

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

What Paul Learned About Grace

March 9, 2014

Issue 152

It is a shame that so many Christians have taken the simple doctrine of grace and molded it into something completely unbiblical. This distortion of truth happens on both ends of the theological spectrum. On one extreme, some believe that grace and obedience are enemies—if you believe in grace, you can't believe in obedience. On the other extreme, some believe that grace doesn't exist, for all practical purposes. They think that only perfect obedience will save the human soul.

The apostle Paul's life was the embodiment of God's grace, that's why he frequently wrote about it. His inspired writings help us

understand the full concept of grace.

First, Paul knew that *grace elevates us*. In I Corinthians 15:9, he stated that he was not fit to be an apostle because he persecuted the church. He wasn't qualified based on his actions. But he went on to say, "But by the grace of God I am what I am" (v. 10). God's grace elevated Paul to a place he didn't deserve.

Second, Paul knew that *grace lowers us*. Also from I Corinthians 15:10, Paul stated that he "labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me." Paul could not brag about his work in the kingdom; God's grace

made all of his work possible and successful.

Third, Paul knew that *grace instructs us*. Paul told Titus that grace came into the world, "instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires..." (Titus 2:12a). The overwhelming light of divine grace shines an equally bright light on the destructiveness of sin.

Fourth, Paul knew that *grace saves us*. To the Ephesians, Paul wrote, "For by grace you have been saved through faith..." (Eph. 2:8). Without the grace of God, our only option for salvation would be to live a perfectly moral life, which none of us can do.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Please remember the following people in your prayers: Randy Gupton, Rick Reed, Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, J.W. Head and Jay Newell, and Dan Stockmeyer.
- Please check your summer schedules and see which week of June is best for VBS. We will finalize that week tonight in the men's meeting.
- Building Fund contribution March 30.

**Youth Activity This Saturday at 4:30 @ the Newell's, Devo, Eat, Bowl
Men's Meeting Tonight at 5:00; Singing Tonight at 6:00**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Shelton

Pray: Baker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Brown

Serve: Demonbreum, J. Walker, Donkin

Pray: Billingsley

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

Psalm 116:1-2

“I love the Lord because He
hears my voice and my
supplications. Because He
has inclined His ear to me,
therefore I shall call upon
Him as long as I live.”

“I hold it to be the inalienable right of anybody
to go to hell in his own way.”

Robert Frost

“The safest road to hell is the gradual one—the
gentle slope, the soft underfoot, without sudden
turnings, without milestones, without sign-
posts...”

C.S. Lewis

“Hell is truth seen too late.”

Robert Hobbes

Do You Live Your Values?

Do you live your values?

Many times our values—or the things we care about the most—are spoken but not practiced. Here’s what I mean: Do you say that God is the most important thing in your life, but you rarely worship Him? Do you say that your family means more to you than anything, but you are always looking for a way to spend more time at work? Did you tell your spouse that you would be with him/her “till death do us part,” but you would have no problem divorcing him/her if it were convenient? Do you say that you want your children to marry Christians, but then you’ll gladly support, finance, and promote their weddings when they marry non

-Christians? Do you say that the worst sin is lying, but you’ll deceive anyone and everyone if the opportunity presents itself?

Our favorite people on earth are the ones who truly live out what they believe. We describe them as honest, genuine, and trustworthy. So the question is, how do we become people who live out what we truly care about?

(1) Don’t *lead with your mouth*. Ecclesiastes 5:5: “It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.” James called the tongue a “restless evil” (James 3:8). If we are quick to speak, we are often quick to disappoint ourselves and others.

(2) *Don’t let secondary issues interrupt primary plans*. Ever feel like you’ve been running all day but not getting anything accomplished? It’s because you have concerned yourself with minor issues. Always address your values first.

(3) *Make sure your friends share your values*. Our closest associates will never agree with us 100 percent of the time, but they should at the very least encourage us to live our values.

A genuine, faithful Christian is the most persuasive sermon known to man.

James Hayes
