

North Christian Church -

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10/27/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works -

Part 13

God Saves, Man Resists

"Then who can be saved?...With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Mt 19:25-26). The attitude of humility and surrender is hard to come by because the flesh resists such things.

1Ti 2:4

[God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

"Your will be done"

For God's will to be "done" in us, we do something, not just talk about it.

"Your will be done"

One of Satan's greatest devices is to get even believers to question the simplicity of actually "doing" God's will. He uses misdirection, inserting an unholy disrespect for the plainness of "walking" for His purposes, in the way in which believers are created to do!

Humility

If a man is humble, God will HELP him! This pattern begins at salvation and continues through all "phases" of sanctification. The very first spark of humility is understanding that God is sovereign and holy, and man is not.

True Humility

If a person is able to stand in front of God and not be humbled by His sovereignty, that person does not fear God the way they should. They are arrogant, the antithesis of humble. That person is "without excuse" (ala Ro 1:20).

Able Versus Avail-able

Only God can make us able, for He is able to do so. We can only avail ourselves to His sovereign will (we are avail-able). Humility is tantamount to availability. This is how grace works.

*** Avail diagram ***

Able Versus Avail-able

God's good work ALWAYS results in ROI. He "opens a brand new investment account" when He saves someone. That new "account" WILL have a return (Lk 19:12-27), though it may vary (Mt 13:8). A person who does NOT bear any ROI (a person who never bears ANY fruit) represents an UNSAVED person in both parables.

Able to Trust

True faith puts trust in another person. Counterfeit faith doesn't. A perfect example is in marriage, hence all the divorces we see (most people who say "I do" don't really mean it because they don't trust the other person, they are merely "hedging bets").

Two Gospel Perversions

People talk about "adding to salvation" (faith + works = salvation), pointing to legalism. But, how often does anyone talk about the other Gospel perversion, "subtracting from salvation" (faith - [God's] works = salvation), pointing to religions that actually SUBTRACT some of God's grace in saving man? (Deu 4:2)

The "other" Gospel Perversion

This theology, "subtracting from salvation", supposes that God actually does LESS than He does when He saves a person.

Perversion Means Unrighteousness

Anytime we misappropriate Holy Scripture, it is no longer holy. In fact, we have taken something perfect and perverted it. Since God's Word is perfect, the perversion is not. Any derivative of such a perversion is also no longer righteous.

Gospel Perversions

God will NEVER pervert His own Word! There's only ONE way that verbal plenary scripture "fits", and that is HIS way. Any rearrangement of scripture immediately leaves the effort up to man, hence it is a "work" of man. This work often begins with subtracting from the Gospel and completes with the consummation of a perverted theology.

The Flesh Merely "on hold"

By subtracting from God's plan for salvation, Satan has managed to propagate a perverted gospel, where "believers" are saved from the penalty of sin, but nothing practical. It supposes that man later decides, for himself (as if he has the right), on the issue of the sovereignty of sin. If this were true, God didn't really "save" them from sin, itself.

Eph 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Man's Attempt At Sovereignty

Man does not have the RIGHT to dictate HOW God chooses to save him; NOR does he have the RIGHT to dictate the boundaries of God's grace in doing so! God is sovereign. God chooses.