

Lake Drummond Oct 30, 94 AM ✓ ✓ ✓

"GOD'S OUTREACH INSTRUMENT"

Ephesians 2:8-9

There are two proposed ways of salvation. One is of man. One is to live by a code of law. The other is without personal merit - the gift of God. One is that a man is saved by his own efforts. The other is that he can be saved by the efforts of God. One is man's work - the other is God's grace.

Seth was first seeing trip - I came up why did you have to leave the Garden of Eden, He said Because Mother ate us out of house & home!

When Adam took the bite of that apple and changed the entire course of human history, God did not throw up his hands in despair. There was only one way to bring man back into fellowship with himself. And Adam and He had known. And that was by the death of his son. God said something to Eve about the serpent - bruising the heel of her son. And her son bruising the head of the serpent. She probably did not understand this, but from our vantage point in history, we can. At the very moment of the fall, God began to make preparation immediately to bring back man into an intimate relationship with himself. This is, God's outreach instrument - grace.

The period of preparation took centuries. It involved the erasing and starting all over at one point. That way the flood of Noah's day. It involved raising up a nation to tell the world that Jehovah was God. It is significant that God calls Abraham. And he ultimately found that his nation was in bondage in Egypt. Moses was the deliverer. And at Sinai God told his people, he wanted them to be a kingdom of priests and missionaries to tell the world that Jehovah was God alone. Now this piece of information continued until God was preparing the world. The Old Testament story was long - it told about man's failures. In the fullness of time the son of God came to earth. And this was the undertaking

of God - the grace of God that planned redemption, and prepared the world for it, and provided it, and presented it. And it is the grace of God that presses it upon the heart of individuals through faith.

Now God's outreach instrument is something that we would say was impossible. It is like Burton Bradley writing of the men who dug the Panama Canal. "Have you got any rivers, they say - that isn't crossable. Have you got any mountains that can't be cut through. We specialize in the wholly impossible. Doing things no-body else could do."

Now that is confidence and a thrilling challenge in that. And God in his outreach program worked alone in this program. And what an instrument God produced.

The story is told of a young pastor who visited one of his oldest and best saints. Who was near death. The pastor sought to console him by reminding him what a faithful deacon he had been, the good he had done, the offices he had held, to the glory of God. And how the church honored and loved him. Finally the dying saint said - "oh, not that, those things don't count now. All that matters is the grace of God."

Now in this sermon and this message, I want us to think of God's outreach instrument because it sparkles just like a dew drop.

V.1 - II. Remember the year - (Died in transportation) a son of
The M^g City Tower which never came to be built in Wentz's place
dismantled; Autobiography of a Christian cut off from God
V.1-IV first V.5 to present V.7, further

V.3 - once walked - on Road marked by arms + the Age contrasted
Disobedient
V.4 But God - irrevocably bought me - And came -
became of much force -

V.5 Mark me above - he loved me in Death - marked to death
marked with - in Christ - This is the wonder of all -
marked marked marked in Christ - they are in Heaven in Christ
hand get me to Heaven - in the Resurrection!

V.6 We are put in display as a part of God's residence!
What are we going to show - the supreme fruits of
the Cross - show that great the kindness
in love showing a summit!

V.7 By things you have been saved - Meaning you
are in a saved state - you have been
saved and you are still one!

V.8 Through faith - man can only receive through faith
that which has been given - (can not earn it)
"The gift of God" - the originated is the total
experience of the Christian!

V.9 "Not a works" - God is not gained by effort
of any kind - Not no man can save!

