**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GRACE OF GOD [B]**

**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. SALVATION is a “free gift” (Rom 6:23; 2 Cor 9:11; 1 Jn 5:11);  **NEVER** forced on MAN.

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

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

 1. 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 OBEDIENCE.

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 without the GOSPEL (Lk 6:46; 2 The 2:14).

**BODY:**

**1. THE DECISION OF GOD**

 A. It is difficult to understand the depth of God’s Love, Grace and Mercy (Eph 3:17 – 19).

 B. In the depth of God’s Love, the decision to send the Christ was God (Eph 1:1 – 6).

 1. The beauty of His Love determined to send His *ONLY* begotten Son (Jn 3:16, 17).

 C. [We] are mindful in the Grace of God (Jn 1:1, 2; 17:5).

 1. The KJV does ***NOT*** fully capture the importance of Paul’s statement (Php 2:5 – 7).

 2. The statement: “but made himself of no reputation” is translated also that “He divested himself”, or as the Greek points out, He “emptied Himself.”

**2. THE GRACE OF GOD MANIFESTED**

 A. Christ was offered on the cross as the propitiation for our sins (1 Jn 2:1, 2).

 1. Propitiation (atonement/expiation) to make amends, reparation or compensation.”

 2. God’s Justice demands there be payment for sin, which Jesus paid for us.

 B. [We] learned our sins separate us from God (Isa 59:1, 2); thus [we] are in dispute.

 1. What is needed is reconciliation (to reestablish a close relation).

 A. Jesus was offered as a substitution offering (2 Cor 5:21). [We have been given the

 “ministry of reconciliation” to receive the merits of God’s Grace (2 Cor 5:18)].

 C. Christ, in His Tremendous Sacrifice, also affords us redemption (Mt 20:28)

 1. Redemption “A releasing affected by payment of a ransom” (Gr/English Lexicon).

 2. Without Christ [we] are “slaves of sin” (Rom 6:17), “sold under sin” (Rom 7:14).

 3. Jesus “gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity” (Tit 2:14).

 D. God’s Grace affording redemption and bringing reconciliation is the blood of Christ.

 1. Peter says [we] are “redeemed... with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb

 without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet 1:18, 19).

 2. ***ONLY*** the blood of Christ can redeem MAN from sin.

 3. Without Christ at one time they “were dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph 2:1, 12, 13).