the Whole human race. Nobody is better or worse, all stand condemned, guilty and lost.
2. People do have standards, moral laws, etc., BUT not relative to God's declaration of sinful man.

3. Jesus Christ's death took care of Sin which condemned man, therefore what condemns people today is NOT sinful acts, BUT unbelief in Jesus Christ. *John 3:18*
4. The Holy Spirit during conviction of a lost sinner does not shame or blame that person about his/her sins - just ONE SIN - that of unbelief. *John 16:9*
5. God offers but ONE remedy - GRACE.
 - People are either totally condemned or perfectly, eternally saved.
 - People are either in Jesus Christ or they are lost.
6. Grace is all that God can do for man and all that needs to be done for man - ever.
7. God's ultimate plan is for redeemed man to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Therefore there can be no human touch in any way, all must be totally divine. The very best human effort would but mar and spoil God's work of Grace.

CONCLUSION:

1. Human sin, human obligation, human merit have all been disposed of and are useless in God's Grace.
2. God is free to give His Grace to whosoever will believe in Jesus Christ and that's GOOD NEWS.
3. Grace is finished, complete and has no human touch whatsoever and is permanent, eternal.