

Grace News Today



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Faith Alone in Christ Alone

by Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko

Greetings to you from all of us at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. I thank God who in His Master's grace has purchased us from the "slave market of sin." He redeemed us by the priceless and precious blood of His unique Son, Jesus Christ, through whom we have been reunited with God forever. I also thank God for the immeasurable ministry of God the Holy Spirit who, at the instant we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, entered us into union with Christ—a place where we share everything that Christ has for all eternity.

In fact, I am absolutely convinced that our salvation package is totally God's doing. He designed His whole plan before He created a single thing. God the Son voluntarily fulfilled everything in the package: "Even while we were yet sinners Christ died as a substitute for us;" God the Holy Spirit revealed this grace plan to us. In light of this awesome grace, it is my privilege to join the greatest apostle of all time, the apostle Paul, in declaring, "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy..." (Titus 3:5a), and I echo Paul's emphatic declaration, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves (working for salvation), it is the (free) gift of God; not as a result of works (baptized for salvation, shedding tears of repentance and promising God to change your lifestyle), that no one should boast" (Eph. 2:8,9).

We didn't take part in the salvation process; therefore, you and I have nothing to boast about. If you get to Heaven because of your works, you have every right to tell God that His grace doesn't mean much to you and to tell your fellow believers that you are there because you worked so hard while on earth—that is tantamount to boasting. That kind of boasting (pride) brought Satan down from Heaven, and God does not have a Xerox machine in Heaven for replicating this pride. There is no Boasting Department in Heaven—only grace.

Since salvation is a matter of God's grace, one can adamantly conclude that no believer, not even the apostle Paul, worked for, earned or deserved to be saved. We are saved by the courtesy of the measureless, unfathomable, and matchless grace of God, which He bestowed upon us—the totally undeserving ones. This grace ministry is born by the grace of God in a time of great apostasy which the apostle Paul would be greatly distressed over.

Many people, whom I hope are truly saved as they claim, find it extremely difficult to allow the word "grace" to stand alone. False teachers have diluted the pure grace of God by adding ingredients that have no connection to grace. As a result, it is difficult to see grace clearly. There are some who argue that grace is not enough. What an insult to the eternal justice of God who, in the Supreme Court of Heaven, has designed a perfect way of dealing with sinful mankind without compromising His perfect integrity—the perfect way is grace.

Concerning this blatant disregard of grace, I've sat down in silence and pondered a series of questions—even shed tears within—over why so many choose the road that God Himself strongly opposes and rejects. Why are so many believers (assuming they are believers) misleading unbelievers? Why have they elected to live in darkness, when in essence there is a better way of spiritual living—the spiritual lifestyle of grace? Why? Why in darkness? Why are so many not enjoying this wonderful plan of God designed by His grace?

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After examining the Scripture carefully and after listening to different denominations declare the Gospel message with so many conditions attached, I was able to draw the following conclusions:

1. Satan is a genius. His main objective is to distract believers and unbelievers alike from following the plan of God precisely. He knows that God is a God of precision and can never accept anything less than perfection. How do I know? The Bible describes Satan as being crafty (Gen. 3:1), and cunning (II Cor. 11:3,14). He masquerades himself and attacks the grace of God in every conceivable way: False teaching is his craftsmanship (I Tim. 4:1). Salvation by works is his masterpiece (Eph. 2:8,9; Acts 15:1-17). Lordship salvation is the result of his ingenuity. This false doctrine declares that if you do not make Christ to be Lord of your life, then you are not saved. Satan never wants to see anyone saved; therefore, he works around the clock to make salvation seem like you are climbing to Heaven on your own steam. Whereas, salvation is as simple as drinking a cup of water when you're thirsty. This is "faith alone in Christ alone."

2. The other reason (from my observations) is that several denominations have, what I call, a "predetermined mind set" — they make up their minds what they're going to believe and what not to believe. They don't want to accept anything new, even if they see the truth in it. What do they do instead? They scramble Scripture and take portions of God's Word out of context to support their erroneous beliefs. Their leader, Satan, also quoted out of context to Christ (Matt. 4:5,6; cf. Ps. 91:11,12). These individuals don't have the humility it takes to be teachable and to allow the Holy Spirit to shine the light of truth in their souls. Due to the second explanation, I recall the story of the blind men who went to the zoo. When they arrived, they were taken to visit an elephant. In their process of perceiving the elephant with their hands, some felt only the body, some only the tail, and some only the legs. Their instructor later asked the blind men to describe an elephant. Group A shouted with a certainty that "An elephant is like a wall!" What part did they feel? The body. Group B jumped up and said, "No, an elephant is like a snake!" They only felt the tail. Group C chimed in with, "That's not true! All of you are wrong! An elephant is like a tree!" For this group only concentrated on feeling the legs.

