REAL "Grace" - What It Actually Is!

Many times, people tend to think of "Grace" as being like this:

Jesus went to the cross and paid the debt for our sin, so He reaches down, and He picks us up out of the dung heap of a life we've been living – or, maybe not so bad a life as that, but one that doesn't have Him in it, nonetheless – and He then brushes off all the dirt and grime and wipes away all the stains of the past, and fixes everything we've broken, and then pulls us up into a relationship with Him...

...and happily ever after we live unto the Lord!

There IS a sense that THAT IS true, but not really!

Here's how that definition of Grace is accurate:

Applying "Grace" as defined in the Old Testament, first:

H2580

chen

khane

From H2603; *graciousness*, that is, subjectively (*kindness*, *favor*) or objectively (*beauty*): - favour, grace (-ious), pleasant, precious, [well-] favoured.

That definition is derived from the root word (see above: "From H2603") that follows:

H2603

chanan

khaw-nan'

A primitive root (compare H2583); properly to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, bestow; causatively to implore (that is, move to favor by petition): - beseech, X fair, (be, find, shew) favour (-able), be (deal, give, grant (gracious (-ly), intreat, (be) merciful, have (shew) mercy (on, upon), have pity upon, pray, make supplication, X very.

So, in this sense, God, Himself, stoops down, or bends down, to show kindness to us inferiors, and He favors us, and He thus bestows upon us what we cannot obtain on our own:

And, more significantly from this definition, He IMPLORES us to obtain His graciousness, kindness, and favor! If we do this, He makes us beautiful in His sight!

The New Testament seems to convey the same concept from some of the words of Paul about Grace, which is commonly quoted Scripture from the epistle to the Ephesians (the Book of Ephesians):

Ephesians 2:8-9

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

This seems to state that "God bends down to do it all, and we are completely transformed by His doing thusly unto us" — and, IN A SENSE, THAT IS LIKEWISE TRUE!

However:

Let us not forget what it says in those same words in Ephesians 2:8-9:

Ephesians 2:8-9

- (8) For by grace are ye saved <u>through faith</u>; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
- (9) *Not of works*, lest any man should boast.

So, we can see two things in these verses that were not seen in the definition above:

(1) grace comes "THROUGH Faith;"

and

(2) FAITH is ALSO a "GIFT" of God: so that we cannot boast (in our works of living out the Law of Moses and/or finding our own terms of being a "good boy or girl" and being "righteous," in our own estimation) IN AND OF OUR OWN EFFORTS!

Therefore, IF we exercise HIS GIFT of "FAITH" to us, THEN we are able to be SAVED BY HIS GIFT OF GRACE – BUT IT IS NOT BY HOW GOOD WE LIVE OUT OUR LIVES THAT ENACTS HIS GRACE OVER OUR BEINGS!

Well, then, it would appear that "FAITH," itself, has become a "WORK" of sorts!

THAT WORK, however, is an act that IS REQUIRED!!!

Let me show you by NEW AND OLD TESTAMENT Scripture:

2Corinthians 6:1

(1) We then, as workers together *with him,* beseech *you* also *that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.*

The words "receive" and "grace" (graciousness), are literal – to receive, and God being gracious; Paul says to NOT DO THAT IN VAIN!

The words "in vain" means, according to Strong's Concordance/Definitions, to receive the graciousness of God "empty."

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? you might ask!

We have to understand that there is **a state of the heart** that is being talked about herein!

We are to be "FILLED WITH ALL OF THE FULLNESS OF GOD," according to Paul in Ephesians 3:16-19:

Ephesians 3:16-19

- (16) That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened** with might by his Spirit in the inner man;
- (17) <u>That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith</u>; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
- (18) May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
- (19) And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

So then, the Spirit of God being INVITED TO LIVE WITHIN OUR INNER MAN, and DWELLING IN OUR HEARTS, is what we RECEIVE "BY FAITH" – so that we are NOT EMPTY!!!

Rather, we will know the love of Christ so that we MAY BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD!!!

Isn't THAT plain enough to comprehend what GRACE affords THROUGH FAITH?!!

Let's look at what the Apostle John said to us about RECEIVING HIM:

John 1:11-13

(11) He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

[His own is a reference to the Israelites, the Jews, who rejected Christ at that time]

- (12) <u>But as many as received him</u>, <u>to them gave he power to become the sons</u> <u>of God</u>, even to them that believe on his name:
- (13) **Which were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God**.

