

GRACE AS A GIFT

THE IRRESISTABLE GRACE OF UNIVERSALISM

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"*

~ Ephesians 2:8

1. A Grace Heresy

- a. Universalism delights in God's grace given to all, as would we.
- b. Can be called a 'grace heresy' because it uses grace to come to its conclusion.
- c. What kind of grace is it? Does giving grace always effect personal salvation?

2. Irresistible Grace

- a. Universalists love to hate Augustine because he taught babies go to hell
- b. Irony - Calvinism credits Augustine, Universalism shares Calvinist idea of grace.
- c. To the question, 'Why are some saved and some not?' Calvinism: Irresistible grace.
- d. To the question, 'Can God be resisted and still be sovereign?' Calvinism: No.
- e. Irresistible Grace - Grace that overcomes resistance, changing our 'will' to love God.
 - i. Grace applied works in unbelief and before faith, releasing us from sin
 - ii. i.e. If Christ died for them, then grace is applied to them = unbound to sin
 - iii. AE Knoch (universalist, concordant) believed free will is a phantom, illusory
- f. If you remove Calvin's limitation of who Christ died for, then universalism is proven.

3. Grace is a Gift

- a. Grace ~def. Favor, good will, kindness, a gift. Titus 2:11, 3:4, Eph 2:8, Rom 5:15
- b. To be grace, it requires...
 - i. The work done, payment made, by the giver - Rom 11:6 (not your suffering)
 - ii. It be unmerited/undeserved - Rom 3:23-24, Titus 3:5 (not a debt or duty)
 - iii. It benefit the receiver - Titus 2:11 (unlike a punch in the face or hell)
 - iv. Freely given, and freely received - 1 Cor 2:12 (not coerced or compelled)
- c. It's not a gift if it is thrust upon those who would otherwise refuse it. (marriage)
 - i. Universalist: 'what if God will not take no for an answer'
 - ii. A mandatory gift is not a gift at all. In universalism the gift must be received.

4. Grace and the Cross

- a. The gospel of grace is not irresistible - Acts 17:4-5, 18:6-8, 28:24, 2 Th 3:2
- b. The gospel of grace is not how God kills our wills with kindness - 2Th 1:10, Eph 1:12
- c. The gospel of grace is the finished work of Christ by the cross received through faith
- d. Invisible 'wooing'/forced grace is not preaching the cross - Gal 6:14, Rom 1:16
- e. Universalist problem not with innocent, ignorant, religious, but those that resist.
- f. There are enemies of God and the cross - Phi 3:18-19, 2Th 2:10-12, 1Co 2:14, 1Ti 4
- g. Universalism removes the preaching of Christ's cross, and our choice, and theirs.

5. Grace Given Now

- a. Grace is dispensed now universally - Rom 3:21, Eph 3:1-3, Titus 2:11
 - i. Universalism requires abundant grace to salvation be dispensed in the future
- b. There is a place for future grace to come for salvation -1Pe 1:13. Heb 6:4-9, 10:29
- c. Universalism must speak of grace at all time, more in the future, not uniquely now.
- d. The grace of God (the cross of Christ) is not the partial remedy, it is the only one
- e. All do not get saved in this dispensation - because not all believe.
- f. There will be a time this dispensation of grace to all is over.
- g. Now is the accepted time of salvation (not later) - 2 Cor 6:1-2