Comparing the above analogy to what is happening in our churches today, what is missing? Sight. The sight to clearly see the whole elephant as God created it. They were all partially right. But partial truth is no truth! Had they put their descriptions together they would have described the elephant accurately. Many believers are like those blind men; they don't want to take time to examine the whole realm of the Word of God. They sometimes claim: "The Word of God is too technical." But they'll become experts in so many other fields—learning and mastering the technical words therein. So little time is spent in learning, understanding, and applying God's Word.

If you'll look around, you'll see that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is indeed under siege and the grace of God is under fire. Many have abused the great salvation that was finished by the King of kings, Lord of lords, our ultimate Savior, Jesus Christ.

I would like to challenge you as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ by asking: *What are you doing with your spiritual life? If the rapture were to take place right now, would our Lord Jesus Christ say to you, "Well done faithful servant?" Have you understood God's grace? If not, have you asked God to guide you to understand His grace plan? Are you too proud to change your old concepts even if the Holy Spirit has revealed truth to you? Whom are you serving? The God of grace or the god of works? And to the pastors, are you preaching grace or abusing it? Our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you represent as an ambassador, is watching you. The answers to these questions is a matter between you and God who has purchased you by the blood of His Son Jesus Christ (I Peter 1:18-19).*

In the riches of His unchanging grace,



Moses Onwubiko, Evangelist
Grace Evangelistic Ministries

DOCTRINE OF SALVATION
by Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko

ARE YOU IN BONDAGE?

Many believers are in bondage today simply because of lack of accurate Bible teaching or doctrine. God addressed the problem this way: “My people (believers) are destroyed (including living in fear, not being fruitful), for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6a).

Lack of understanding of God’s truth keeps a lot of believers in bondage—and many unbelievers from believing. How can you communicate something you are not sure of yourself? How can you witness to unbelievers when the issue about the saving work of Christ is still unclear in your own right lobe? Many are encapsulated in fear—fear of “not being truly saved,” or “fear of losing their salvation.” They’re consumed by this fear and have no spiritual freedom. As a result, there’s little or no time for evangelizing the unbelieving world.

*“You Shall Know the Truth
and the Truth Shall Make
You Free.”*

John 8:32

When you as a believer understand the work God did on your behalf, and what it actually cost Jesus Christ to be hung on the cross, you should be compelled to say, “Thank you, my Father, God of all grace.”

Let’s begin our subject by examining the Greek word for salvation, *soterion*, and its Hebrew equivalent, *yeshuah*. Experts of the Bible agree that originally it was not exclusively a theological term, but that it denoted “deliverance” – deliverance from almost every kind of evil, whether it be material or spiritual. In the Old Testament, God is identified as the Savior (Isaiah 43:3,11; Jer. 14:8). In the New Testament, this word “Savior” identifies our Lord Jesus Christ.

The experts also agree that the word “salvation” becomes a technical, theological term with the development of the Messianic idea and the Messianic age. Without going deeper, let’s see if we can define this word “salvation.” The lexical aids to the Old Testament (dictionary) put it this way: “**Salvation is God’s love in action.**” Salvation, therefore, is the ultimate manifestation of the righteousness of God, His justice and love expressed in grace through Jesus Christ to the helpless ones—the sinners. Ironically, when someone promises you something, the first thing that concerns you is the character of the person making the promise. We know that a rope is no stronger than its material; likewise, a promise is no stronger than the one who promised it. Man’s promise is never guaranteed, but God’s Word stands firm in the courtroom of Heaven. The Psalmist writes, “Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens” (Ps. 119:89). This means that whatever God has promised, He will always follow through no matter what happens (Rom. 11:29; II Tim. 2:13).

Now at this point, we need to examine the essence of the One who promises salvation to those who trust Christ (Heb. 7:25). His essence includes the following:

1. **Righteousness:** (Rev. 3:7; I Sam. 2:2; Lev. 19:2b). God is righteous. Breaking a promise does not reflect a righteous person. But God can never compromise His perfect righteousness just because you have failed Him (II Tim. 2:13).
2. **Justice:** As a just God, He is fair. In fact, it is impossible for God not to be fair (Deut. 32:4; Job 37:23).
3. **Love:** (I John 4:8). Because God is immutable and eternal, His love is fixed. It is unchanging and enduring (Jer. 31:3). That means that His love does not swing like a pendulum—He doesn’t have mood swings—happy/sad; happy/sad. You and I do not have what it takes to cause His love to swing back and forth! Your failure and mine are but two drops in an old rusty bucket.
4. **God is eternal life** (Exodus 3:14; Ps. 90:2; Deut. 32:40). God always was! Think back as far as you can – back to before you were born – back to Adam and Eve. But don’t stop there! Let your imagination go further and further back till you can’t think anymore and KNOW that you are not even close to the beginning, because there was no

beginning for the Trinity. Before angels were created, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit existed and will never cease to exist.

