

View

A Publication of the Folsom Point church of Christ. 900 E. Natoma, Folsom, CA

December 2, 2007

Garage Sale Grace and Flea Market Salvation

The obvious question is, “What in the world do garage sales and flea markets have to do with grace?” The obvious answer ought to be, “Absolutely nothing!” But such is not the case. Many people today are in search of a bargain even in the religious realm.

The overwhelming success of garage sales and flea markets in today’s society demonstrates that many are interested in a bargain. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, many seem to approach the subject of grace with the same bargain hunting frame of mind. They want to obtain the benefits of grace, but they want to do so as cheaply as possible. In truth, their question is: “How little must I give before I can possess it?”

Grace Is Free but Not Cheap

In Ephesians 2:8, 9 and Romans 5:15-18, we find that salvation is by God’s grace and cannot be merited by any work which man can perform. But for someone to think the benefits of grace can be had at bargain basement prices is a serious mistake and only serves to demonstrate how that individual has completely misunderstood the subject of grace. The unmerited and gracious gift of God’s Son for the redemption of fallen man was not something that was deserved by any thing man has done or ever could do. It comes as a free gift from God and is completely unmerited by man, but this is not to say it is not without great cost on the part of both God and man. Does this all seem confusing to you? Are you wondering how something can be free yet costly? Then maybe you are confusing the physical and spiritual realms. Let’s spend some time considering the cost of God’s grace.

What It Cost God

Our God and Heavenly Father gave His “only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not

perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:16, 17). The Father gave His Son and the Son gave His life; but there is more. The relationship the Father and Son had enjoyed throughout eternity (John 1:1) was disrupted (Philippians 2:5-8) so that man could be justified (Romans 3:26). When one begins to contemplate the great sacrifice of both the Father and the Son, one is simply overwhelmed by the great cost of this thing called grace.

What It Costs Man

One gets an insight into what the “free gift” of salvation costs man when, in Matthew 13:44,45, our Lord said: “Again the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and seeketh all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.” To receive the benefits of grace, one must be willing to give all that one has, i.e., “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” (Matthew 16:24). In other words, in order to receive the benefits of God’s grace, the Lord requires a complete sacrifice of our lives to Him (Romans 12:1, 2).

The blood-bought are aware of the marvelous price God paid so that He could bestow His grace upon them (I Corinthians 6:19,20), and know they are under obligation to the Giver of this grace to walk in the footsteps of Jesus (I Peter 2:21-23). When one truly understands the great value of grace, he will give all that he has to possess it, knowing that there is no way he could ever really pay for it. It is within this context that the Lord said: “Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden

Agenda

The Lord's Day, December 2, 2007

9:30 AM: Worship: Singing, Lord's Supper, Preaching

- ◆ Preaching: David Posey

5:00 PM: Lord's Supper, Singing, Preaching

- ◆ Sermon: TBA

5:30 PM: Bible Classes, All Ages

Adult Classes

- ◆ Room 11-12, SeedSowers
- ◆ Auditorium: Deuteronomy

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

10 AM, Bible class will resume in January, 2008.

7:30 PM, Bible Classes for ages 18 mos. and up

Auditorium: Deuteronomy

Meeting Notes

Bro. Harrell's sermons and charts are available online on our website (www.folsomchurch.com) or on CD (see a deacon)

could be that happy and have that kind of outlook on life. In the face of all he's had to battle he still has his same cheerful disposition. Try uplifting someone and most of the time you find yourself uplifted as well.

The more people who have been edified, the better the atmosphere. As Paul was speaking to the church in Thessalonica, and teaching them about Christian conduct, he told them to "encourage one another and build one another up." He also told them to "appreciate and esteem highly in love those who labor among them, and to live in peace with one another." (1 Thess. 5:11-13) When you love and edify and are able to cheer the heart of another, peace is almost sure to follow. Just think if everyone was edified and everyone had a cheerful heart. We'd have a lot less problems within the church. What a wonderful thing it would be.

Build up others because you love them. We are told that "Love does no wrong to his neighbor," (Rom 13:10), so why would you want to bring your brother down rather than uplifting him? Don't we love our brethren? You can't say you love God and not say you love your brother! (1 Jn. 4:20) "And this commandment we have from him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." (1 Jn. 4:21) When you love someone you give a part of yourself to them. Just as when two people are married, they become one. God loved us enough to give his son to die for us. (Jn. 3:16) We too should love one another and be willing to lend ourselves to one another. James tells us to "confess our sins to one another and pray for one another so that we may be healed." (James 5:16) We should be willing and able to help one another. We should pray for our brethren or just be a shoulder to cry on. We can do it, all we gotta do is try.

Let us hear the words spoken by Paul, "So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another." (Rom. 14:19) Show the love you have for brethren today, and remember... "Smiles are a simple way to uplift, and they can be extremely contagious!" From the v-shaped flight pattern of the geese, observe the pattern for your service.

-Dan Chaney

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