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Faith alone in Christ alone

Greetings to you from all of us here at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We continue to stand in reverence to God with regard to His unfathomable, inexpressible, and immeasurable grace towards us. Who are we that we should be called the children of God? What have we done to earn this status? Prior to salvation, what did we weigh in the eternal scale of heaven? What have we become apart from the marvelous grace of God? Now, we can begin to tap into David's mind, when he stood on the same ground as we are today and astoundingly questioned, "What is man that You [God] are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalm 8:4) "Cast all your anxiety [heart aches, worries] on Him because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). That is exactly what Peter said. But what baffled David the most was why Holy God, the self-sustained One, elected to be mindful and care for us—the totally depraved ones in every sense of the word. Why did God elect to have His uniquely born Son go to the cross and suffer immensely for the entire human race? Why did He allow Him to be humiliated beyond measure on the cross? Why did the Lord Jesus Christ, who had an option to do nothing, take upon Himself the judgment of our sins on the cross (1 Peter 2:24)? "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners [spiritually dead and incapable of saving ourselves], Christ died as a substitute for us" (Romans 5: 8). Here at Grace Evangelistic Ministries, we have carefully considered these weighty questions, and find that the answer is beyond human expression! His grace towards mankind is astronomically beyond calculation. Therefore, we are compelled to keep standing in reverence of the One who is worthy! Now, we can begin to appreciate the thinking of Carl Boberg when he penned the lyrics of the hymn, "How Great Thou Art." Consider his awe of who and what God is, when he wrote the following:

O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my savior God, to Thee:

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home; what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

God continues to demonstrate that this ministry is totally dependent on His grace. For example, in 1998, when funds for the Crusade in Africa were not forthcoming, the Lord motivated one of His children, a partner in this ministry, to send a \$16,254.50 check. Just last year, on the verge of cutting back our evangelistic work in Africa owing to lack of funds, God once again motivated two of his children to send us checks totaling \$7,000.00. Such timely provisions of grace are a reflection of the Word of God recorded by Haggai: “The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine declares the Lord Almighty” (Haggai 2:8). Haggai further put it this way: “So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel . . .the spirit of Joshua, the priest and the spirit of the whole of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God” (Haggai 1:14). In the same magnitude God continues to stir up many of His children to become involved in this ministry.

On the one hand, our ministries continue to grow. On the other hand, God continues to meet our increased financial needs. He has been so gracious to us. Indeed, this is not a single doubt in our right lobes that the One who began the work in Grace Evangelistic Ministries will be the One who will see it through to His glory. We maintain that we have never earned nor deserved to be used by Him. Whatever has been achieved, and what will be achieved in the future, is totally as a result of His matchless grace.

That goes for you too. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, grace made it possible for your entrance into the plan of God; and that same grace will carry you throughout this life. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, we want you to keep reminding yourself that God is in control of your circumstances so long as you remain in His will and plan for your life. Therefore, no matter how difficult things may be, remember the very words of our Savior, “. . . Lo, I Am with you always, even to the end of this age” (Matthew 28:20b). And the author of Hebrews recorded God saying: “I WILL NEVER DESERT you, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE you” (Hebrews 13:5c). These are solemn promises of God to you, a redeemed one.

The letters that we receive continue to encourage and overwhelm us. Our joy abounds because through these responses we have learned that many are turning to Christ by “faith alone in Christ alone.” Further, some believers are beginning to respond to the challenge to grow in grace by making Bible doctrine and its application their utmost priority. We thank God that our labor in Him is yielding fruits to His glory.

