

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:8

Store In My Heart

Matthew 7:21

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

While we might sometimes shy away from the statement, the inspired apostle Paul is very plain in stating that the brethren in Ephesus were saved by God, not themselves. There are many verses that speak of salvation. Most of them talk of responsibility that is laid upon the individual being saved. Certainly these show a need for action on our part, but they must not cause us to think we were saved by our own action. Scripture is clear that we are saved by God's grace, not our own action.

The gracious God provided a means by which we could be sanctified and enter into His presence. It should encourage us to greater devotion to His desire for our obedience to His Word as His children.



Grace & Obedience

David Maxson

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. Titus 3:8

What is the "trustworthy" saying Paul is referring to here and what are "these things" he says Titus should insist?

In a word: GRACE!

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7

Doesn't that seem strange? How is it that teaching on grace would encourage people to be careful to obey God? Why would grace motivate good works?

I think sometimes we fear grace because we doubt the ability of grace to motivate obedience and good works. We fear that if we truly embrace grace and completely immerse ourselves in it that we'll forget about our personal responsibility. We're afraid that if we talk about it too much or allow ourselves to meditate on it too much that we'll become careless and fail to "*work out our salvation with fear*

and trembling" (Philippians 2:12-13).

But, as is so often the case, our intuition is backward. The reality is that when we talk about grace and think about grace and live in grace that it produces in us carefulness and seriousness and soberness in our daily struggle against sin. Nothing can motivate us to *"work out our salvation with fear and trembling"* more than the thought that *"it is God who works in us both to will and to do for his good pleasure."*

Let us not forget that grace is both the beginning and the end of our salvation. It is not only the basis of our salvation, but it serves as the strongest and most reliable motivation for our obedience.

Father, may our thoughts about your grace motivate us to more consistent and devoted obedience in your sight!

Brother Maxson did not include it in the article, but **Titus 3:8** contains one more phrase. *"These things are excellent and profitable for people."* Paul wants us to know that consideration of the grace God bestowed by sending His Son to die for our sins will help us be more faithful in our service to God. Paul was speaking of spiritual profit, not earthly profit. The more we meditate on what God has done for us that we cannot do for ourselves, the stronger our bond of love and devotion will be for Him. This bond will keep us close to Him and cause us to do whatever we can to please Him. We need to consider and understand the grace of God and how it works to help us in our struggle to overcome sin and remain faithful in face of tribulation and trial. DLH

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ
1512 Tanner Street
Malvern, AR 72104
(501) 332-8806

Find Us Online

preacher@tannerst.com
tannerst.com
FB @TannerStCoC

For Our Information

Last week an infection was found in the vein in Marvin Butler's leg that was used for his bypass earlier this year. He underwent surgery last Thursday to deal with that infection.

Sue Soliday had some breathing difficulty last Wednesday due to congestion and made a visit to the clinic to deal with it. She is doing a little better now.

Brenda Keisler is gradually getting better after her knee replacement surgery. She started physical therapy a few days ago.

Ruben Keisler's lower back procedure went well.

Bill Venable's brother, John, is doing better though he still has difficulties to deal with regularly.

Dottie Henderson is back to doing a few things in the apartment, but she still tires quickly.

Sunday Evening study - **2Kings 23:36**. Wednesday Evening - **James 1:7**

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

