

The Grace of God in the Daily Life

Introduction

- A. The Christian, walking in fellowship with God, understands the need of the grace of God for his daily life. Without the power of God – the believer will know only failure and defeat.
- B. It is encouraging to realize that the terms "grace" and "power" cannot be separated in the Scripture when the question has to do with the source of power or the effect of grace.
- C. Every believer struggles with the problems related to living the Christian life. A Biblical understanding of the grace of God will enable him to be more successful, more fruitful, more joyful, and more like the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. The Principle of Grace

A. The clarifying question.

0 foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect in the flesh? Gal. 3:1-3

Comment: The apostle asks his converts to think back to the days when he was with them and the time they became believers. The issue has to do with how they became Christians and in that moment received the promise of the Holy Spirit. They could not say it was through the observance of the law. Paul's point here is a reminder that one cannot earn the grace of God or any spiritual benefit by the principle of keeping the law.

B. The instructive answer.

He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? . . . Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. Gal. 3:5,7

Comment: By the term "hearing of faith" Paul is reminding the people at Galatia of the principle of grace. Because of grace – all the benefits of divine love are given as a gift – they can only be received (Eph. 1:3; II Peter 1:3). The false teachers had led these converts into the error of thinking one had to earn spiritual benefits and that the procedure was like an installment plan.

C. The encouraging summary.

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision (works of law) availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision (emotionalism), but faith which worketh by love. Gal. 5:6

II. The Provision of Grace

- A. The person of the Holy Spirit. (He has come to glorify Christ).

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Gal. 5:16

- B. The power of the Holy Spirit. (He has come to apply the atonement).

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh, and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Gal. 5:17,18

- C. The purpose of the Holy Spirit. (He has come to make us like Christ).

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith (faithfulness)., meekness, temperance (self-control), against such there is no law. Gal. 5:22,23

III. The Picture of Grace

- A. Grace is portrayed in a relationship.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. Gal. 5:24

- B. Grace is portrayed in a historical death.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. Gal. 5:24

- C. Grace is portrayed in a walk in the Spirit.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Gal. 5:25

- D. Grace is portrayed in decisions of faith and love.

Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another . . . and so fulfil the law of Christ. Gal. 5:26-6:2

Conclusion: What is God telling us to do – in our daily life?

- A. Accept the truth – we have been given all spiritual blessings (Gal. 2:20; 3:2; 4:4-6).
- B. Reject the error of works – we cannot earn the grace of God. We are to make decisions of faith to obey the truth in dependence on God (Gal. 3:7,12; 5:6).
- C. Live according to the truth – we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit Who has come to apply the work of the Lord Jesus and glorify Him. We are to walk according to this blueprint as taught in the Word (Gal. 5:22-25).