**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GRACE OF GOD**

**Ephesians 2:8 – 10**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Without God’s GRACE, MAN’S LIFE would be meaningless due to SIN.

 A. Deu 31:17, 18; 32:20; Isa 40:6-8; 59:1, 2; 64:6; Rom 3:10, 23; 1 Pet 1:24, 25

 1. The literal meaning of “sin” is “to miss the mark” (1 Jn 3:4; 5:17).

 2. Since ALL have sinned, there is absolutely ***NO*** difference between the BEST and WORST of men; there is a difference in the nature and extent of MAN’S sinfulness.

2. God offers SALVATION as a “free gift” (Rom 6:23; 2 Cor 9:11; 1 Jn 5:11).

 A. SALVATION is **NEVER** forced on man

 1. God’s part in SALVATION is GRACE (MAN must accept this gift by FAITH).

 2. Man’s part in SALVATION is FAITH in Christ Jesus (Gal 2:16; Eph 2:8).

 A. This FAITH believes, trusts and is obedient to Christ (Mt 7:21; 1 The 1:3).

 B. SALVATION is a “free gift” and can not be received without obedient.

4. If [we] want to understand the God’s GRACE, [we] must understand the penalty without it.

 A. In a matter of justice, without Christ we deserve separation from God for all eternity.

 1. As a matter of record, on our own, [we] stand condemned before God.

5. Paul emphasized not of “meritorious works” because this leads to boasting (Eph 2:9).

 A. He illustrated how Abraham was justified (Gen 15:6; Rom 4:2, 3; Gal 3:6).

 1. [We] are saved by God’s GRACE (Eph 2:8); justified by faith (Rom 5:1; Eph 2:8).

 2. [We] are saved by the blood of Christ, as the gift of God (Rom 5:9; Eph 2:8).

 B. As Christians, [we] are the workmanship of Christ (Eph 2:10).

1. [We] can ***NOT*** grow SPIRITUALLY until we obey the gospel (Lk 6:46; 2 The 2:14).
2. [We] are called to serve by obedience and good works in Christ Jesus.

**BODY:**

**1. THE GRACE OF GOD DEFINED (Eph 4:29)**

 A. In ancient Greek classical writings, it bestow/delight/causes favorable affection or pleasures; on occasions used for that which edifies/uplifts (Eph 4:29).

 1. The Greek word is “charis” [favour]: “the friendly disposition from which the kindly

 act proceeds, graciousness, loving kindness, good will generally” (Lk 2:52).

 2. It means the gratitude one would feel for favors one would receive.

 B. In a spiritual context to the grace of God, it is “unmerited, undeserved favor of God.”

 1. The “free gift” from the *Gr* word “charisma” [“charismatic”] (Rom 6:23; Tit 3:5).

 2. The abundant grace and mercy bestowed upon us is because “God is love” (1 Jn 4:8).

 A. “We love him, because he first loved us” (1 Jn 4:19).

**2. THE GRACE OF GOD EXTENDED AND ACCESSED** **(Tit 2:11)**

 A. Although Christ was offered as atonement for ALL men’s sins, ***NOT*** ALL will be saved.

 1. The idea of bringing salvation in the Greek stresses a possibility; ***NOT*** an actuality.

 B. It is true, God wants ALL men to be saved (2 Pet 3:9)

 1. Yet, in the infinite wisdom of God, His Creation was for man to be given a choice.

 2. Although offered freely, [we] in ***NO*** way merit it; is made available with conditions.

 C. Consider these conditions: One has to choose whether or ***NOT*** to accept the gift.

 1. His Merits are available to those willing to OBEY (Mt 7:21 – 23; Heb 5:8, 9).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. God is extending His GRACE to us at this very moment: the choice is ours (Mt 6:24).
2. As Christians, [we] are the workmanship of Christ (Eph 2:10).
3. [We] can ***NOT*** grow SPIRITUALLY until [we] obey the gospel (2 The 2:14).
4. [We] are called to serve by obedience and good works in Christ Jesus (Rom 6:16-22).