As a missionary, doctrinal, and grace-oriented organization, we want to assure our partners, and those channeling their resources, and those serving our Lord through this ministry, that our objectives remain unaltered: First, we seek to evangelize unbelievers with the simple, undiluted gospel message of our Lord Jesus Christ: “Faith alone in Christ alone.” Second, we assist positive believers in their spiritual growth by providing them with sound Bible teaching by means of literature and audiotapes without cost. Our policy is a clear reflection of God’s grace policy. God gives everyone, whether poor or rich, the opportunity to hear the gospel. By the same token, God gives every believer equal privilege to learn sound Bible doctrine and to grow in grace, with the ultimate goal of glorifying our Lord Jesus Christ. We realize that God has graced us out, and we wish to reflect His grace. Our third objective is to support believers who have communication gifts and are willing to learn sound Bible doctrine. As the funds

become available, we send them to doctrinal seminaries to equip them with the tools necessary to accurately divide the Word of Truth for the edification of believers in their vicinity.

Grace Evangelistic Ministries does not solicit funds. We believe that financial support of this ministry is solely a matter between the individual believer and the Lord. We echo the words of the apostle Paul: “Let each one do [in support of this ministry] just as he has purposed in his mind [a decision between him and the Lord]; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver” (II Corinthians 9:7). There is nothing cheerful when a believer is induced to give to the Lord by means of gimmicks. God loves the giver who gives because of gratitude for the infallible Word of God and his passion for the work of His Kingdom.

Forever in His matchless grace,
Moses C. Onwubiko
President, Grace Evangelistic Ministries

You shall know the
truth, and the truth
shall set you free.
JOHN 8:32

Doctrine of Salvation

By Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko
(Continued from Volume 13)

ADOPTION

In our previous installment, we examined the doctrine of adoption. In order to interpret the Scripture accurately, we examined the law governing adoption at the time the apostle Paul used this word. With reference to Roman law, we reached the conclusion that once a believer is adopted into God’s family, his adoption becomes IRREVOCABLE! God Himself cannot revoke it; otherwise the Holy Spirit would not have selected the word, “adoption.” The meaning was clear to believers living in Paul’s time. Now, we will sum up this teaching with the work of Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, founder of Dallas Theological Seminary. His work was revised by Colonel R. B. Thieme, Jr., pastor of Berachah Church, Houston, Texas, a prolific author, possessing a noteworthy command of the original languages of Scripture—Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic.

FORTY THINGS GOD PROVIDES EVERY BELIEVER AT THE MOMENT OF SALVATION

I call these forty things “the manifesto of God’s grace.” A believer who understands these forty things will never be the same again. He will have a clear understanding with regard to his relationship with God, His love and provisions to him both in time and in eternity. He will also have a clear picture regarding the doctrine of eternal security. This believer’s spiritual sense of destiny will be forever altered.

As we examine these forty things, note that the words of Dr. Chafer and Colonel Thieme are italicized.

1. *The believer resides in the eternal plan of God (shares the destiny of Christ).*
 - a. *He is Foreknown: Acts 2:23; Rom. 8:29; 1 Peter 1:2;*
 - b. *Elected: Rom. 8:33; Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4; Titus 1:1; 1 Pet. 1:2;*
 - c. *Predestined: Rom. 8:29-30; Eph. 1:5,11;*

d. Chosen: Matt. 22:14; 1 Pet. 2:4;

e. Called: 1 Thess. 5:24.

Let us examine briefly Romans 8:29-30:

“For whom He [God] FOREKNEW, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son . . . and whom He predestined these he also called, . . . these He also justified . . .” The sequence is: (1) FOREKNOWLEDGE, (2) PREDESTINATION AND (3) THE CALL OF GOD.

(1). FOREKNEW (OR FOREKNOWLEDGE): Every creature was in the mind of God zillions of years ago. He knew every thought of man even before he was born. He knew every decision that each would make in every given circumstance. “Even before there is a word in my tongue, Behold, O Lord, Thou [You] dost know it all” (Psalm 139:4). He also knew how many years and days each one would live in this world. David declared, “Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days [or years] ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be” (Psalm 139:16). Under the doctrine of Omniscience, everything about man—his decisions and actions co-existed with God. God does not have a beginning, but for the sake of illustration, let us assume that He did. In that case, the very second that He came into existence is the very moment that everything about every man was known to God.

