

What think Ye of the Bible?

Part 17. Saved by GRACE through FAITH

Review from Part 16.

In the previous article we considered the first three verses of Ephesians 2:1-3, which addressed the condition of a sinner before his salvation. It provided spiritual insight to any person who is still IN ADAM - the Adamic Nature that was passed on to all people as a result of Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden.

In the Ephesian passage we are told that any person prior to salvation is spiritually dead, is under the influence and control of Satan and his demons, and his life is guided by "the flesh" (Adamic Nature) and, therefore, is subject to the wrath of God.

Additional Scripture tells us that prior to salvation a person is the enemy of God.

Romans 5:10 KJV

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

This passage from the book of Romans instructs us that prior to a sinner's reconciliation to God, the sinner was actually an "enemy" of God. This nullifies the false notion in much of Christianity, that all people are children of God. This concept is not Biblical. There are two kinds of people in this world. 1. There are children of God. These people are those who are saved (born again by the Holy Spirit of God)

Galatians 3:26 KJV

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

2. Then there are those who are not saved, still in the Adamic Nature. These are called "children of wrath," as we learned from Ephesians 2:3. It is this child of wrath that is actually an enemy of God.

Please remember that God loves you, even though He tells you that you are the enemy of God. God's sacrificial love is also expressed in His candor and blunt honesty with mankind. He tells us the Truth so that sinners can hear the truth, come to a full understanding of their condition, and respond properly to God's call to repentance and faith in His Son, the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:15 KJV

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

Remember, God is the God of Truth. He does not want sinners to be under any

misconception regarding their tragic spiritual condition. And, thus, God gave us the Bible, the book of eternal objective truth, which tells us truth about ourselves, and our relationship to God, both before salvation and after salvation.

It is an abomination that there are theologians, pastors and other religious leaders who try to do damage to the Bible and then teach unsuspecting people lies that will ultimately lead them to an eternal hell. Certainly, they will one day stand in judgment for their false teaching.

(In my personal daily Bible reading I am in Ezekiel chapter 15. I was, again, struck by God's anger and fury against the false prophets in Israel during Ezekiel's days as revealed in Chapter 13. Please read it yourself. Just FYI, Ezekiel prophesied from 593 to 571 B.C. There are thousands of false pastors filling pulpits and teaching lies to their congregants. These wolves in sheep's clothing are teaching the people "smooth" things, tickling their ears in fear of possibly offending them with TRUTH.)

Just as God expressed anger and fury against false prophets in Ezekiel's days, God is angered with false teachers and preachers today. Make no mistake about that.

God is the God of Truth and of Love. He desires for all people to hear, know, and believe the truth, which includes the remedy to their spiritual blindness. This remedy is readily available to all. The problem is that people ignore this truth, and design a "god" of their own choosing to fit their human imagination. This imagined "god" is no god at all. It is an idol.

Now let's go back to the passage in Ephesians. We learned in verses 1 to 3 the spiritual condition people are in before salvation. We could say that was the SOBERING TRUTH about man's hopeless and helpless condition. The Bible tells us that man by himself, in and of himself can do absolutely NOTHING to alter this spiritual blindness. Man cannot work himself out of this dilemma, nor is it possible for man to do sufficiently enough good deeds to merit salvation. Salvation is totally of God.

Jonah 2:9 KJV  
"Salvation is of the LORD."

Now, having considered the lost condition of the sinner we come to the glorious contrasting conjunction in the book of Ephesians which begins in verse 4.

BUT GOD...Man, having fully comprehended the total inability to save himself, God now swings heaven's doors wide open by saying BUT GOD...

Ephesians 2:4-5 KJV  
"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, [5] Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"

This one beautiful verse tells the reader an astonishing amount of rich detail about our God in heaven. Please notice these points.

1. God is rich in MERCY. Mercy is a sinner not getting what he deserves. (Every sinner deserves hell).
2. Again, we are reminded of God's love for sinners.
3. While sinners are still spiritually dead in their spiritual blindness, GOD QUICKENED the sinner. (Made him spiritually ALIVE - Through the NEW BIRTH.,
4. And then the Scripture tells us that salvation is BY GRACE. Grace is giving us what we don't deserve. And that is free redemption/salvation/ adoption into the Family of God/ the New Birth/ reconciliation to God/ forgiveness of sins/ and the sinner is given (credited, imputed) the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST.

Did you get that? The saved sinner is given an alien righteousness. A righteousness that is NOT INHERENT IN the sinner. But, it is the righteousness of Christ, the sinless Lamb of God. Because the sinner repented and trusted in Christ (who He is, the God-Man, and what He has done by voluntarily shedding His blood, by dying, and arising from the dead), thus the Holy Spirit of God baptized the believing sinner into Christ, and accomplishes the spiritual Union of the believing sinner with Christ. And NOW the believing sinner is credited the pure, perfect, holy righteousness of Christ.

Remember, man's righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6), but now the believing sinner is CLOTHED in Christ Righteousness. I could SHOUT from the roof top. This is the effect of repentance and trusting in Christ, in THE GOSPEL OF GOD (Romans 1:1).

I know I said a lot of things in that last paragraph. Those are all glorious aspects of God's GRACE - in the Gospel, the Good News.

Over time, I will address all these points in future articles in order to present these Biblical truths in a clear understandable manner. Please stay tuned.

I will close this article with this passage from Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:8-10 KJV

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Just quickly. A sinner is saved (born again) by God's GRACE, as mentioned above; and though FAITH (Trusting in Christ's redemptive work on the cross.)

The passage also emphasizes that this salvation is a GIFT from GOD and not the result of any "works" by the believing sinner. Therefore, man has NO CAUSE TO BOAST. Salvation is 100% of God, 0% of man.

The last verse speaks to the fact that our salvation will result in Good Works. After salvation the believing sinner will want to serve his new Lord and Master, because all believers belong to Christ.

We are blood bought by Christ to whom we now belong. The believing sinner has been translated from the power of darkness into the kingdom of the Son (Colossians 1:13).

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 KJV

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? [20] For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

As I mentioned all these biblical Gospel Truth will be addressed in future articles. I just want to close with the following biblical affirmation.

1. The Bible is a supernatural product of divine inspiration, truthful and infallible in all it affirms.
2. Jesus Christ is fully Divine (Deity) and fully human. He is the God- Man, the Mediator between God and man.
3. The humanity of Christ was VIRGIN born and conceived of the Holy Spirit.
4. Jesus Christ died a vicarious sacrificial death on the cross and shed His blood for the remission of sins.
5. Jesus Christ arose from the dead, and is now sitting at the right hand of God, the Father in heaven.
6. Jesus Christ did over 35 miracles as detailed in the four Gospel accounts to AUTHENTICATE His Identity as the Son of God.

Please note, there is NO SALVATION possible to anyone denying any of these FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH.

Heavenly Father, PLEASE TAKE these biblical truths and may the Holy Spirit of God convict of sin, righteousness and of judgment.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

In the next article I will address the topic of REPENTANCE. There seems to be much confusion regarding this often mentioned word in the Bible. We will look at the meaning in the original language and how it fits into salvation.

Have a blessed Lord's Day tomorrow.

With Warm Regards,

Horst Adler

"For I am not ashamed of the  
Gospel of Christ." (Ro.1:16)