

# The Grace of God



"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us..." (Titus 2:11-12).

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## DO YOU CURSE WITHOUT REALIZING IT?

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Many people who would not think of using vile, worldly and gutter language will turn right around and use the euphemistic form of the same words and not think anything of it. Christians need to realize that they will give account for their words, thoughts and actions. The Lord said in Matthew 12:36, "But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

Following is a list of some of the words many use without thinking, but which are euphemisms (softened forms of words) for the "real thing".

1. "Darn" - a euphemism for "damn" (the curse). (*Funk & Wagnall's Dict. Of the American Language*).
2. "Dog-gone" - A euphemism for "God-damn" (*Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*).
3. "Gee" - a minced oath: "Jesus" (*Funk & Wagnall's*); a euphemistic contraction of "Jesus" (*Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*).
4. "Golly" - a euphemism for "God" (*Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*).
5. "Gosh" a minced oath, used as a substitute for "God" (*Funk & Wagnall's*); a euphemism for "God" (*Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*).
6. "Heck" used euphemistically for "hell" (*Funk & Wagnall's*); a euphemism for "hell" (*Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*).

7. "Goodness" or "For goodness sake" - a euphemism for "God" (*Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*).

8. "Blasted" - "damned" (*Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*).

9. "Confounded" - "damned"; a mild oath (*Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*).

Brother and sister, don't use words that you don't know the meaning of. If you do, you may find yourself cursing without realizing it.

## Seeing His Glory

Jerry Fite

God dwells in light unapproachable. No man hath seen, nor can see Him. This is the great inspired declaration of Paul (I Timothy 6:16). While looking upon God would be certain death for man (Exodus 33:20), God at times has allowed man to see His glory. When they did, what did they see? Why did God allow man to see such glory? What occurred next?

Isaiah saw God's glory. He saw God sitting on His throne with spirit creatures exclaiming, "Holy, holy, holy is Jehovah of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). God's glory is seen and his holiness is emphasized. Isaiah immediately saw himself as an unclean man dwelling among sinful people. He felt undone as he looked upon God's glory.

God's glory in terms of "holiness" has not changed. It would do us good to pause and see this facet of God's glory through the eyes of Isaiah. Are we living right before God abhorring evil and cleaving to good (Romans 12:9)? Or, do we let sin slide in our lives brushing away guilt with a swipe of "Oh, well, nobody is perfect."? Seeing God's glory of holiness drives viewers to the soberness of one's own lack of holiness. "I am a man of unclean lips" was Isaiah's response.

Here was a prophet whose mode of communication, his lips, were not clean enough for his work as a prophet. God cleansed Isaiah's lips with the application of a piece of coal from God's altar. Then we see why God wanted Isaiah to see his glory: "Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not" (Isaiah 6:9). Is this not strange? God's people had ignored God's holiness in their lives, and were

now going into the punishment of foreign captivity. Isaiah was God's instrument to further reveal the hardness of their heart towards God's Truth.

Who would volunteer for such a depressing mission? One who has seen God's glory! Isaiah answers the call with, "Here am I, send me" (Isaiah 6:8). There is no demand, nor amount of inconvenience that stands between us and doing God's will that we are not willing to do when we see the holiness of God. We will be at worship with the saints on the first day of the week, because our Holy God demands and approves it (Hebrews 10:25, Acts 20:7). We will strive daily to live exemplary lives before the world and gladly extend unto them the word of life. Why? Because a Holy God demands it, and saving souls is a way that His glory is manifested in the world (Matthew 5:16, Philipians 2:14-15, Ephesians 1:6-7).

Stephen stood before his peers and did something difficult: He spoke the truth to people who did not want to hear it. They responded to Stephen's message by stoning the messenger. Stephen was being faithful, even unto death, to his Holy God. Facing death by stoning, Stephen saw something glorious. In the Holy Spirit, he "looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God..." (Acts 7:55).

Stephen saw God's glory, and Jesus who declared God to the world who cannot see God. This vision of glory was a comforting experience. Stephen had accomplished his godly mission, now he sees a standing Lord and glorious God welcoming him home. How are you manifesting in your life that you have seen God's glory?

**THINGS TO THINK ON**

That which will damn a soul and separate us in the next world should divide us in this; nothing else should.

**PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR**

**Jerry Taylor, Jean Gambrell** (back), **Johanna Fletcher, Othena Kinnard** (at home, call before visiting please), **Mag Bumbalough, Mary Cox** (gall bladder), **Monie Petty, Dave Poteet** (NHC 225), **Marilyn Poteet-Langford, Betty England** (recovering from arm surgery), **Thelma Klein, Ed Williams, Michelle Austin, Lydia Poe, Anthony & Christy Rece, Ralph & Gail Sims, Marci Sims, Jo Miller, Chad & Jamie Sims, Larry Bumbalough, Jake Hale, Joshua & Misty Poteet, Carolyn Williams, Kenley Streeval. Matthew Taylor** (leukemia), **Joyce Simmons Wagner, Lorene Myers** (Rece's Grandmother), **David Price** (David Price's father), **Bill Frazier** (cancer), **Michelle Cunningham** (Lydia's sister), **W.C. Randolph** (Jamie Sims' grandfather), **Emma Featherston** (Adam's grandmother), **Michael Harris** (Gerald Harris's Son, medical complications).

**OBEY THE GOSPEL!!!**

- Hear (Rom. 10:17) Believe (Mark 16:16)
- Repent (Acts 17:30-31) Confess (Rom. 10:9)
- Be Baptized (Acts 2:38) Live Faithfully (Rev. 2:10)

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- **Radio Program** - Every Sun. 2pm, AM 1050 WSMT
- **Home Bible Study/Singing** - March 29, April 26
- **Ladies Class** - 2nd & Last Sunday Each Month
- **Business Meeting** - Sun. Feb 24
- **GM** - Ron Daly, April, 7-11, 2008 (Mon-Fri).
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

*Http://frontiernet.net/~nscoc*  
NSCOC@frontiernet.net

***North Sparta church of Christ***

359 North Spring St.  
Sparta TN 38583  
(931) 836-3321

Place  
Stamp  
Here