A question that baffles many theologians is, “How can man choose God first?” What they fail to realize is that in salvation, God has always been the initiator. In eternity past, He knew that man would fail, and made provision to save him if man desired salvation. In eternity past, as a reflection of His justice (without partiality or favoritism), He offered salvation to everyone (Galatians 2:6; II Chronicles 19:7; Job 34:19).

(2). PREDESTINATION: Predestination is based on God’s foreknowledge. He knew the very instant every believer would accept His grace offer. Another way of saying it is, that billions of years ago, God took His salvation package into the “slave market of sin” and announced, “which among you would like to be purchased out of this slave market of sin at no cost to the ones being purchased? Those who said that they would like to be purchased out of this market were purchased, chosen, and predestined. The apostle Paul put it this way: “For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will” (Ephesians 1:4,5). One can see that our personal salvation is something that God drafted in the past. Therefore, there is nothing a believer can do to destroy his salvation. His salvation was predestined even before he was born. It is the quintessence of human arrogance to think for a moment that human failure can alter the perfect work of God (I Corinthians 3:11-15).

(3). THE CALL OF GOD: The call of God is not a verbal call. It is a call through the gospel message. This call, although God knew about it in eternity past, is made in time. God calls the human race through the gospel. This call of God expects a response—positive or negative. When anyone responds positively by believing in Christ, his salvation (about which God knew in eternity past) becomes a reality. “And you also were INCLUDED IN CHRIST when you heard the Word of Truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were [permanently] marked in Him with the seal, the promised Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 1:13). In essence, he is ignorantly calling God a liar who denies, “My salvation shall be forever” (Isaiah 51:6d).

2. *The believer is reconciled (removal of the barrier between man and God)*

a. *By God: 2 Cor. 5:18-19; Col. 1:20 ;*

b. *To God: Rom. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:20; Eph. 2:14-17.*

3. *The believer is redeemed (purchased from the slave market of sin) Rom. 3:24; Col. 1:14; 1 Peter 1:18.*

We have previously examined the issue of redemption of the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. One thing a believer should always keep in mind is that the entire human race has been purchased out of the

“slave market of sin.” Keep in mind that the God made the transaction and that no one who chooses to walk out can EVER be returned. The thought that God could return a believer to his former position in Adam is blasphemous. In essence, the one having that thought is saying that God made a mistake by letting the wrong people out of the “slave market of sin.” That is a blasphemous assumption! The Apostle Paul poignantly asked: “Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen [purchased out of Satan’s domain]? It is God who justifies. Who is He that condemns? Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us” (Romans 8:33,34). What this verse is saying is that neither God nor Jesus Christ can bring any charges against the purchased ones. The Apostle Paul beautifully put it this way: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Roman 8:1).

4. The believer’s condemnation (eternal judgment) is removed: John 3:18; 5:24; Rom. 8:1.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not [cannot and will not] come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life” (John 5:24). When the Lord Jesus Christ unequivocally declared that a believer will never come before the great white throne, where unbelievers will be judged, it shows that his case is forever closed. The apostle Paul reaffirmed: “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

5. All sins are judged by the substitutionary spiritual death of Christ on the cross: Rom. 4:25; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:24.

This is what the apostle John had to say, “In this is love, not that we loved, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10). The word, translated “propitiation” in the English Bible is the Greek noun, “HILASMOS.” According to New Testament Lexical Aids (Greek Dictionary) it means, “the benefit of Christ’s [spiritual] death for man.” When anyone believes in Christ he becomes the beneficiary of the work of Christ Jesus on the cross. God is TOTALLY SATISFIED by the work of His Son on the cross. This is why the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified is the meeting point between a Holy God and sinful man. Anyone who bypasses the work of Christ on the cross and dies without believing in Him will be damned forever.

6. Every believer receives propitiation for sins (God satisfied with the work of His son): Rom. 8:3:25-26; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.

