Grace*

Ephesians 2:8-10 (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
(9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.
(10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
For by grace are ye saved - Salvation by grace is God's gift. It is not of merit; it is wholly by favor; not because you have any claim. It is the gift of God through faith in Christ - Grace bestowed through faith that is the effect of belief. And that not of yourselves - That is, salvation does not proceed from yourselves. The instrument, or means of salvation, on the part of the person saved is; Christ alone is the meritorious agent. Turn with me to;
Acts 2:36-38 (36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
(37) Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
(38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
These persons whom Peter addressed had become alarmed; they were then afraid of the wrath to come. This alarm Peter did not regard as genuine repentance. Hence, he told them to repent, to turn from sin as an evil and bitter thing, that there is no safety, goodness or holiness in mere alarm or conviction. Faith demands that he should at once surrender himself to God by genuine repentance(Acts 2:38); by confession that Jesus is the Son of God and be baptized for remission of sins (8:38). Are you listening? Christ directed His Apostles that they should baptize believers (Matthew 28:19).

*Grace cannot be separated from Jesus Christ and our command from the Father is this, **"hear ye him"** (Matthew 17:5). A point well taken by the writers of the new testament; let's turn to;*

Hebrews 1:1-2 (1) God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, (2) Hath in these **last days spoken unto us by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

It is stated here the fact, that the Son of God imposes the highest obligations to attend, to what He has said; and that He has an authority superior to all those who have spoken in the past and in these latter days. So many do not accept, "God hath spoken unto us by his Son." By contrast, many are willing to accept words spoken by Joseph Smith or Mohammad, both started new religions in their own image according to their own will. My advise is to flee quickly; The moral precepts of the Redeemer are superior to those of any and all that had gone before Him or that followed Him. The preacher has given advice that should be taken hardily; There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs 14:12). *Sin is the death of the soul. When we look upon the remains of a man, it gives an awful feeling. A never-dying spirit is now fled, and has left nothing but the ruins of a man. But if we viewed things aright, we should be far more affected by the thought of a dead soul, lost, fallen. Faith at once believes the good news of a free salvation through Christ, and accepts Christ as the Savior. We commit ourselves to Him, trust ourselves to Him for that salvation of which He is the Author;* he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, *that authority is manifested in Him alone, turn with me to;*

Hebrews 12:1-2 (1) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us

run with patience the race that is set before us,
(2) Looking unto **Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
The New Testament - can be considered what God "has spoken to us by his Son" - has told us how the great work of being reconciled to God can be effected, turn with me to;
Galatians 3:26-27 (26) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.
(27) For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ.
Our life depends on water and Spirit, when one is baptized into Christ he is born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5). That is the one baptism that was established by the Son of God, Jesus Christ. That one baptism is the baptism that joins a believer to the Lord in one spirit. John's baptism did not provide that bonding to the Lord, it was for a different purpose, repentance only, and was intended for the nation of Israel. The one baptism established by Christ is for the entire world, to receive remission of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
On a box of cake mix, the instructions read in part; blend cake mix and 1 1/4 cups of cold water. A cake mix minus the liquid is not transformed, not fit for anything but to be thrown out. Water is that bonding agent that will transform a mix into a wonderful cake when all conditions have been met. Water is that bonding agent when all conditions have been met to put on Christ, (Galatians 3:27). Baptism cannot be dismissed easily just as the wind cannot be dismissed easily. We see the fluttering and hear the rustling of the leaf but cannot tell from whence came the wind. So it is with baptism, we are saved by grace through faith in Christ that is the effect of hearing the word of God. Man's part of saving grace is to take his burden of sin and place it upon Christ in baptism thereby

crucifying it. Yes it is true that God sends physical blessings upon the righteous and the wicked in this life. But on judgment day God has reserved spiritual blessings for the saved in Christ, (Luke 16:23). Listen, on judgment day some will be astonished, believing their salvation is secure in their works outside of Christ. What a terrible predicament, turn with me to;

Matthew 7:21-23 (21) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
(22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
(23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Evidently, there are some here having the appearance of not being entrapped by wicked behavior. However they may have been entrapped by blindness. Perhaps they were blinded by "baptism is not necessary" or "once in grace always in grace". There are people that believe the adage, "baptism is not necessary", and most likely are the same people who accept "once in grace always in grace." They never received the gift of grace because of unbelief. Perhaps the first doctrine one should endeavor to correct is "once in grace always in grace." I needed help, I entered "once in grace always in grace" into the on-line Bible search engine and this is the answer received, "Sorry! The search criteria that you entered, "once in grace always in grace," does not yield any results in the KJV". I entered, "baptism is not necessary" into the Bible search engine and received this answer, "Sorry! The search criteria that you entered, "baptism is not necessary," does not yield any results in the KJV". Still I tried one more time, I entered "once saved always saved" into the Bible search engine and received this answer. "Sorry! The search criteria that you entered, "once saved

