

Grace

The Nature of Grace

1. The KEY theme and thought of the New Testament, and thus of the Bible, even changed the way people wrote letters! New Testament epistles salutation and farewell are changed by 'grace.'
2. Grace is ??? How would you define it? Even with all our definitions, remember 2 Cor. 9:15

The Riches of Grace

The Bible always connects grace with the Mediator, Jesus Christ (John 1:17)

1. Riches of Redemption (Ephesians 1:7)
2. Riches of Regeneration (Ephesians 2:8)
3. Riches of Election (Ephesians 1:4; Romans 11:5 says "the election of grace")
4. Riches of Preservation (Philippians 1:6; John 10:27)

Grace and Law

1. An Important verse on history, and the gift that comes through a specific mediator - John 1:17
2. Two wrong views of the relationship between grace and Law now are ...
 - a. Legalism
 - i. Define?
 - ii. Dealt with in Romans 4, 9-11, Galatians 2-5, Colossians 2
 - iii. Galatians 5:4 and HC #30
 - b. Antinomianism
 - i. Define?
 - ii. Dealt with in Romans 6, 2 Peter 2, Jude, 1 John
 - iii. Same basic problem as legalism, because BOTH have this false assumption:
 - (1) The only purpose for law-keeping is to gain righteousness with God
 - (2) So, legalist parents often have antinomian children, and both need grace!
3. Answer to the 'dilemma' of grace and law is not to pick one, but this: Grace establishes the law. The Law is not a way of salvation for us, but a way of sanctification, guide to thankfulness, etc.
 - a. Grace has ALWAYS established Law. WHEN did God give the Law? Exodus 20:1
 - b. Grace leads to holiness, a good tree brings forth good fruit (Titus 2:11 ff.)
 - c. Grace is worked in us by Holy Spirit using the Word, not apart from the Word, by spiritual impulse, or "leading" of the Spirit (Unlike Luther and the Charismatics teach)

Under Grace

1. Freed from trying to reach perfect obedience.
 - a. Note Paul's words at the end of a life full of growth in God's grace (1 Tim. 1:15)
2. Freed from sin's dominion Romans 6:14
 - a. How would you answer the Apostle's question in Romans 6:1? (See Rom. 8:13 also)
3. Freed from fear
 - a. What kinds of fear does a Christian struggle with that grace frees us from?
Rom. 8:15ff.; 1 John 4:17-18

NOTICE how you and I can drive away the fears that flood our souls with the truth of grace, by thinking along the lines of that Christian poem "Amazing Grace" by John Newton.

*THESE ARE THE ORIGINAL WORDS OF John Newton's song,
"Amazing Grace" written in 1779*

*Amazing grace--how sweet the sound--
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found--
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!*

*Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.*

*And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace.*

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, Who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.*