7. The believer is dead to old life (old sin nature), but alive to God (retroactive positional truth). He is

- a. Crucified with Christ: Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20;*
- b. Dead with Christ: Rom. 6:8; Col. 3:3; 1 Pet. 2:24;*
- c. Buried with Christ: Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12;*
- d. Raised with Christ: Rom. 6:4; Col. 3:1.*

8. The believer is free from Mosaic Law. He is

- a. Dead: Rom. 7:4;*
- b. Delivered: Rom. 6:14; 7:6; 2 Cor. 3:11; Gal. 3:25.*

The believer is totally and forever shielded from the eternal consequences of the Mosaic Law. “Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the Law, locked up until faith should be revealed. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the Law” (Galatians 3:23,25). That the believers are no longer under the umbrella of the Law should never be used an excuse to live lives without regard to God or man. Divine punishment for those who live carnal lifestyles is still in place (Hebrews 12:5,6). This punishment is only for time and never for eternity!

9. The believer is regenerated: John 13:10; 1 Cor.6:11; Titus 3:5. He is

- a. Born again: John 3:7; 1 Peter 1:23;*
- b. A child of God: Gal. 3:26;*

- c. A son of God: John 1:12; 2 Cor. 6:18; 1 John 3:2;*
- d. A new creation: 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 2:10.*

The regeneration of the one that believes in the Lord Jesus Christ is the work of the Trinity. Man is never part of the operation. Look at it this way: When God judged Jesus Christ on the cross, we were all spiritually dead. We have seen from our previous discussion that a dead person cannot participate in his own funeral. This principle also applies to a spiritually dead person. He could not participate with Christ Jesus in receiving the judgment of his sins because he is dead. “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died as a substitute for us” (Romans 5:8). When the work of our Lord Jesus Christ was finished on the cross, the proclamation was made, but he cannot hear because he is dead—without a human spirit. God the Holy Spirit came to his assistance and helped him comprehend the work of the Lord on his behalf. When the truth of the gospel is made clear to him, and he believes, in a split of a second, God the Father imputes His righteousness in him. “The righteousness of God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe . . .” (Romans 3:22). Simultaneously God the Holy Spirit restores his human spirit. Jesus Christ states it this way: “Flesh gives birth to flesh (i.e., physical birth), BUT [the Holy] Spirit gives birth to [the human] spirit” (John 3:6). The imputation of God’s righteousness and His eternal life to the one who believes, and God the Holy Spirit restoring the human spirit to this individual, is what regeneration is all about. This is what grace is all about. No one ever earned or worked for his regeneration. Anyone who thinks otherwise is probably still an unbeliever. Salvation is faith in Christ plus nothing!

10. The believer is adopted by God (placed as adult sons because of positional truth): Rom. 8:15; 8:23 (future); Eph. 1:5.

11. The believer is made acceptable to God: Eph. 1:6; 1 Pet. 2:5. He is
a. Made righteous (imputation): Rom. 3:22; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil 3:9;
b. Sanctified positionally: 1 Cor. 1:30; 6:11;
c. Perfected forever: Heb. 10:14;
d. Qualified for inheritance: Col. 1:12.

12. The believer is justified (declared righteous): Rom. 3:24; 5:1,9; 8:30; 1 Cor. 6:11; Titus 3:7.

13. The believer receives the unique availability of divine power: 2 Pet. 1:3.

14. The believer is guaranteed a heavenly citizenship based on reconciliation: Luke 10:20; Eph. 2:13; Phil. 3:20.

15. The believer is delivered from the kingdom of Satan: Col. 1:13; 2:15.

This is similar to what I explained in 3 and 8 above. Once a believer is delivered from the bondage of sin, NOTHING can put him back there again.