V.10 "We are the mount of God's works"
"You are a mount of creation, a new life is for good and all"

V.11 Hand made is not hope!
V.12 Having no hope!
V.13 Home hell & God is like a temple
Being built in a house

I. DYNAMIC INSTRUMENT

V. 8) By grace are ye saved. It reveals in a flash the way of our salvation. It was the summary of Christian theology. It is something that runs through the whole Bible. And it is embracing everything. We are saved by grace. A transforming power by which we are saved, and lifted into eternal fellowship with the Father, is from God alone. It is the gift of grace. The (initiative) is with God. "He tells us here, that before the hills in order stood, our earth received her frame. God predestined us to be his sons and daughters. He planned beforehand - that is the force here. We should be individuals and creatures of destiny. And by the grace of God, we were created in the image of God. And by the grace, we will be brought into endless fellowship. Now this has been the divine intent from the beginning."

John Wesley preached (44 sermons) from this one sentence. Not of 4 times but 44 different sermons (Grace - saved - faith)

Now the Gospel and the instrument of God's outreach is not a philosophy of life. But it is rather the story of love's redeeming outreach. And Paul calls it grace.

And this outreach of God, and the response of man, hangs on the final issue of every man's destiny.

There is such dynamic meaning in this instrument - and grace, it flowed from our father's lips. It has never been a discarded doctrine. But it is sort of a divine spiritual institution. Among evangelical people, Christian people who have attempted to define the depths and the meaning of it from way back - have done so in so many ways. Think of the song we sing, Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

that saved a wretch like me. *John Newton is dearly loved "I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see."*

*Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation
has appeared to all men, - looking for that blessed hope.*

And think of a hymn that has been revived - God of grace, and God of glory.
On thy people pour thy power. Now we are accustomed to leaving the house of God
with the benediction. That commends us. 2 Cor. 13:14 - The grace of the Lord
Jesus Christ be with you all. What a word that is rich and lovely.

This dynamic instrument is divine. It belongs to God alone. When you commonly
speak of grace, you do not speak of the grace of any man - but only the grace of
God. Because it stands for the deep attributes of the heart of God. That trans-
cends all of human excellence.

at work. Walk of Jericho - Red Sea - Feeding Manna in Wilderness

One great preacher used to say that grace is a short-hand word. For the whole
Gospel of redeeming love--John 1:14. We read about one being full of grace and
truth. Paul commends the leaders of Ephesus to the word of his grace - (which is
able to give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified.) Acts 20:32.
By the grace of God, I am what I am. I Cor. 15:10. In all of his letters, Paul
often spoke - grace be to you, and peace from God, our father and from the Lord
Jesus Christ.

Yes, grace is really a dynamic outreach.

It is free.
Grace has a plus to it. And the plus is love in action. Reaching out to
help and bless without asking whether the recipient is worthy. God's unmerited
favor is bestowed on man. Inactive love is pity. And pity has no redemptive
power. It stands aloft. But there are those that would do nothing to help those

that are in a bad condition.

But here is one that is portrayed as God - who looks down and is distinctive

- (God's active love.) Grace that comes to our relief.

Augustine - Rebellious life - Dramatic conversion - one word GRACE
Worked in his life & Brought remarkable change.

In the Old Testament and the New Testament, the nation of slaves in Egypt -

God ^{undertook} took their cause. The grace that came to glorious day and blossomed in Jesus Christ. As God spoke, as he bore our shame on the cross.

Yes, the dynamic instrument has a quality that belongs to God. It is infinite as he is. There is no boundary that can confine it. There is nothing in the world that can exhaust it. In fact, it has gone out to the ends of the earth. And wherever God is - grace is. Here is one dynamic instrument of outreach. Which we find in God's grace.

Wife needs Dependable husband.
why do they hope off the sister at a wedding?
So the Bridegroom can't get away.
Wives who cook & do the dishes, notice advancement
Should be grateful MATE,
A well Kissed cheek,
AND A Restaurant Meal at least once a week.

II. A DEPENDABLE INSTRUMENT

Now we have discussed the matter of God's outreach instrument being dynamic. Now lets speak a word about its dependability. Notice what he says here - in our text. And that not of yourselves. Not of works, lest any man should boast. Now, we are not surprised to hear Paul on land, and sea, in the marketplace, and in the palace. Trumpeting the Gospel of the dynamic grace of God in outreach.

