

# WONDERFUL GRACE OF JESUS

## LETTING GOD GIVE WHAT IS GREATER

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves:  
it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

*~ Ephesians 2:8-9*

### 1. The State of Religion

- a. Religion is man's effort to earn merit or favor with God; what man gives to God.
- b. Religion is what man does to make himself appealing to God.
- c. Where would such an idea come from? Gen 3:7, 4:4-5; De 6:25; Le 18:5 Pro 28:18
- d. *"What shall I do?"* – Jesus' answer: do things, obey - Matt 19:16-17
- e. Is it a wrong that men try to be better and do right? No.
- f. Is it wrong thinking that God needs us to? Yes. His grace is greater than our good.

### 2. Grace and Giving

- a. Grace is doing the work for someone else who doesn't deserve it without obligation
- b. Grace is a gift - **G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense
- c. Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Acts 20:35
  - i. This is a religious joke, right? In religion people give only to get back.
  - ii. In the world, we know by nature the blessing of receiving (Christmas?)
- d. From God we must learn the greater blessing is in the giving.
- e. What if God did not operate on selfish glory-seeking, but in gracious giving?
- f. If we want to bless God, shouldn't we thank God instead of trying to pay him?
- g. This is not fair; this is not justice – it is God doing the work freely for you -Ro 3:24
- h. Salvation is not what you give to God; it is what God has given to you. – Eph 2:8-9

### 3. Salvation of Sinners

- a. The gift is given to the ungodly by faith (faith in God's grace) – Rom 3:25, 4:5
- b. God gives to those who cannot/will not earn it – Rom 5:8
  - i. If you do not admit your own ungodliness, you can't receive the grace gift
- c. Note the song: *"greater than all my sin", "most defiled", "all my sin and shame"*
  - i. *"The wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me"* – You are the ungodly.
- d. Why Christianity? It is the only option for sinners to receive eternal life.
- e. God's grace is greater than all our sin.

### 4. What is Your Boast?

- a. *"lest any man should boast"* – if it were of works it is not a gift – Rom 11:6, 4:4
- b. Why would we want to boast? ... Why wouldn't we want to boast! We want glory!
- c. Boasting makes us look/feel good, it is my contribution, my part, my glory.
- d. Boasting is excluded for the Christian – Rom 3:26-27
- e. No one glories in God's presence – (Jer 9:23-25) 1 Cor 1:29-31
- f. God does not need anything from you – Acts 17:25
- g. Every religion in the world demands you do, God's grace is the message of done
- h. Boast that Christ saved you, glory in the cross, boast in God's grace! Gal 6:14