

GOD'S GRACE AND THE EPHESIANS

Many today say that God's gift of salvation requires no responsibility on man's part. Often proponents of this doctrine will point to Eph 2:8 as proof of this doctrine. If this is the case, however, then we would not be able to find anything the Ephesians did to receive God's salvation. But did the Ephesians do anything? Did they have any responsibility?

- I. The Ephesians Heard the Gospel. Eph 1:12-13
- II. The Ephesians Believed the Gospel. Eph 2:8
- III. The Ephesians Repented of their sins. Acts 20:20-21
- IV. The Ephesians Confessed Christ. Acts 19:18
- V. The Ephesians were Baptized into Christ. Acts 19:5, Eph 4:3-5

Conclusion:

While we are justified by Grace and while Grace is the gift of God there is still some responsibility. God's grace is offered through Jesus' blood (Rom 3:24-25). We learn of Jesus' blood by hearing the Gospel preached. The Gospel of Grace (Acts 20:24).

GRACE AND FAITH IN SALVATION

- I. God's grace saves us. Eph 2:8-10
 - A. Grace is God's unmerited favor.
 - B. Grace is God's love that we don't deserve.
 - C. Were it not for God's grace we could not be saved.

- II. God's grace saves us thought faith.
 - A. God's grace cannot be administered unless we do something.
 - B. Faith is the key to obtaining God's grace. Gives access. Rom 5:1-2
 - C. Grace requires that we believe.
 - D. Denominational view that grace is without responsibility is false.

- III. Saving Faith requires works.
 - A. Biblical faith always requires works. Jas 2:17-26
 - B. Faith requires coming to God which denotes action. Heb 11:6
 - C. Even belief is a work. Jn 6:28-29

- IV. God's grace is a gift.
 - A. Even gifts requires responsibility.
 - B. We must accept the gift.
 - C. We accept it by obeying the gospel. Rom 1:15-16

- V. God's grace, works, and faith go hand in hand.
 - A. God offers us His grace.
 - B. We accept God's grace when we believe.
 - C. Biblical belief or faith is coupled with obedience.
 - D. We are still under God's new law even while being under grace.
 - E. The new law is a law of grace. Jn 1:17

Conclusion:

The doctrine that says that all we have to do is accept God's grace and salvation without responsibility is false. God does save us by grace but faith, active faith, gives us access to God's grace. God's grace is a gift but even the recipient of a gift has some obligation. He must meet the terms of the gift, even if all it means is accepting it.

