
BIBLE TALK

This week our subject is: *“God is gracious ... BUT ...”*

In other words, there is more to man’s salvation than the grace of God.

Titus 2:11

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

According to this verse, God is gracious to all men. Yet the Bible teaches that all men will not be saved.

Matthew 7:21

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Here is a formal argument that you need to remember:

- 1) God is gracious to all men, but
- 2) All men will not be saved.
- 3) Therefore, it takes more than the grace of God to save men.

Jesus said it takes “doing the will of His Father in heaven.” There are two sides to salvation. Grace is God’s side of salvation. Obedience is man’s side of salvation. It takes both of these together for a man to be saved.

- God’s grace alone, without obedience on man’s part, will not save a person.
- Obedience on man’s part, without God’s grace, will not save a person.

Why is this?

- The reason God's grace alone will not save anyone is because God will only save those who are willing to submit to His authority. He's gracious and gives everyone an opportunity to be saved, but if men reject His gracious offer, He will not save them. The problem is not because God is ungracious, but because some men are rebellious. Obedience demonstrates love for God (Jn. 14:15). Disobedience demonstrates a love for self rather than God.
- The reason obedience on man's part alone will not save him is because man is not perfect. None of us have always done what we should have at all times. All of us have "sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Therefore, we need God's grace and forgiveness for those times we have fallen short.

To illustrate, we might think of a car. A car without gas isn't going anywhere. Gas without a car isn't going to get you anywhere. But a car with gas will work and get you somewhere.

In like manner, God's grace alone will not get us anywhere and man's obedience alone will not get us anywhere. But God's grace and man's obedience working together will save us. The OT put it like this:

Deuteronomy 5:8-10

8 'You shall not make for yourself a carved image; any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

9 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

10 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

The NT says virtually the same thing:

John 12:26

26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

John 14:23

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

God is indeed gracious, but we must obey Him to be saved. The requirements have changed since the OT days, but the principle still remains: **Obedience is necessary in addition to the grace of God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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