16. The believer is transferred into God’s kingdom: Col. 1:13b.

God immediately removes an individual who accepts His grace offer of salvation, He places the person in His kingdom. “For He [God the father], delivered [GREEK: RHUOMAI = TO DRAW WITH FORCE AND VIOLENCE, MEANING TO DRAW OUT OF DANGER]. The believer has been permanently drawn out of danger. Did he play any part in pulling himself out? Another way of posing the same question is: “Can a person help push an automobile while remaining inside? Of course not. Similarly, one who is in Satan’s domain cannot help pull himself out.

17. The believer is now on a secure foundation: 1 Cor. 3:11; 10:4; Eph. 2:20.

18. *Every believer is a gift from God the Father to Christ: John 10:29; 17:2; 6, 9, 11-12,24.*

The moment one believes in Christ, God the Father picks up the individual and hands him over to His beloved Son, Jesus Christ as a gift. The Lord Jesus Christ knows how to secure the gifts from His father. In fact He promised that he could not, and would not lose anyone. “And this is the will of Him [God the Father] who sent Me, that OF ALL that He has given Me I lose nothing, BUT raise it up on the last day” (John 6:39). This verse, and others like it, is an impassible hurdle to those who reject the eternal salvation of the believer. Two things are at stake in this verse, namely, God’s will and Christ’s promise. Should Christ fail to resurrect any believer at the rapture, He has lied and consequently the Father’s will has come short! Such a notion does irreparable damage to the integrity of the Trinity. It would give Satan cause to rejoice that He caught Jesus Christ in a lie. Thank God, because it is not going to happen—not now, and not ever! “Heaven and earth will pass away, BUT My words will never pass away” (Matthew 24:35). In light of this exposition, anyone who thinks that a believer can lose his salvation is blind to the Truth of the infallible Word of God. He has deprived himself of sound Bible teaching.

19. *The believer is delivered from the power of sin nature: Rom. 2:29; Phil. 3:3; Col. 2:11.*

It does not mean that a believer cannot sin again; rather it means that he has been delivered from the eternal consequence of sin, namely, eternal separation from God in the Lake of fire. “Blessed [happy] is he [any believer] whose transgressions [sins] are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him” (Psalm 32:1,2).

20. *Every believer is appointed a priest unto God. We are*

a. A holy priest: 1 Pet. 2:5;

b. A royal priesthood: 1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6.

The church age is the only time in the human history when all believers, male and female, are made priests at the moment of their faith in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ.

21. *The believer receives eternal security: Rom. 8:32, 38-39; Gal 3:26; 2 Tim. 2:13.*

SON AND FATHER RELATIONSHIP

Let us approach the eternal security of the believer from the standpoint of a son and father relationship. When an individual believes in Christ, the person is automatically placed in God’s family as a son. The Apostle Paul declared: “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26). Ironically, once a son is born into a family, he WILL ALWAYS remain a son in the family to which he was born. He may grow up to become a tumor or cankerworm; his condition is never used to determine whether he belongs to that family or not. In the modern science and medicine, a DNA test could be run to determine one’s genetic family. Similarly, a test is performed to determine whether an individual is God’s son or not. In this case anyone who possesses the righteousness of God by faith, His eternal life, and is indwelt by God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit has been born into God’s family. And once he is declared a son by virtue of the grace of God, he will remain a son forever. The Lord Jesus Christ made it clear when He said: “A slave [an unbeliever] has no permanent place in the family, BUT a son [a believer] belongs to it [i.e. in the family] FOREVER [!]” (John 8:35). This verse supports we who say, “Once a son always a son.”

