

The Grace Of God

The Free Agency Of Man
2 Timothy 1:8-10

Two Basic Errors

- God's grace covers all.
- God's grace is an enabling power.

Of Free Will ...

- "The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such, that he cannot turn and prepare himself by his own natural strength and works to faith, and calling upon God; wherefore we have no power to do good works, pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will." (Methodist Church Discipline 1918, Articles Of Faith, pages 4-5)

Of Free-Agency ...

- "We believe that man's creation in godlikeness included ability to choose between right and wrong, and that thus he was made morally responsible; that through the fall of Adam he became depraved so that he can not now turn and prepare himself by his own natural strength and works to faith and calling upon God; but the grace of God through Jesus Christ is freely bestowed upon all men, enabling all who will to turn from sin to righteousness, believe on Jesus Christ for pardon and cleansing from sin, and follow good works pleasing and acceptable in His sight." (Manual of the Church Of The Nazarene, 1928, page 23, article 22)

Of Regeneration ...

- "We believe the Scriptures teach that regeneration, or the new birth, is that change wrought in the soul by the Holy Spirit, by which a new nature and spiritual life, not before possessed, are imparted, and the person becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus;... The change is instantaneous, effected solely by the power of God, in a manner incomprehensible to reason; the evidence of it is found in a changed disposition of mind, the fruits of righteousness, and a newness of life. And without it salvation is impossible." (Hiscox Standard Baptist Manual, pages 138-139)

Of Faith ...

- "We believe the Scriptures teach that faith, as an evangelical grace wrought by the Spirit, is the medium through which Christ is received by the soul as its sacrifice and Savior." (Hiscox Standard Baptist Manual, page 139)

Total Depravity

- Teaching of Augustine. 354-430
- Teaching of John Calvin. 1536
- Denies that man is responsible for his own sins.
 - The fall of man ... “We believe the Scriptures teach that man was created in holiness under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; **being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil**; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.” (Hiscox Standard Baptist Manual. page 138)

Calvinism Examined

- T – Ezekiel 18:20
- U – Romans 2:11; Acts 10:34-35; Acts 2:21
- L – Hebrews 2:9; Titus 2:11; Romans 5:6; cf. Mark 16:16
- I – Ephesians 4:30
- P – 2 Peter 2:20; Hebrews 3:12-13

False Arguments Examined

- Acts 13:48 Those ordained to eternal life believed. (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9)
- Romans 9:15,18 “Have mercy on whom I will.” (cf. Matthew 5:7; James 2:13; 2 Corinthians 2:16)
- Romans 9:21-22 Vessels unto honor or dishonor. (cf. Jeremiah 18:4; 2 Timothy 2:20-22)
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13 “From beginning chosen to salvation.” (cf. verses 14-15)
- Jude 4 Certain men ordained to condemnation (cf. Genesis 4; 2 Samuel 11; Joshua 6; Acts 5)

Evidence Of Free-Will

- God desires salvation of all. Matthew 18:14; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9
- He grieves over the conduct of sinners. Genesis 6:6; Hebrews 3:10; Isaiah 63:10; 48:18; Luke 13:3-4
- Man addressed as one who can choose. Deuteronomy 30:15; Joshua 24:15; Matthew 11:28-30; Matthew 16:24; John 5:40; Acts 10:34-35; Revelation 22:17
- Man’s conduct determines his standing. John 8:34; Romans 6:16-17; Hebrews 5:8-9; Matthew 7:21; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

Conclusion

- The means of our redemption is Jesus Christ.
- The operation is forgiveness, not the enabling power, or the imputation of righteousness, but the failure to impute sin.
- The condition is faith, not faith only, but an obedient faith.