5. **Omniscience:** God knows everything that there is to know (I Sam. 2:3; Job 37:16). God knew everything about you even before He offered you salvation. He knew that you had a sin nature. He knew that you would make mistakes in the darkness and appear to be holy in the light before others.
6. **Omnipresence:** God is everywhere (Jer. 23:24; John 14:23). No one can hide from His presence.
7. **God is immutable:** He is perfect and He maintains an absolute stability (Isaiah 40:28). He cannot change (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 1:12; Ps 102:26). This means that God is obligated not to change His mind (Rom. 11:29)—including changing His mind about the gift of eternal life which He gave you in grace (Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:5a).
8. **Sovereignty:** This means that God has the supreme, ultimate will. What He says is final. The theologians of this universe, and the host of both fallen and elect angels combined are not capable of causing God's will to change.
9. **Omnipotence:** Satan is powerful, but God is all-powerful (Ps. 147:5). God is not only all-powerful, but mighty to save (Neh. 1:10; Heb. 7:25). He has the power to keep those who have trusted Christ (I Peter 1:5). This means that nothing can snatch them away from His love (Rom. 8:33-38) or out of Christ's hand (John 10:28).
10. **Veracity:** God is absolute truth. He cannot lie. He does not waffle like men do (Numbers 23:19).

All these characteristics reflect the integrity of the everlasting God. If He said that He has given you eternal life when you believed in Christ alone, count on Him, for He cannot change His mind or His plan for you (Mal. 3:6; Rom. 11:29).

We have just examined the one "...who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, {be} glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen" Jude 24 & 25.

To be continued in Volume Two...



TESTIMONIES AND GRATITUDE TO GOD

It was just a few days ago during our Board of Directors meeting that we discussed the importance of obtaining a computer for our office. Well, God in His master's grace has met this need through one of the members of the Board of Directors. In addition, God, being aware of our financial needs, has provided us with somebody to print this issue of "Grace News Today" at no cost. We thank God for how He is manifesting His grace through this ministry.

ITINERARY

On January 15, 1998, George Mueller (a great missionary) and I will set out to do missionary work— starting in Cameroon, West Africa, and then to Nigeria. The Lord, in His infinite mercy has opened doors in these two countries. We trust Him to continue to open doors as we make known His grace plan to all for whom Christ suffered immensely on the cross.

BIBLE DOCTRINE FOR THOUGHT

God's purpose for leaving you here on earth after salvation is that you may learn His Word (I Peter 2:2) and grow in grace (II Peter 3:18), and thereby glorify Him in this devil's world; therefore, if your ultimate goal in life as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is not learning and applying Bible doctrine on a consistent basis, your life on earth is worthless.

—Moses C. Onwubiko

OVERVIEW G. E. M.

Grace Evangelistic Ministries has been formed under my leadership as both President and Evangelist to fulfill God's plan of grace. Although, "Not by might...nor by power (energy of the flesh), but by the Spirit (Holy Spirit)" (Zech. 4:6b). My team and I intend to establish a support base here in Nashville, Tennessee, which will then channel resources as the Lord directs. From this base in, we intend to do the following:

1. *Evangelize unbelievers* with the simple grace gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ which is, "Faith in Christ, and in Christ alone." We will present the gospel without pressure as clearly as possible and then leave the decision to believe or not to believe between the individual and the Holy Spirit.
2. *Disciple by helping* those who respond to our message to become good students of our Lord. We will help them establish local churches with indigenous pastors, and we'll make every effort to provide them with sound Bible teaching, by audio cassettes, publications, or both.
3. *To continue to support* these churches financially until they are able to support themselves. Their support will be based on their understanding of sound doctrine related to the importance of grace giving.
4. *Help train indigenous pastors* who will continue with sound Bible teaching for the spiritual nourishment of the church—body of Christ.
5. *Send our missionaries to visit* these believers on a regular basis.

The question is how would you fit into this ministry? Would you participate in missionary activities? Or would you remember us in your daily prayers? Or would you support us financially? You can ask God for direction and you can count on it that He will direct you. As I lead this ministry, my ultimate goal is to display the work of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross so that God in His grace not Moses) may be seen and glorified to the maximum.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER – 2004

But first, let's give thanks to our Father for the successful trip to Kenya and for allowing us to glorify Him once again; and also for paving the way for a return trip to the United Kingdom. We are especially thankful for our spiritual freedom to carry His word wherever He chooses in His perfect timing!

PETITION TO OUR FATHER:

- For President Bush (for wisdom and guidance).
- Israel's protection and the U.S. Military.
- The U.S. (For a great revival, peace, and freedom from terrorism).
- The restoration of Moses' health.
- For protection of tape ministries, G.E.M. personnel, and foreign translations.
- Doctrinal pastors and their tape ministries.
- For the health of Col. and Mrs. R.B. Thieme, Jr.
- The spiritual growth of new believers.
- Indigenous pastors (that God will equip them in every way).
- For many open doors in the year 2005.
- Divine provision and sustenance for missionaries desiring full time work in the field.
- Energy, wisdom, and discernment for G.E.M.'s God-assembled team.

FINANCIAL POLICY: There's no charge for any material from Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Anyone who desires accurate Bible teaching, can receive our books without obligation, whatsoever, God provides Bible doctrine. We wish to reflect His grace.

IRS DISCLOSURE

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