

SAVING GRACE

Psalm 145:8

January 6, 2008 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Can you complete these common phrases?
 - 1. There's no such thing as a free----lunch.
 - 2. No pain nogain.
 - 3. God helps those who help.....themselves. By the way this is not in the Bible.
- B. Everything about our American way of life teaches us that we must work for what we get.
 - 1. This is our American work ethic.
 - 2. The only problem is that God doesn't operate according to the American work ethic.
- C. God's ethic is based on grace not work.
 - 1. In fact, its God's nature to be gracious—**Psa 145:8**.
 - 2. This means God loves to bless people who don't deserve to be blessed.
- D. No matter how long we have been Christians we will never understand the Christians life until we understand grace.
 - 1. What is grace?
 - a. "God's love in action."
 - b. "God giving what we need not what we deserve."
 - 2. Today we begin a sermon series about God's grace.
 - 3. Let's begin by looking at the beginning, "Saving Grace".
 - 4. We will use an acrostic based on the word GRACE.

I. "G" STANDS FOR "GIFT". SALVATION IS GOD'S GIFT TO US.

- A. This is what Titus 3:5 says.
- B. Salvation, the Bible says, is absolutely free.
 - 1. This is what distinguishes Christianity from every other world religion (i.e. Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and even Judaism).
 - 2. Christianity can be summarized by one word—Done!
 - 3. A pastor was asked one day by a man, "What can I do to be saved?" The pastor told him it was too late. The startled man asked why. The pastor said because he was 2,000 years too late. Then he went on to say that salvation was already a "done deal".

II.. "R" STANDS FOR "RECEIVE". WE MUST RECEIVE SALVATION BY FAITH.

- A. This is what the Bible says in John 1:12 & Ephesians 2:8-9
- B. A gift is not a gift, though, until it is received.
 - 1. An example is a check. A check is money but not until we cash it.
 - 2. Likewise, salvation is a gift but not until we receive it.

III. "A" STANDS FOR "AVAILABLE". SALVATION IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE.

- A. This is what Romans 4:16 says.
- B. Salvation isn't just for good people. Its for all people!

IV. "C" STANDS FOR "CHRIST". WE MUST COME THROUGH CHRIST

- A. This is what John 1:17 says.
- B. Salvation is free but it cost Jesus his life.
- C. He purchased our ticket to heaven by his death.

V. "E" STANDS FOR "ETERNITY". SALVATION IS ETERNAL IN HEAVEN.

- A. This is what Romans 6:23 says.
- B. What is heaven like?

1. It's a place of "reunion".
2. It's a place of "reward".
3. It's a place of "release"—from pain, sorrow and sadness.

CONCLUSION

- A. Its in God's nature to be gracious to us—Isa. 30:18.
- B. Remember what we've learned about "Saving Grace".
 1. Its based on God's promise not our performance.
 2. Its based on God's grace not our goodness.
 3. Its based on God's mercy not our merit.
- C. Have you received God's grace?