Therefore, His GIFT of FAITH gives us POWER TO BECOME children of God:

BECAUSE WE HAVE EACH BELIEVED IN THE POWER OF HIS NAME; BECAUSE WE HAVE EACH <u>RECEIVED HIM</u>, THUS RECEIVING THAT SAME POWER <u>TO BECOME</u> CHILDREN OF GOD; AND THEREFORE:

BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN BORN OF HIM BY DOING SO!

The point is NOT that RECEIVING is "A WORK," but that it is the GO-BETWEEN that changes our state of being, from UNSAVED to SAVED, from NOT being a SON of God to BEING a SON of God!

Let's look at that more closely, in the light of Scripture:

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul states this:

Romans 12:1-2

- (1) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
- (2) And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Let's break that down to know what Paul is telling us:

First, and foremost, it is BY THE EXCEEDINGLY GREAT MERCY OF GOD THAT WE CAN DO ANY OF THIS THAT I AM ABOUT TO HIGHLIGHT...SO, GOD GETS ALL THE GLORY FOR IT – IT IS NOT OUR OWN WORKS THAT MASTER THIS!!!

Secondly, it is EACH ONE OF US, WHO ARE "BRETHREN" – thus, "CHILDREN OF GOD" (BORN OF GOD), HAVING ALREADY RECEIVED HIM TO BE SO – WHO ARE TO PRESENT OURSELVES (TO GOD) AS LIVING SCARIFICES! That means that we are to DO something AS A RESULT OF being BORN OF GOD...BY RECEIVING HIM!

Thirdly, and most significantly, heretofore is the explanation of what is wrapped up in the words "be transformed by the renewing of your mind," which I will break down into "smaller bites" in the following:

The word "transformed," used by Paul herein, according to Strong's, is the word metamorphoo, which is what we derive the English word "metamorphosis" from, to describe what happens to a caterpillar turning into a butterfly!

G3339

metamorphoo

met-am-or-fo'-o

From G3326 and G3445; **to** *transform* (literally or figuratively <u>"metamorphose"</u>): - <u>change</u>, transfigure, transform.

The caterpillar has a COMPLETE CHANGE OF STATE OF BEING into a beautiful butterfly by being transformed into that new image! But, HOW are WE enabled to be transformed, according to Paul?

Answer:

By the "RENEWING OF OUR MIND."

Let's look at what THAT means, according to Strong's, and according to Paul in the Scripture:

According to Strong's Definitions, the original term used in the King James Version that employs the word "renewing" – that is, "being MADE NEW" – is the Greek word that is interpreted literally, "RENOVATION" – see here:

G342

anakainosis

an-ak-ah'ee-no-sis

From G341; *renovation*: - renewing.

Think of your mind being a construction project!

In considering ANY construction project wherein the place being renovated is reconstructed, there is a necessary process to that:

- (1) we must first tear down that which currently exists;
- (2) we then start with "a clean slate" an untouched, needing-to-be-remodeled building or room;

and then, finally:

(3) we rebuild, beautify, and enhance that which was there before we started!

THAT is what we are to have done with OUR MINDS!!!

OUR MINDS' BELIEFS ARE TORN DOWN, CLEANED UP, AND THEN RESHAPED BY THE WORD OF GOD!!!

THAT is **THE PROCESS of** being "**TRANSFORMED**" from **ONE STATE OF BEING TO ANOTHER!!!**

THIS is what Peter means, in 1Peter 1:9, by "the salvation of your souls," and what Paul means, in Philippians 2:12, by "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;" see here:

1Peter 1:9

(9) Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

and:

Philippians 2:10-13

- (10) **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;
- (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- (12) Wherefore, my beloved, **as ye have always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**.

(13) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Therefore, we see that GOD gets all the glory for what He purposed in us by Christ being LORD (that is, BOSS or MASTER) of our lives, whereof we are OBEDIENT to His Word, to do it BY HIS POWER, BUT WE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE TO WORK OUT OUR OWN SALVATION OF OUR SOULS BY THAT POWER!!!

