

The Grace of God



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

Nov. 4, 2007 (Vol. 7)

ZEAL FOR THY HOUSE SHALL EAT ME UP

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Do you hate sin? Do you ever just get so fed up with the work that Satan does in tempting us, in tempting our brethren, in deceiving, in corrupting everything, and in destroying - that you just realize how evil, vile, worthless and destructive sin is? If you have never hated sin, then you may not understand a number of events in the Bible.

Why did Jesus drive out the oxen and sheep, pour out the money changer's money and overthrow their tables? Did Jesus just have a temper problem? Was Jesus justified in what he did? Could it possibly be that He was righteously indignant at the corruption of the Divine purpose of the temple? As it is written, "And to them that sold the doves he said, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house a house of merchandise. His disciples remembered that it was written, Zeal for thy house shall eat me up." (John 2:16-17)

Zeal is "heat; ardor, in a favorable sense; in an unfavorable one, jealousy, as of a husband or an enemy (malice); envy, fervent mind, indignation, jealousy, zeal." (Strong 2205) Are you ever heated about right and wrong? Are you ever stirred up, passionate, enthusiastic, fervent, or zealous for right and against wrong? Jesus was. Some may say, "Well that was Jesus. He was the Son of God. We are not." True, but did He sin by being "heated" and "indignant" against unrighteousness? Is He our example in all things? Think about it.

Why did John say "...to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children

unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." (Luke 3:7-9)?

You know, we read the plain text, but surely we can understand that John didn't say this in some dead pan, flat voiced, whisper. This is a scathing analysis of the spiritual state of those who came to John in order to be baptized. John laid it on, demanding repentance, judging their thoughts and self-justifications, and telling them that they were going to be cast into the fire if they did not change. How would you view your Bible class teacher or your brother in Christ if they said this to someone who wanted to be baptized? Where would our anger be directed in such a situation? Would we be "heated" at the actual vipers who needed to understand that they MUST repent before baptism or at the preacher for being so "rude" and "unloving"?

Let me rephrase the questions. Why do you think Jesus and John spoke this way? Do you think Jesus hated the people? Do you think John didn't want to save anyone? Did they just want to elevate their egos and make themselves into something grand? Or, might it be that they saw how serious sin is and how strong a grip it has on so many? Is it possible that out of their great love for God and for Truth and for souls that they tried very hard to impress upon people the seriousness of sin?

What about Paul? Do we even need to go through the things Paul said and did (Acts 13:9-11; 2 Tim. 2:16-18)? Or Peter (Acts 8:20-23), or others (James 2:1-13; etc.)?

Why should we hate sin? I mean, just because it so easily enters our life and drags us down (Heb. 12:1), is that any reason to hate it? Just because every sin, no matter how "small" it may seem to us, will separate us from God (James 2:10)? Is that any reason to hate sin? Just because sinful gossip can destroy the reputation of the innocent (Prov. 26:22-28), is that any reason to hate sin? Just because a little tale about someone might wound and maim them to the heart (Prov. 16:28), what is that to us? Why should we care?

What about a little friendly association with those who believe false doctrine? The Word warns that a little leaven leavens the whole lump (1 Cor. 5:6; Gal. 5:9) and evil companionships corrupt good morals (1 Cor. 15:33); but is that really any reason for us to

hate sin? And to actually not interact casually / socially with someone who is in sin? I mean, are we seriously supposed to do that (2 John 9-11; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15)? That is just too much for me. I mean, that is just being rude and unkind. And to publicly name someone and identify their error (2 Thess. 3:14), much less to put it in writing (1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:17-18; 2 Tim. 4:14)? That is just going overboard, isn't it?

Well, I am glad that we don't have to do anything like that. I mean, what would people think of us? They might think we had a religion of fear (Acts 5:11, 13-14). Who would want to worship with us then (John 6:66-70)? People might actually think we were self-righteous, holier-than-thou, judgmental, trying to earn our salvation, or some such. They would call us names. They would ostracize us!

Seriously, do we hate sin? Do we realize how harmful, deceitful and insidious it is? It only took the Son of God dying on the cross to help us. That's not such a big deal, is it?

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore **cast off** the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us **walk honestly**, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make **not** provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." (Rom. 13:11-14)

Arise, oh Israel of God. For how long do we

have to prepare? How much work is there to be done? How vigilant and dedicated is our enemy? How valiant and glorious our Lord, who reigns and is mighty, with all honor and praise? Have we no reason to be zealous? Shall we dare to slumber and sleep? Shall we compromise our way into Heaven? Does it matter whether our fellowship is pure (Rev. 19:1-3)? Beloved brethren, think!

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER & PRAY FOR

Sawyer Sims, Jean Gambrell (back), Johanna Fletcher, Othena Kinnard, Wesley Geer, Mag Bumbalough, Mary Cox (Surgery Nov. 7th), Monie Petty, Dave Poteet (NHC 230), Marilyn Poteet-Langford (Home), Betty England, Joe Smith, Thelma Klein, Nathan Hill, DeLeesa Price, Michelle Austin, Lydia Poe, Larry Bumbalough, Jake Hale, Joshua & Misty Poteet, Ed & Carolyn Williams, Kenley Streeval. Matthew Taylor (leukemia), Joyce Simmons Wagner, Lorene Myers (Rece's Grandmother).

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Radio Program** - Every Sun. 2pm, AM 1050 WSMT
- **Home Bible Study** - Sat. Nov. 13 & 27
- **Ladies Class** - 2nd & Last Sunday Each Month
- **Business Meeting** - Sun. Nov. 28
- **GM** - Ron Daly, April 2008.
- **GM** - Lanny Smith, Oct.12-17, 2008.

We Invite You To All Our Services!

Sunday @ 9am, 10am & 6pm
Wednesday @ 7pm

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