

GRACE ALONE

1 OF 2

WE BELIEVE, as SCRIPTURE clearly teaches, that grace is God's free favor and love towards mankind. And that the salvation of the world is grounded upon two Foundational Biblical Truths.

The 1st foundational Biblical Truth is UNIVERSAL GRACE; that "God was, in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not counting their trespasses against them..." (2 Cor. 5:19-21)

CHRIST humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Phil. 2:8) He is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2; Titus 2:11)

"For as by the one man's disobedience [Adam's] the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience [Christ's] the many will be made righteous." Romans 5:19

[The term "the many" is a biblical code word for "all mankind"]

It is absolutely impossible for human reason to comprehend that in Christ the whole world has been reconciled to God.

There is not a soul that has ever lived, or who is yet to be born, whose sins have not been forgiven! (2 Cor. 5:19-21)

Mercy has truly been won for all! As JESUS proclaimed on the Cross; *"It is finished!"* (John 19:30)

The 2nd foundational Biblical Truth is that of INDIVIDUAL GRACE; that this forgiveness of sins "must" be apprehended BY FAITH ALONE - IN CHRIST ALONE. (1 John 1:7; Romans 10:12; John 6:40)

Apostle Paul explains that *"the righteous shall live by faith."* (Romans 1:16-17; Gal. 3:11; Habakkuk 2:4).

Therefore, whenever UNIVERSAL GRACE is taught; so also INDIVIDUAL GRACE must be taught! It is clearly evident that (John 3:16) sets forth both!

WHY ARE BOTH SO IMPORTANT? If Christ had not died for the sins of the whole world, one could never be certain He died for them!

PASSAGE OF THE DAY

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:17)

Reflect upon the following passages this week: (1 Timothy 2:3-4; Mark 16:15; John 6:51)

NOTABLE QUOTE

"We therefore take great comfort in the knowledge that "the Son of God so deeply humbled Himself that He took our sins on His back.

"Yet, not only our sins, but also that of the whole world, from that committed by Adam down to that of the very last human being.

"He wanted to take our commission upon Himself and also to suffer and die for us, so that we might be without sin and obtain eternal life and blessedness..." Martin Luther on (John 1:29)

NEXT WEEKS THEME

Grace is a Gift of God!

*Other than quotes, all passage - ESV