22. *The believer is given access to God: Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:18; Heb. 4:14, 16; 10:19-20.*

23. *Every believer is within the “much” grace care of God: Rom. 5:9-10. We are*

a. Objects of His love: Eph. 2:4; 5:2;

b. Objects of His Grace

(1) For salvation: Eph. 2:8-9;

- (2) *For keeping: Rom. 5:2; 1 Pet. 1:5;*
- (3) *For service: John 17:18; Eph. 4:7;*
- (4) *For instruction: Titus 2:12;*
- c. *Objects of His power: Eph. 1:19; Phil. 2:13;*
- d. *Objects of His faithfulness: Phil. 1:6; Heb. 13:5;*
- e. *Objects of His peace: John 14:27;*
- f. *Objects of His consolation: 2 Thess. 2:16;*
- g. *Objects of His intercession: Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24.*

Let us examine a and d more carefully:

Objects of His love

We begin with a question: Why did God love us? God loves us immeasurably because we have the very righteousness that belongs to the members of the Trinity. The Bible says, “The Lord loves righteousness” (Psalm 33:5a). The love of God towards a believer does not swing like a pendulum. Why? The answer is very simple. The love of God [Gk: agape] is an unchanging love. It is an eternal love that depends on the integrity of the Lover. Concerning the love of God towards the believer, the Prophet Isaiah wrote, “But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you” (Isaiah 54:10b). The prophet Jeremiah added, “His love endures forever” (Jeremiah 33:11b). Since the love of God does not hinge on what a person does, good or bad, we can doctrinally conclude that God’s love for the believer will remain unshakeable even when he fails. The Apostle Paul beautifully put it this way: “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation [including failures], will be able to separate us from the [fixed] love of God that is [grounded] in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38,39).

Objects of His faithfulness

The faithfulness of God is like His love. It does not swing. Even when a believer denounces Christ as the Apostle Peter did during the trial of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 22:56-60), God continues to be faithful to the person. This is because the faithfulness of God does not depend on one’s behavior. This means that once God has promised a believer eternal life, that life can never be withdrawn no matter what. “If we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot [and will not] deny Himself [i.e., He cannot change His integrity]” (II Tim. 2:13).

24. *The believer is the beneficiary of an inheritance as heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ: Rom. 8:17; Eph. 1:14; 18; Col. 3:24; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 1:4.*

25. *Every believer has a new position in Christ: Eph. 2:6. We are*

- a. *Partners with Christ in life: Col. 3:4;*
- b. *Partners with Christ in service: 1 Cor. 1:9*
 - (1) *Workers together with God: 1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1;*
 - (2) *Ministers of the New Covenant: 2 Cor. 3:6;*
 - (3) *Ambassadors: 2 Cor. 5:20;*
 - (4) *Living epistles: 2 Cor. 3:3;*
 - (5) *Ministers of God: 2 Cor. 6:4.*

26. *Believers are recipients of eternal life: John 3:15; 10:28; 20:31; 1 John 5:11-12.*

27. *The believer is created a new spiritual species: 2 Cor. 5:17.*

28. *The believer is a light in the Lord: Eph. 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:4.*

29. *The believer is united with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are*

- a. *In God: 1 Thess. 1:1; cf., “God in you,” Eph. 4:6;*
- b. *In Christ: John 14:20; cf., with “Christ in you,” Col. 1:27*

- (1) *A member in His Body: 1 Cor. 12:13;*
 - (2) *A branch in the Vine: John 15:5;*
 - (3) *A stone in the Building: Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Pet. 2:5;*
 - (4) *A sheep in the Flock: John 10:27-29;*
 - (5) *A portion of His Bride: Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:6-8, 21:9;*
 - (6) *A priest of the kingdom of priests: 1 Pet. 2:9;*
 - (7) *A saint of the “new species:” 2 Cor. 5:17;*
- c. *In the Holy Spirit: Rom. 8:9; “the Spirit in you.”*

30. *Every believer is the recipient of the ministries of the Holy Spirit. He is*

- a. *Born of the Spirit: John 3:36;*
- b. *Baptized with the Spirit: Acts 1:5; 1 Cor. 12:13;*
- c. *Indwelt by the Spirit: John 7:39; Rom. 5:5; 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 3:24;*
- d. *Sealed by the Spirit: 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 4:30;*
- e. *Given spiritual gifts: 1 Cor. 12:11, 27-31; 13:1-2.*

