

North Christian Church -

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10/13/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works -

Part 7

Balance Statement

The paradox between God's choosing/election and man's free will ought never be a cause for consternation or confusion; rather, a perfect time to exercise faith!

Who's God Being Patient With?

How much of God's divine patience is exercised waiting for those who already proclaim to be believers, yet are actually clinging to a false gospel? If salvation were by man's "sovereign" choice, why would God describe Himself as patient?

Ask Yourselves

Who do you believe opened your eyes to the Gospel - you, or God? Hint: you were born in complete darkness.

Eph 1-2

You must understand God's grace and what it includes at salvation in Eph 1-2:7 before you will understand the fullness of Eph 2:8-9! God is not only just/righteous, He is Holy! Too many people focus solely on certain attributes rather than His essence, His Person.

"dead in your trespasses and sins"

"Dead" refers to spiritual death (complete separation from the Light). "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly" (Ro 5:6). A "dead" creature cannot reconcile themselves to the Holy God of the Universe.

"by nature children of wrath"

The very nature of the unsaved is unholy, "living in the lusts of [their] flesh" (Eph 2:3) (as opposed to the saved, who have been given a "new nature" (2Pe 1:4)). This is wholly consistent with being "dead in [their] trespasses and sins" (Eph 2:1).

"even when...dead...made us alive"

This means that being born spiritually dead precludes any man from saving himself, or contributing anything righteous to the equation. God's grace includes all aspects of salvation, including the call to repentance and saving faith (two sides of

the same coin).

"surpassing"

from hyperbolic - surpass, exceed, transcend; in context, refers to God's grace performing works in man that even believers cannot fully understand yet; same word used in 2Co 3:10 and Eph 3:19.

"to Him be the glory"

God's plan for salvation brings Glory to Him. This means that all grace applied to man's account is to accommodate His glory, not man's. We are merely "partakers" of His glory (though still very real to each believer). As Jesus stated, "I am the vine, [believers] are the branches" (Jn 15:5), the Father is the "vinedresser" (Jn 15:1).

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