

North Christian Church -

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10/6/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works -

Part 4

Grace and Truth

- Lie: grace accommodates man.
- Truth: grace accommodates God. Man needs to be reconciled to the perfect, Holy God. God does not need to be reconciled to man.

Grace

Man needs to be reconciled to the perfect, Holy God. God does not need to be reconciled to man. Yet, today's so-called "grace gospel" supposes that God is on His knees begging man to "let Him save them". Truth: man ought to be on his knees with a contrite heart, begging God to save him.

Grace

God chooses to save man. Man does not choose to save himself. God elects man. Man does not elect God. Yet, today's so-called "grace gospel" supposes that man decides who is saved.

Grace

If God is the One who grants repentance, belief, and faith that saves, how can man possibly choose to be saved? He cannot. It is by grace alone that God saves man. He is looking for a contrite heart. This is the immensity and fullness of true grace.

Jesus' Grace Gospel

The true Gospel places the onus on humility. False gospels often place the onus on man's ability to repent/believe/have saving faith, but these, as scripture says, are GIFTS from God!!! "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (Jn 6:44).

"draws"

from helko - Strong's Concordance: drag, draw, pull, persuade, unsheathe; in context, refers to God's design for salvation by grace - even the initial "coming to Jesus" (Jn 6:44) is a gracious provision from our sovereign God (ala Eph 2:8-9).

Salvation Is God's Choice...

...not Man's. God chooses to save those who He desires. Man does not say to God, "I believe, therefore, you must save me!" God is not submissive to man's free will. God sees the heart of man and chooses to save the humble, for He loves a contrite heart. (Psa 51:17; Isa 57:15; 66:2; Jer 44:10; Jn 14:23; Eph 2:8-9; Jas 4:6; 1Pe 5:5)

Efficacious Grace

God loves a contrite heart and so gives grace to the humble. EVERY component of salvation is completed by the efficacious grace of God. That leaves man in the "starter state" of humility or arrogance regarding sin and the need for a savior.

Efficacious Grace

God saves a person FROM SIN, not just the penalty of sin, but also the power, dominion, and ultimately, the very presence of sin! Ro 8:30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Efficacious Grace Rejected

The Pharisees are a great example of people refusing to believe the Holy Spirit of God! The Holy Spirit will press into a person regarding the sin issue. If a person responds humbly, the Spirit will impress upon them their need for the Savior.

Contrarily, if a person responds arrogantly, they blaspheme the Spirit (call Him a liar). (Mt 12:30-37; Heb 10:29)

Efficacious Grace Received

When God chooses to save someone (actually, it's already completed from God's perspective, I speak as a man), His Spirit baptizes them into union with His Son. He makes the believer a "new creature", totally changed, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, whose ministry expands tremendously for that person. (ref: Ro 8:9-11; 1Co 3:16; 2Ti 1:14)

Efficacious Grace Rejected

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Efficacious Grace

God's work never ends up empty. By grace, He gives the humble faith, which always produces something. "So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (Jn 8:31-32).

Efficacious Grace

Instead of asking the wrong question, "Will a believer produce fruit?", ask the right question, which is, "Why wouldn't they, especially since Jesus, Himself, said they would???"