The problem of the world at that time and today, men have sought and still seek to tie on to the simple Gospel of grace various rights and ceremonies which they claim are essential to salvation. Today such millions and multitudes and ways of salvation are being preached. That even some people are confused. And they struggle blindly in the dark.

There are many man-made ways of salvation. Now we are conscious that God has made us for himself. And our souls are restless until we rest in him.

There are men in the world who use things that are not dependable. Paul says and that not of yourself. Salvation is not something which God bestowed because of any good which he sees in a man. Every man ought to be the best man he can be. But that will not save him. Salvation is not of self.

Dr. Edward Paeson, one of the most saintly of men, as he lay dying uttered these words. "Oh, how sovereign is the grace of God. I might be dragged through Heaven, earth, and Hell. And I would be the same polluted, wretched sinner unless God himself should remove me and cleanse me."

Ryland Thompson Dillard helped to lay the foundation of Baptist work in Kentucky. In spite of his sickly body, he served faithfully and well for more than 40 years. Preaching the Gospel of Christ with unusual power. In the last years of his life, he would often remark. "My trunk is already packed, for my long journey. When asked what he had in his trunk - he would reply, "nothing but the grace of God." When we see ourselves as we really are, we realize that

there is nothing in us to commend us to God. And furnish any hope of salvation. We need to let those words of God ring in our ears. Not of ourselves, not of ourselves.

Now there are people who try (different ways.) First, (self-torture.) There are people who feel that they can torture the body and deliver the spirit. One man told about a religious meeting in India, several years ago. It was a strange sight. For two weeks, religious devotees put on a contest with one another in torturing their bodies. Each thinking to show themselves more religious than his fellow worshippers. One man clad only in a loin cloth lay day and night upon a bed of nails. With the pointed ends digging into his flesh. Another man fastened a giant hook into the flesh on his back. And for two weeks pulled a heavy laden wagon, around on the grounds. Still another man, ran a dagger like pin through his tongue - pulling his tongue out of his mouth as far as possible. And each one of these had one thought - that torturing his body, he would deliver his soul. There are people who disfigure their countenance or wear certain garments. There are people in modern times who practice Lent, who deny the body of some necessity and pamper the body. But during Lent, they punish the body - feeling they are going to deliver the soul.

Now all of this, is being carried on inspite of the teaching of the Holy Word. The dignity and the work of the human body. Rather than torture the body, we are supposed to present the body a living sacrifice, to the service of Christ. Rom. 12:1.

(Fasting) - yes. But fasting of the heart to be seen of God, rather than to be seen of men. Now the Pharisees boasted about fasting twice a week. But he went down - up and down before God. Now Jesus said, more over when you fast - be not as the hypocrites. Of a sad countenance for they disfigure their faces.

That they may appear unto men fast. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. They are paid in full. That is the meaning. They fasted to be seen of men. Men saw them and that was all. Paid in full. But thou, he says, when thou fasteth, anoint thy head, wash thy face, appear not unto men to fast but unto thy father. Which is in secret. And thy father which seeth in secret shall reward thee. Matt. 6: 16-18.

Another thing that men depend upon is sacrifice. The cruel human sacrifices even were awesome were carried on in a way - trying to get salvation, in times past. Many mothers tried to get right with God by laying their babies that had nursed their breast, over into the arms of red-hot molock. Or, there was a time when mothers threw their babies into the filthy Ganges River - to be drown. And they called it religion. They called it satisfying their deity.

And then of course, there are those who depend upon some ecclesiastical salvation - which is formal. But it is faulty. It is a dead-end street. And people who put their trust in crosses and sacraments, and in ordinances. And they have discarded the lamb's book of life and they have stopped short of the goal as if one had never run. Almost is all lost. Almost cannot avail. Almost is but to fail. Sad, sad, that bitter wail. Almost, but lost.

So these words, and that not of yourselves - should ring in your ears.