We are NOT to be AFRAID OF GOD (UNLESS WE HAVE LIVED UNTO OURSELVES AND ARE OUTSIDE OF HIS GRACE), BUT WE <u>ARE</u> TO BE CHANGED, GRADUALLY, BY THAT GRACE... WHEREOF OUR SOULS – OUR THOUGHT LIFE, OUR WILL, OUR MEMORIES, AND OUR EMOTIONS – ARE BEING RENOVATED, MADE NEW, BY OUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD, OUR WILLINGNESS TO PRESENT OUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE TO HIM!!!

If we try to DO, DO, DO the perfect will of God, and that in our own strength and capacity, we are just living vain — empty — religion! But, if we RECEIVE the Grace of God, and are FILLED with ALL the FULLNESS of GOD, then we are able to be renovated in our souls; thus, our souls are thereby "saved!"

NOTE THESE THREE STAGES OF SALVATION:

SPIRIT:

When we receive Christ at our being born again, the rebirthing process being accomplished (repenting, that is turning from our sin to live unto God, being "regenerated" [a new genesis, that is — being recreated afresh and anew, being given a new spirit]), we are then "saved" — IN OUR SPIRIT BEING!

Our SPIRIT is saved AT ONCE - AT REBIRTH!

SOUL:

Then, AS WE EACH ARE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF OUR MINDS, <u>THAT IS WHEN</u> EACH ONE OF OUR INDIVDUAL SOULS ARE <u>BEING</u> SAVED...EACH BY OUR OWN CHOICES TO FOLLOW AFTER THE WORDS OF GOD AND BY THE LEADING OF HIS SPIRIT!

BODY:

And finally, <u>WHEN the Resurrection OF OUR BODIES takes place</u> (see John 11:23-26; Revelation 20:5-6; Hebrews 9:10), <u>AT THAT TIME</u>, EACH OF OUR BODIES WILL BE SAVED, NEVER MORE TO DIE!!!

To encapsulate those realities:

Our SPIRITS are "saved immediately" at the time we are each born again (read John 3:3-8 about being born again);

Our SOULS are "being saved, gradually," by how we live unto, follow, and obey the Lord's Word, and His promptings of His Spirit within us, after each of our conversions to Christ:

And our BODIES "will be saved" when He gives us our new, glorified bodies at "the first resurrection," which will take place AFTER the thousand year "millennial" reign of Christ on the earth has already transpired! (Regarding the resurrection of our bodies, see: 1 Corinthians 15:19-23; 1 Corinthians 15:42-55; Revelation 20:1-6.)

In short:

Our SPIRITS are/were saved at conversion; Our SOULS are being saved, as a process of growth as believers; and our BODIES will be saved at the first resurrection.

"SALVATION" occurs on 3 levels, in 3 stages, at 3 different intervals of time!

But it is clear that we are to "work out [the salvation of our] souls with fear and trembling" — and that because of what Jesus said to us all, in Matthew, Chapter 24:12-13, and which John Mark wrote in Mark 13:13 (both of which have to do with the very end times, which we are in, I strongly suggest), and which James tells us about in James 5:11! See here:

Matthew 24:12-13

- (12) And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.
- (13) But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mark 13:13

(13) And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

James 5:11

(11) <u>Behold, we count them happy which endure</u>. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

And the writer of Hebrews, presumed to be Paul the Apostle, penned these words:

Hebrews 12:22-29

- (22) But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
- (23) To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,
- (24) And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

- (25) See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, <u>much more shall not we escape</u>, if we turn away from him that *speaketh* from heaven:
- (26) Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.
- (27) And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.
- (28) Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, <u>let us have grace</u>, <u>whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear</u>.
- (29) For our God is a consuming fire.

Having so stated all the above, with emphasis being on the walking out of our faith in Christ's sacrifice - and what that affords us - regard these thoughts from the Old Testament patriarchs, Noah and Enoch, and then what the New Testament tells us about them:

Noah "walked with God;" so did Enoch!

See here:

Genesis 6:9

(9) These *are* the generations of Noah: **Noah was a just man** *and* **perfect in his generations**, *and* **Noah walked with God**.

Genesis 5:22-24

- (22) And *Enoch walked with God* after he begot Methuselah three hundred years, and begot sons and daughters:
- (23) And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:
- (24) And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

So, what does that have to do with us?

First, recall what God said in Genesis, in the Old Testament, about Noah:

Genesis 6:5-9

- (5) And <u>GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth</u>, and that <u>every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil</u> <u>continually.</u>
- (6) And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.
- (7) And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.
- (8) But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.
- (9) These *are* the generations of Noah: <u>Noah was a just man and perfect in his</u> generations, and Noah walked with God.

