

# God's Salvation, Our Reaction

# I. Surpassing grace of God

# 1. Seen in what He promised

- Ps.103<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- Mic.7<sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.
- Ro.5<sup>20</sup> where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.
- 1 Tim.1<sup>14</sup> the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. [Mt.14:20]

## 2. Seen in what He provided

- 2 Sm.12<sup>13</sup> So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.
  - Full, free forgiveness
- Jn.3:16, based on inconceivable sacrifice

For God **so loved** the **world** that **He gave** His **only begotten Son** that whoever believes in him should **not perish** but **have eternal life.**

I. Surpassing Grace of God

II. Expected reactions  
of people

Ro.2:4

<sup>4</sup>Or do you despise [think lightly] of his goodness [kindness], forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

Goodness,  
generosity;  
*'How kind He  
has been'*

Luke 15,  
Prodigal son

Luke 19,  
Zacchaeus

## 2 Pt.3:9

The Lord is **not slack** concerning his promise, as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering toward us**, not wishing that any should perish, but **that all should come to repentance**

to be patient in bearing the offences and injuries of others; to be mild and slow in avenging; to be longsuffering, slow to anger, slow to punish – Th.

I. Surpassing Grace of God

II. Expected reactions of people

III. **Actual reactions of many**

# 1. Most disregard His grace

Ro.5:2 [1 P.1:4]

# 2. Many distort His grace

1 Pt.5<sup>12</sup> By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand...

- Some distort it by practicing sin: Ro.6:1-2
- Some distort it by preaching lies:  
2 Pt.2<sup>19</sup> while they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption.

a. Lies make people's conduct  
the standard, not the Word

Ac.14:3; 20:32 ...*word of His grace...*

Conduct alone does not determine it.

b. Accepts some Scriptures,  
ignores others

- Some accept sermon on mount (Mt.5-7),  
reject other teachings of same Lord

- a. Makes people's conduct the standard, not the Word
- b. Accepts some Scripture,  
ignores others

- **Moralist:** good works prove salvation, even without blood of Christ
  - Ac.8, Eunuch: worshipped, read Bible, but lost without Jesus (35-38)
  - Ac.10, Cornelius, good moral man...

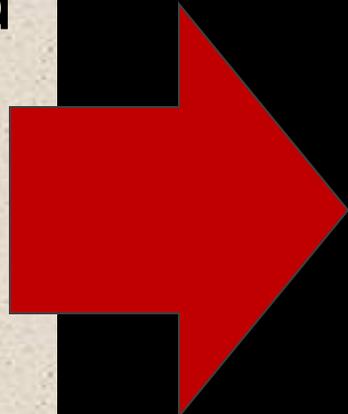
# Cornelius: saved?

## Ac.10:2

- Devout
- Feared God
- All family
- Many alms
- Prayed

## Ac.10:22

- Just
- Reputation



## Needed:

1. Word (gospel) to be saved, 11:14; 15:7
2. Faith in Jesus, 10:43
3. Repentance, 11:18
4. Baptism, 10:47-48

Same as others,  
15:9, 11

- a. Makes people's conduct the standard, not the Word
- b. Accepts some Scripture,  
ignores others

- Moralist: good works prove salvation, even without blood of Christ
- Denominations: good works prove salvation, even without . . .
  1. Truth. Ja.5:19-20
  2. Obedience. Mt.7:21-23
  3. Baptism. Ac.2:38
  4. Loyalty to NT pattern. 2 Tim.1:13

1. Makes people's conduct the standard, not the Word
2. Accepts some Scripture, ignores others

### 3. Contradicts Scripture

- 2 Tim.1<sup>13</sup> Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.
- Tit.2<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,  
<sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.

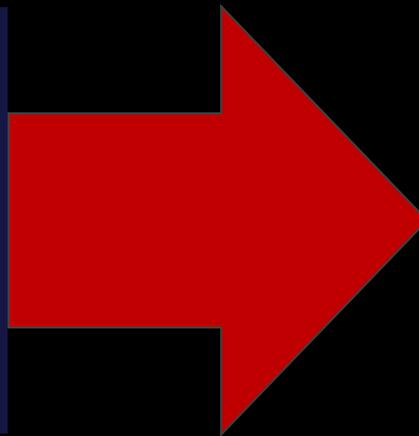
1. Makes people's conduct the standard, not the Word
2. Accepts some Scripture, ignores others
3. Contradicts Scripture
4. If good fruit proves religious people are saved, why not the unreligious?

Ac.27:3

(centurion)

Ac.28:2, 7, 10

(natives)



Tit.3:4,

**God**

(most unusual  
kindness of all)

- Atheists, Unitarians, Muslims ... charitable
- Herod, Mt.2; Hitler . . .

1. Makes people's conduct the standard, not the Word
2. Accepts some Scripture, ignores others
3. Contradicts Scripture
4. If good fruit proves religious people are saved, why not the unreligious?
5. Nullifies the cross

- If good fruit saves, Jesus died in vain
- Ga.2:21

**I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.**

1. Most disregard His grace, Jn.4:44

2. Many distort His grace, 1 Pt.5:12

3. **Some display His grace**

- Ac.11<sup>23</sup> When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.
- 1 Co.15<sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

## Short word history: grace

- Men's dealing with one another – do something pleasant for someone: be kind, gracious
- Law/ethics: grant, remit, forgive, pardon...
- Grant someone's life or set him free...
- Be pleasant, agreeable, as Ac.3:14
- NT: grace is a message of salvation. Lk.4:22
- Hb.2:9