

The Grace of God



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

March 9, 2008 (Vol. 8)

HATRED

edited

Hatred is an "intense aversion or active hostility that is expressed in settled opposition to a person or thing" (*Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia*). A related word is "bitterness". One has expressed this as an "irritated state of mind that keeps a man in perpetual animosity - that inclines him to harsh and uncharitable opinions of men and things - that makes him sour, crabbed, and repulsive in his general demeanor - that brings a scowl over his face, and infuses venom into the words of his tongue" (*Word Meanings in the New Testament*).

Hatred stirs up trouble and strife (Prov. 10:12). Hatred leads to murderous behavior (Gen. 37:20; Ezek. 35:5; 1 John 3:15). Hatred provokes the tongue to evil (Ps. 109:3; Prov. 26:28). Hatred fosters resentment and retaliation (Prov. 19:11; 24:27, 29; Matt. 5:38-48). Hatred begets envy and envy begets hate (Gen. 37:4, 5, 8, 11; Matt. 27:18; Mk. 15:10). It is rottenness to the bones (Prov. 14:30). Those who hate are miserable. They look to others for the cause of their misery, and fail to realize that they are decaying from within.

People hate because they do not love (1 John 3:11-13). A loving heart has no place for hate, bitterness and malice (Gal. 5:20, 22, 24). We see hatred in how Cain treated Abel. We see it in the behavior of Jacobs's jealous brothers. We see it in the rebellious Jews treatment of Jesus. Let us guard against this root of bitterness that defiles (Heb. 12:15).

The cure for hatred is love. Love is patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not proud, does not act unseemly, not self-seeking, not easily

angered, keeps no record of wrongs, etc. (1 Cor. 13:4-7).

The Lord loved us and expects us to love one another (John 13:34). Our love is not to be pretended, but genuine (1 Pet. 1:22). Not in word only, but in deed (1 John 3:18). To love with a pure heart we must avoid malice, guile, hypocrisy, and envy (1 Pet. 1:22; 2:1).

Are we letting brotherly love continue (Heb. 13:1)? As Solomon wrote: "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." (Prov. 15:17) Amen. Genuine love & peace are precious things.

REPENTANCE

Edited

Jesus said in Luke 13:3, 5, "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." Repentance is demanded of those who would come to God. According to the Lord, if one is not willing to repent, he will be lost. I am afraid that many overlook this command that Christ has given. Some do not know what it means, and it is rarely demanded of sinners anymore. Thus, what is repentance? Is it important? Should it be demanded of those who are in sin?

Let us begin with defining repentance. Repentance is "to have another mind" (*Young's Analytical Concordance*). When one repents of sin, he changes his thinking about it. Whatever his attitude was before that allowed him to do it, now he chooses to turn away from it. Sorrow and regret move one to repent, which in turn leads one to reform his behavior (2 Cor. 7:8-11).

Is repentance important? You be the judge! Jesus said, "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." When preaching in Athens, Paul said God "now commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). Peter reminds us that God "is longsuffering toward us all, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). The inescapable conclusion is that if one does not repent, he cannot be saved.

Should repentance be demanded of sinners? In Luke's account of the Great Commission, we read that Jesus demands repentance in connection with accepting the gospel (Luke 24:27). In obedience to this command, Peter taught the need of repentance before baptism (Acts 2:38).

Some in our modern world have decided that genuine repentance isn't so necessary. They wink at sins in "converts" and do not address them for fear of offending them. While some offenses (things that are not sinful) should be passed over (Prov. 19:11); what sins can be overlooked? What actual transgressions of the Law of God can be glossed over?

Rather than encouraging those who come to Christ to make a complete change, some will say "We'll teach them about that later." If what they are doing is sinful, how can we delay teaching them about it? It is one thing for me to ignore your loud barking dog. It is another thing all together for me to delay telling you that your house is on fire. What kind of friend & neighbor would I be? "Well, I don't want to be the bearer of bad news..." Who does? But true friends will do what is right and best.

Friends, the choice is ours. We can repent of our sins or we can perish. Have we repented?

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR

Jerry Taylor, Jean Gambrell (back), **Johanna Fletcher, Othena Kinnard** (at home, call before visiting please), **Mag Bumbalough, Mary Cox** (home, recovering), **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), **Josh Price** (David Price's brother), **Edwin Hayes.**

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. March 30
- **GM** - Ron Daly, April, 7-11, 2008 (Mon-Fri).
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

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Place
Stamp
Here

Speaking As The Oracles Of God (1 Pet. 4:11)