OK, so what does the New Testament say of them both? Let's take a look:

Of Noah:

Hebrews 11:7

(7) By faith <u>Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet,</u>
<u>moved with fear</u>, prepared an ark <u>to the saving of his house</u>; by the which <u>he</u> condemned the world, and <u>became heir of the</u>
<u>righteousness which is by faith</u>.

2Peter 2:5

(5) And <u>spared not the old world, but saved Noah</u> the eighth <u>person</u>, <u>a</u> <u>preacher of righteousness</u>, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

And of Enoch:

Hebrews 11:5-6

- (5) By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him:

 for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.
- (6) <u>But without faith it is impossible to please him</u>: for <u>he that cometh to God must believe</u> that he is, and <u>that he is a</u> rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

So, it is clear that there MUST BE FAITH IN GOD, AND IN HIS WORD, TO OBTAIN RIGHTEOUSNESS, THUS TO PLEASE HIM... <u>AND</u> THERE MUST BE A DILIGENCE IN SEEKING HIM, AND A REVERENT FEAR OF FOLLOWING AFTER HIM SO AS TO OBEY HIS WORD...THUS TO LIVE OUT, AND WALK OUT, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!

Let's take that to what Paul says to us in Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 1-4:

Romans 8:1-4

- (1) There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
- (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
- (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

So then, there is, for each of us, a part that requires our own obedience, especially our willingness to follow Christ, that enables us to be free of condemnation – that is, not being condemned with the world's unbelievers – and that we will, BY HIS SPIRIT'S MIGHT WORKING WITHIN OUR MEMBERS, LIVE OUT THE RIGHTEOUS STATUTES OF THE LAW!!!

No...we DON'T have to offer blood sacrifices anymore, NOR do any of the washings and/or ceremonial requirements of the Law of Moses; but rather, we ARE to live out the righteous and just precepts that are taught in the Law of Moses – SO AS NOT TO BE CONDEMNED!

Therefore, in conclusion, contrary to my opening 2nd paragraph, about what many people believe "Grace" is, this is what I assert is what TRUE Grace ACTUALLY IS:

Christ went to the cross, and He likewise went to the whipping post, so that we could be forgiven for our sins AND CLEANSED FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS – NOT solely by being FORGIVEN for the offences committed, BUT BY BEING REDEEMED FROM LIVING A LIFESTYLE THAT PROMOTES AND PROMULGATES THEM!!!

He also went to the whipping post so that we MIGHT receive HEALING in our bodies, BY FAITH IN HIS STRIPES, THAT HE'D TAKEN FOR US TO HAVE THAT BENEFIT, TOO!!!

THAT IS HIS GRACE!!!

HOWEVER, WE MUST RECEIVE THAT GRACE FOR IT TO BECOME EFFECTIVE IN EACH OF OUR LIVES!!!

GRACE, THEN, is NOT God reaching down to us and picking us up out of our filth and cleaning us off, then taking us up to Himself and to spend eternity in blissful company with Him... WITHOUT US MAKING HIM SAVIOR AND LORD FIRST!!!

We have to RESPOND TO Grace, and that, then, is represented in *this* picture:

Instead of God reaching down to us and taking us out of the muck and mire for us, He reaches down and holds His hand above us, and He gives US the RIGHT to choose to TAKE HIS HAND, whereof WE HAVE TO REACH UP TO HIM TO TAKE IT!!!

WHEN we HAVE done THAT, THEN He cleans us up of our filth BY FORGIVENESS, and thereby, He gives us RIGHT STANDING WITH HIM;

BUT THEN, HE GIVES US THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE HIM DAILY, TO LIVE UNTO HIM, WORKING OUT THE SLVATION OF OUR SOULS WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING, SO THAT WE ARE CHANGED;

THEN, GRADUALLY, BY OUR WILLINGNESS TO TAKE HOLD OF WHAT HIS GRACE AFFORDS US – <u>WHICH IS FREEDOM FROM SIN AND THE</u>
<u>ABILITY TO LIVE A HOLY LIFESTYLE</u> – WE ARE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF OUR MINDS (<u>METAMORPHOSED IN STATE OF BEING</u>, AND THUS <u>RENOVATED IN LIFESTYLE AND PURPOSE</u>);

AND WE ARE THEN, BY A GRADUAL AND ONGOING PROCESS, BROUGHT THE REST OF THE WAY UNTO UNITY WITH THE LORD, BEING "CLEANED UP" (that is, sanctified – made holy and set apart unto God) <u>IN OUR BEHAVIOR</u>, <u>WALKING WITH HIM</u>, thus "DUSTED OFF" OF THE RESIDUE OF OUR SIN, THEREBY MADE LIKE NOAH AND ENOCH WERE:

<u>PLEASING TO GOD</u>, <u>RIGHTEOUS</u>, <u>JUST</u>, <u>AND PERFECT IN OUR</u> GENERATIONS!!!

