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Trophies Of Grace

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In Greek and Roman antiquity a trophy was something taken on the field of battle as a memorial or evidence of victory. It was usually in the nature of some weapon or flag captured from the enemy. The word was gradually enlarged to include any evidence of victory or conquest in any realm of human endeavor. So the slain deer was the trophy of the chase. Cups and banners are trophies of victory on the ball field.

In this message we want to think of a sinner as a trophy of the grace of God. Every saved man is a memorial or evidence of the conquering power of grace. Grace is the power of God working in us and making us different than what we are by nature.

OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE GRACE

Objective grace is God's favor towards us; subjective grace is God's power in us.

Objective grace did something for the sinner; subjective grace does something in the sinner.

Objective grace is legal; subjective grace is experimental.

Objective grace takes us out from under the law; subjective grace works the spirit of obedience in us.

Objective grace takes us out from under the law; subjective grace works the spirit of obedience in us.

Objective grace removes the sentence of condemnation; subjective grace breaks the spirit of rebellion in us.

Objective grace imputes the righteousness of Christ to us; subjective grace imparts the nature of Christ to us.

Objective grace is manifested in the gift of Christ to us; subjective grace is manifested by the Spirit of Christ working in us.

Objective grace results in justification; subjective grace results in regeneration.

Objective grace changes our standing before God; subjective grace changes our thoughts, affections, and will.

Objective grace gives us the right to go to heaven; subjective grace fits us for the enjoyment of heaven.

Objective grace is external; subjective grace is internal.

SUBJECTIVE GRACE FURTHER CONSIDERED

Subjective grace is God's power working in us and can be seen in several particulars.

1. In Conversion: "By the grace of God I am what I am". (I Cor. 15:10). No man converts himself. In conversion the sinner repents and believes and this is caused by grace working in him.

"And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace" - Acts 18:27.

“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by His grace”. - Galatians 1:15.

2. Supports Us Under Trials: God’s grace is greater than Paul’s thorn. Grace is sufficient for any and every trial. I often anticipate troubles and trials and feel that when such comes I cannot bear it, but when it has come, grace comes with it.

“Lord, it belongs not to my care
Whether I die or live;
To love and serve Thee is my share,
And this thy grace must give.

“If life be long I will be glad
That I may long obey;
If short, yet why should I be sad
To soar to endless day?

“Come Lord, when grace has made me meet,
Thy blessed face to see;
For if thy work on earth be sweet,
What will Thy glory be??”

3. Accomplishes Things Through Us: Grace gets the glory for our service as well as for our salvation. Grace gets the glory for what we do as well as for what we are. The secret of the liberality of the Macedonian saints was that the grace of God was bestowed upon them. Grace enables us to do our duty toward God and men. Sin has ruined our nature so that we do not love God and men; grace works love in us for both God and our neighbor.

ABUSERS OF GRACE

The Bible speaks of those who abuse grace by turning the grace of God into lasciviousness. We abuse grace when we offer grace as an alibi for sinning. We abuse grace when we try to justify a life of sin. A man was being remonstrated for his drinking. He replied, “O that is alright, I am not under law but under grace”. Grace does indeed save apart from works, but it does not beget the spirit of lawlessness.

Heaven is going to be a marvelous display of the trophies of grace. “That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of His grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:7).

Saved men are trophies or memorials of the grace of God; living testimonials of the power of grace in human lives. Consider some of these trophies:

1. Saul of Tarsus: Look at this ambitious and aggressive Pharisee, member of Sanhedrin, busily

engaged in stamping out Christianity. See him as he goes about arresting Christians and putting them in prison. He holds the garments of the men who stone Stephen to death. Who would ever expect this young man to become a believer in the very thing he so intensely hates? But grace had an eye on him all the time. When God’s time came for His conversion, God called him by His grace and revealed His son in him. Grace changed him from a persecutor to a bond slave of Christ. Grace changed him from a self righteous pharisee to the greatest exponent of the imputed righteousness of Christ. Grace changed him from a proud pharisee to a humble believer. Grace changed him from a spirit of self sufficiency to a spirit of dependency on Christ.

2. The Dying Thief: Here is a man bred in sin and trained in sin. He is dying as a criminal at the hand of the Roman law. His hands are covered with human blood and his mind is enmity against God for he derides the Son of God who hangs by his side. But, like a flash, he is changed from a reviler to a lover of Christ. Oh, the speed with which grace can act! Here is a man who will be in hell in a few minutes if it were not for grace. Grace makes him to differ from the other thief. Grace makes a prayer out of this reviler. Grace calls him and he calls upon Christ and says, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into Thy kingdom”. (Luke 23:42).

3. The Philippian Jailer: Grace changed him from a cruel official to a gracious host Grace changed him from a sour sinner to a happy saint.

4. Every Saint is a Trophy of Grace: God’s ultimate objective in salvation is the display of His grace.

Sinners are saved because God wants people in heaven as trophies of His matchless, amazing grace.

A sin is two sins when it is defended.

--Henry Smith



HIS WAYS

God has a thousand ways
Where I can see not one;
When all my means have
reached their end,
Then His have just begun.

--Copied



THIS WE BELIEVE

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God without error as originally written. We believe in the Genesis account of creation and the fall of man. We believe in total depravity. We believe all are lost unless born again. We believe that we are saved by grace through faith and without works on the part of man. We believe that repentance and faith are inseparable graces and that all who do not repent and believe are lost. We believe in the security of the believer. We believe faith without works is dead. We believe all who have repented and believed should confess the Lord and follow Him in baptism and begin to seek to do His will. We believe that Jesus Christ organized a church while here on earth during His personal ministry (before Pentecost), and that He gave that church a commission. Matt. 28:19,20. We believe that there are two church ordinances; baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that the church is local, visible, and that she has the Bible for her one and only and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. We believe that the way to finance the Lord's work is by tithes and offerings. We believe that all churches should be missionary. We believe in the premillennial second coming of Christ. We believe that Heaven is a real place and that Hell is a real place. We believe in the Trinity of God, and that the Devil is a person, and that there will be two resurrections, one of the just and one of the unjust.



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