

You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

James 2:22

Store In My Heart

1Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Temptation is never easy to overcome, but knowing that God wants to help us certainly takes some of the difficulty away. No matter what we face, God will be there to help us if we put our trust in Him.

Putting our trust in God means we will follow His Word as we walk through life. This will help us avoid much of the temptation in the world as our focus will be on drawing closer to God. When we are faced with temptation we will have a guide to help keep us from giving in to our desire and falling into sin. God cannot help us if we ignore His Word and follow after the world.



Did We Neglect the Grace of God?

Edward O. Bragwell, Sr

I cannot understand how so many of the younger generation of preachers (sometimes encouraged by a few older ones) can talk about how woefully the generation before them neglected to tell people about the grace of God. They boldly speak about it as though it was a settled fact of history and that their generation is going to correct the matter by speaking more about grace and less about commandment keeping. As a qualified member of the preceding generation, as one man once said, "I deny the allegation and renounce the alligator." They have apparently not read the writings nor listened to the sermons of their predecessors.

All of my generation and those of the generation before me that I know said lots about various aspects of God's amazing grace. While they may not have specifically mentioned the word "grace" repeatedly in every lesson, they repeatedly preached in a way to convey the idea of grace. When they talked about God's sending his son as the savior of mankind, they were talking about the grace of God. When they talked about Christ dying and shedding his blood for us, they were talking about the grace of God. When they talked about God's eternal plan in saving all men (Jew and Gentile alike) in one body (the church), they were talking about the grace of God. When they talked about the gospel plan of salvation, they were talking about the grace of God. When they talked about how Christians are to live soberly, righteously, and godly, they were talking about that which the grace of God teaches. When they talked about God's marvelously revealing his will for man through his chosen vessels, they were talking about the grace of God. When they even talked about keeping all the commandments of God, they were talking about the grace of God, because God has given all his commands for their good. (Cf. Deuteronomy 10:13 – "and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I *command you today for your good?*" (Italics mine -EB).

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Paula Laubach is doing better and her spots are clearing.

Ruben and Brenda Keisler should return from Mexico today.

Annette Gray's brother-in-law came through his surgery well.

Dan and JoBeth will leave on Thursday for a weekend trip to Texas. Friday should bring a new granddaughter.

Tonight we start in 1Kings 17:8.

Wednesday we will start in Titus 3:1.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

Surely, these critics of the earlier generation do not think that those before them thought or implied that any of the above blessings came from themselves. Or, that God did them for man because he had earned or deserved them. I never heard anyone say or imply it. Surely, they do not think that when one responds to these actions of God by obeying him, they were claiming to be the author and finisher of their own salvation and were seeking to glorify themselves. My generation taught that it is essential that man respond to God's acts of grace by believing and obeying his commands – that he is the Author of eternal salvation to all that obey him. In fact, were it not for the grace of God we would have nothing to obey – no commandments to keep – no salvation to work out with fear and trembling.

Admittedly my generation may not have mentioned the word "grace" in nearly every breath (though it was mentioned far more that we have been given credit for by these folks), but that does not mean that we did not teach or even emphasize that we are saved by grace. We did it by teaching the various things that God has done to give us salvation from sin and to give us hope of eternal salvation in the world to come. The hearers understood that none of these things come by man's own efforts but by the grace or mercy of God.

By the way, when one sees believers "turning to the Lord" he sees the grace of God (cf. Acts 11:21,23). Yet believers are the ones who do the turning (1Thessalonians 1:9). The Thessalonians had been active and not passive in the turning. The text says, "you turned" not "you were turned." When one sees people turn to God, by their obedience, they see both the grace of God and the faith of man at work (cf. James 2:18)

Yes, my generation did emphasize obedience and commandment keeping in our preaching. We may have even mentioned it more often than we did grace. Why? Because we knew our hearers already understood that they could not be saved without God's grace. While we reminded them of this fact, they generally already believed it. It was obedience that many did not get and needed the detailed teaching about.

We suspect had if these young critics had followed more closely what my generation did say about God's grace they might not have become so fascinated with the brand of grace most of them think they have discovered by reading the writings and studying at the feet of theologians – especially Calvinists.

(You may have read this article before, but it touches on something that continues to need repeating. Every blessing from God speaks of His grace and mercy, yet grace does not stand alone in Scripture. It is surrounded by the need for obedience. Obedience is were we need much teaching. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!