always saved," does not yield any results in the KJV".
Strangely, none of these commonly held beliefs have a basis in scripture. However scripture is not silent, are you listening?
"for by grace are ye saved through faith," (Ephesians 2:8).
Within the old and new testaments there are revelations attesting to salvation. But read carefully, rightly dividing the truth. Let's turn to;
Jude 1:5-6 (5) I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having **saved the people** out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.
(6) And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.
There is no greater knowledge in the world than knowing one is a member of that blood-bought Church of Christ and that he will be at home with Him on that day. Knowing that Jesus paid the dept for sin, (Acts 20:28), knowing that one has become a recipient of the gift of salvation, (Mark 16:16) and knowing that no outside forces, not even satan, are strong enough to separate a Christian from the love of God, Christians should be the happiest people on earth! Nothing can force a saved person from the spiritual safety found in Christ, (John 10:28). Nothing is strong enough to take away the Christian's gift of salvation. Nothing can make a saved person live in sin! Nothing can separate a follower of Christ from his first love. But, do not mistake Christ's love for a free pass to disobey the Master without suffering eternal consequences. Al-tho many have bought into the doctrine of, "once saved, always saved", (that is a Christian can never fall out of the favor of God), scripture repeatedly denies such a claim.
The 3rd-century "Constitutions of the Holy Apostles" discusses the seriousness of baptism and the potential consequences if a Christian continues to sin after being initiated into the faith

through baptism: {Beloved, be it known to you that those who are baptized into the death of our lord Jesus are obliged to go on no longer in sin; for as those who are dead cannot work wickedness any longer, so those who are dead with Christ cannot practice wickedness. We do not therefore believe, brethren, that any one who has received the washing of life continues in the practice of the licentious acts of transgressors. Now he who sins after his baptism, unless he repent and forsake his sins, shall be condemned to hell-fire." (Book 2, sec.3).} *The primitive Church did not teach "once in grace always in grace", but did teach;* For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8). *Additionally, the word of God is not silent how to acquire that faith;* So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17). *Do not accept a faith that does not come by "hearing the word of God." In other words, do not fall into the trap, "the Bible does not say we cannot". The Bible will tell you what you must do. Accept what the Bible speaks. Turn with me to;*
John 15:1-6 (1) I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.
(2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
(3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
(4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.
(5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
(6) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

So, not only is the doctrine, "once in grace always in grace", unscriptural, but scripture teaches complete opposition to such a doctrine, for more information turn with me to;
Romans 11:17-22 (17) And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert graffed in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;
(18) Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.
(19) Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be graffed in.
(20) Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:
(21) **For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.**
(22) Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.
Strange how some cannot grasp the meaning of; ***shalt be cut off*** *or* ***fallen from grace****. The Holy Spirit has gone to great lengths to warn that a branch can became withered and cast into the fire, or that* Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; **ye are fallen from grace** (Galatians 5:4). *Of this scripture one may say, "this is only one verse and its concern is about justification by the law. This is true,* What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet (Romans 7:7). *If we are no longer under the law of ordinances then why was the law given? It was not given as a scheme of salvation, but to make us know the difference between right and wrong, between sin and righteousness. That is why the law is important, but salvation is a free gift from God by faith in His Son Jesus Christ. That is why the ordinances of the law were taken away and nailed to the cross; but to steal, to*

murder etc., was and still is sin, but now justification is by faith in Jesus Christ, not by ordinances of the law.
When taking into account warnings in scripture such as, "shalt be cut off", "he taketh away", "cast forth as a branch", "spared not the natural branches" or "fallen from grace", the message is clear. Considering the estate of angels? Are you more secure than they? Are you listening? For if **God spared not the angels that sinned**, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; (2Peter 2:4). *Can one honestly believe he is better than angels? Even the angels that sinned were not able to escape the wrath of God. Behold the goodness and severity of God, turn with me to;*
1Corinthians 10:1-12 (1) Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
(2) And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
(3) And did all eat the same spiritual meat;
(4) And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.
(5) But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.
(6) **Now these things were our examples**, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.
(7) Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.
(8) Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.
(9) Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.
(10) Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

(11) Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.
(12) **Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall**.
For those that believe the word of God, no other explanation is needed. For those that do not believe, no explanation will do. The word says, "take heed lest ye fall." If one is entrapped in the doctrine, "once in grace always in grace", he should take heed, turn with me to;
Hebrews 6:1-6 (1) Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,
(2) Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
(3) And this will we do, if God permit.
(4) For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,
(5) And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,
(6) **If they shall fall away**, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.
A baptized believer needs to move forward and go on unto perfection. The need for teaching the first principles is needful for the novice, the world is in need of being taught the first principles of the doctrine of Christ. Of the doctrine of faith that is the effect of belief and repentance toward God. Of the doctrine of confession and baptism. It is reported falsely that the Church of Christ cannot prove the necessity of baptism using scriptures such as Mark 16:16, *but I ask that one read carefully,* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

*There cannot be more certainty of words than these, and they came from the mouth of Jesus Christ. They are His words, not ours. Consider an automobile approaching an intersection, there is a sign. STOP! The letters (s-t-o-p) do not mean **S**pin **T**ires **O**n **P**avement. There is a reason for the stop sign, it is the law and for your safety! There is a reason for Mark 16:16, it is the law of Christ and for your salvation. The Apostle Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit was;* Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead (Colossians 2:12). *Here the process of being forgiven all trespasses is explained. In this state of forgiveness one is in the grace of God, but take heed lest ye fall. It is impossible to be in a state of forgiveness and in the grace of God outside the ordinance of baptism.*

There is a choice, of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness. Because of the peerless value of the death of the Lord, God is offering to all the blessings of salvation on a grace basis through faith. But what faith? Faith in Christ that is the effect of belief in God's word, and submission to baptism is the effect of that faith; one must first believe the testimony of God, then by faith repent of their sins, confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and be baptized into Him thereby receiving remission of sins. These only have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. Take advantage today while you can. Requesting prayer for other reasons?, in either case come while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ

The message ‘Grace’ Revised 01232020
Study Aids; Barnes' Notes on the Bible
Halley’s Bible Handbook 24th edition
This message presented to; BaronOk-Jan2010/WestvilleOk-Feb2010/