Not of works. Men are not saved by their good works. Time and again is the truth emphasized in the word of God. By the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. Gal. 2:16. Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling.

Not according to our works but according to his own purpose of grace. 2 Tim. 1:9.

Not by works done in righteousness which we did ourselves - but according to his mercy he saved us. Titus 3:5.

Now these passages of Scripture do not discount good works. But they denied emphatically that a man can be saved by them. They are not dependable. And God calls men to service. We are created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Not to work in order to be saved but because we are saved. A person may spend his days in doing works, but that can never bring salvation to his soul. Salvation is not of works.

Paul Eph 3:7-8

4
Old Bishop Asberry, one of the founders of Methodism in America gave himself to service as very few men have done. Near the end of his life, he gave this testimony. Where I propose to boast - my boasting would be found true. I was converted at age 16. At the age of 18 / I began to preach and travel some in Europe. At 26 / I left my native land and bid by weeping parents goodbye and crossed the ocean. To spend the rest of my days in a strange land. Partly settled by savages. In 30 years I have crossed the Allegheny Mountains 58 times. I have slept in the woods, been without food and covering. Through the Southern states, I have waded swamps and led my horse for miles. In these journeys, took cold. That brought on the diseases that now pray on my body. My life will soon terminate in death. But my mind is still the same. Through the merits of Christ, and by the grace of God - I am saved.

What a matchless, marvelous statement of dependability and grace. It is like a mountain word in our dictionary. Originally it meant to make a gift. Soon it meant to forgive a debt. And ultimately it meant to forgive sins.

What a wonderful development of salvation by God's grace. He removes the debt written against us. By God's grace, he forgives the sin charged to our account. And by God's grace, he presents to us the gift of salvation -through favor. Unmerited by us but merited by Christ. Brings us from filth to purity and from rebellion to repentance. And from sin to salvation. And from death to life. And from death to life. And from Hell to Heaven. And from eternity without Christ to eternity with Christ.

For by grace ~~(have ye been)~~ saved. Notice the change in translation. The one which expresses an action which happened in the past is still going on And will continue to go on. Salvation by grace then is a permanent salvation. It is a gift that never will be recalled. That is why I say it is a dependable instrument.

John 5:24 - Jesus said, verily, verily, I say unto you. He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me - hath ever lasting life and shall not come into condemnation but shall pass from death into life. Now a careful examination will show that there is only one future tense in this verse. Shall not come into condemnation. This, and this only, is future in one's salvation. The present and the certain fact is that if one hears the word of Jesus - believes on him that sent Jesus, has ever lasting life and shall not come into condemnation. But already is passed - it is a finished work - from death unto life. Life is eternal. Because Jesus is lasting forever. Thank God, your salvation and my salvation does not depend upon I do. But upon what Christ does. Hence, it is as Jonathon Edwards expressed it, grace is but glory begun. And glory is but grace perfected.

Not of yourselves. We need to get these things in our souls. Not of yourselves - it is the gift of God. The sins of your life will bring the wages of death. God's gift of grace will bring to your life eternal life.

It is not of works lest any man should boast. So it is not by abusing your body. It is not by some deed that you might do in some way. But it is in Christ, of Christ, and through Christ, and no one but Christ - that you can be saved. The hymnwriter put it - Jesus paid it all. All to him I owe. Sin has left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.

Yes, my salvation depends not upon what I do, but upon what Christ has already done for me.

So here is a dependable. A man may go to Heaven without health, without fame, a great name, learning, culture, beauty, friends, and 10,000 other things. But he can never go to Heaven without Christ.

"The great transaction is done. I am my Lord's and he is mine."

Now I have already indicated something about good works. And the Bible does speak of good works. Good works will be the fruit and not the root of salvation. The sermon on the mount does not tell men how to be saved, but the sermon on the mount tells men how to live the Christian life. Good works are addressed to Christians and not to pagans. If you get saved, you will have