GRACE is God reaching down to us AND OFFERING US THE CHANCE TO KNOW HIM INTIMATELY!!!

He reaches down to us - WE HAVE TO REACH BACK!!!

Blessings2u!!
~Roger Funk, II
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1.John 2:29

(29) If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

1John 3:5-10

- (5) And ye know that <u>he was manifested to take away our sins</u>; and in him is no sin.
- (6) Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.
- (7) Little children, let no man deceive you: <u>he that doeth righteousness is righteous</u>, <u>even as</u> <u>he is righteous</u>.

- (8) He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. <u>For this purpose the Son of God was manifested</u>, <u>that he might destroy the works of the devil</u>.
- (9) Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
- (10) In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: <u>whosoever doeth</u> <u>not righteousness is not of God</u>, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Romans 6:12-14

- (12) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
- (13) <u>Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin</u>: but <u>yield</u> yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.
- (14) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

1Corinthians 1:30

(30) But of him are ye in <u>Christ Jesus</u>, <u>who of God is made unto us</u> wisdom, and <u>righteousness</u>, <u>and sanctification</u>, <u>and redemption</u>:

Romans 6:17-18

- (17) But God be thanked, that <u>ye were the servants of sin</u>, <u>but ye have obeyed from the heart</u> that form of doctrine which was delivered you.
- (18) Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

2Corinthians 5:21

(21) For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Romans 3:20-26

- (20) Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
- (21) <u>But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested</u>, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
- (22) <u>Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe</u>: for there is no difference:
- (23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- (24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- (25) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- (26) To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: <u>that he might be</u> just, and <u>the justifier</u> of him which believeth in Jesus.

Philippians 3:8-9

- (8) Yea doubtless, and <u>I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord</u>: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,
- (9) And be found in him, <u>not having mine own righteousness</u>, which is of the law, <u>but that which is through the faith of Christ</u>, <u>the righteousness which is of God by faith</u>:

Hebrews 11:7

(7) By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Romans 4:1-8

- (1) What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?
- (2) For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.
- (3) For what saith the Scripture? <u>Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness</u>.
- (4) Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.
- (5) <u>But to him that</u> worketh not, but <u>believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.</u>
- (6) Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom <u>God imputeth</u> <u>righteousness without works</u>,
- (7) Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.
- (8) Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Romans 4:16-17

- (16) Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,
- (17) (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and <u>calleth those things which be not as though they were</u>.

YOU >>>ARE<<< CLEAN – BY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF YOUR FAITH IN JESUS – >>>RIGHT NOW<<<

John 15:3-5

- (3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
- (4) Abide in me, and I in you. <u>As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself</u>, except it abide in the vine; <u>no more can ye</u>, <u>except ye abide in me</u>.
- (5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for <u>without me ye can do nothing</u>.

1John 1:5

(5) This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that <u>God is light</u>, and <u>in him is no darkness at all</u>.

Galatians 2:16-20

- (16) Knowing that <u>a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.</u>
- (17) <u>But</u> if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, <u>is</u> <u>therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid</u>.
- (18) For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

- (19) For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.
- (20) <u>I am crucified with Christ</u>: <u>nevertheless I live</u>; <u>yet not I, but Christ liveth in me</u>: and <u>the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God</u>, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

1Corinthians 1:30

(30) <u>But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us</u> ... <u>righteousness</u>, <u>and sanctification</u>, ...:

2Corinthians 5:21

(21) For <u>he hath made him to be sin for us</u>, who knew no sin; <u>that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.</u>

Hebrews 6:12

(12) That ye be not slothful, but followers of them <u>who through faith and patience</u> <u>inherit the promises</u>.

WALK WITH GOD!!!

Blessings2u!!

~Roger Funk, II

Completed on 8-10-2025, at 9:03 p.m.