31. *The believer is glorified: Rom. 8:30.*

32. *The believer is complete in Christ: Col. 2:10.*

33. *The believer is possessor of every spiritual blessing granted in eternity past: Eph. 1:3.*

34. *The believer receives a human spirit: Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 2:12; 2 Cor. 7:13; 1 Thess. 5:23.*

35. *The believer has all scar tissue removed from the soul: Isa. 43:25; 44:22.*

36. *The believer is the recipient of efficacious grace: Eph. 1:13.*

37. *The believer is guaranteed a resurrection body forever: John 11:25.*

38. *The believer is the beneficiary of unlimited atonement: 2 Cor. 5:14-15, 19; 1 Tim. 2:6; 4:10; Titus 2:11; Heb 2:9; 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 John 2:2.*

39. *The believer has equal privilege and equal opportunity under election and predestination.*

40. *Problem-solving devices are available to every believer. They are*

- a. *Rebound: 1 John 1:9;*
- b. *Filling of the Holy Spirit: Eph. 5:18;*
- c. *Faith-rest drill: Heb. 4:1, 10-11;*
- d. *Grace orientation: James 4:6;*
- e. *Doctrinal orientation: Rom. 12:2;*
- f. *Personal sense of destiny: Phil. 1:21;*
- g. *Personal love for God: Deut. 6:5; 1 Pet. 1:8;*
- h. *Impersonal love for all mankind: James 2:8;*
- i. *Sharing the happiness of God: John 15:11;*
- j. *Occupation with Christ: Eph. 3:19.*

All these and more are the things that believers receive when they put their trust in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ. Everything that the believer has, including his salvation, depends on who and what God is. It depends entirely on His grace. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not of works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8,9).

As we conclude this exposition of the infallible Word of God, we can joyfully sing:

“Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I was once lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.
‘T was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
Through many dangers, toil and snares, I have already come;
‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun.”

“The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deuteronomy 33:27).

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed [consumed with fear], for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep [die], but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’
‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?’
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **BUT THANKS BE TO GOD! HE GIVES US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST”** (1 Corinthians 15:51-57).

“But by His doing [whose doing? God’s] that you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **SANCTIFICATION**, and redemption” (I Corinthians 1:30).

“Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted [and sealed] in Christ Jesus from all eternity” (II Timothy 1:9).

God is perfect and His work is perfect. He is the One who initiated salvation by means of His grace. He is the One who purchased you through His Son (1 Peter 1:18,19). He is the One who sealed you with His Holy Spirit (II Corinthians 1:22) and the One who keeps you [saved] by His power. God began your salvation in grace, and He will end it in grace. With this in mind, we conclude: “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling [i.e., losing your salvation], and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy [He will make you stand in His presence with no accusation against you], 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 1:24-25).

OUR TRIP TO AFRICA

BRIEF REPORT FROM OWERRI, NIGERIA PART TWO

A brief report on the Seminar on the Doctrine of Salvation held at Alvan Ikoku College Auditorium, Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria.

Forwarded by D. E. Elekwa, chapter president

We are happy to welcome to Imo State, the Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko, president and vision carrier of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Reverend Onwubiko arrived Owerri, Capital of Imo State, December 1, 1999 through Port Harcourt International Airport. He was accompanied by D. E. Elekwa, G.E.M.’s

Africa Chapter president, Rev. Dr. Tony Dike, Pastor Toni Sani, and a host of others from the Airport to Owerri. We thank God for journey mercies.

The seminar kicked off as scheduled December 2, 1999 at Alvan Ikoku Auditorium. We acknowledge the assistance given to us by the college authorities, especially the Provost, Registrar, and Director of Studies. The first meeting had over 150 participants of whom the majority were Pastors. And by the 2nd day, the number nearly doubled as we had 218 pastors in attendance.

BRIEF NOTE FROM A PASTOR IN OWERRI

I am convinced that those who attended the program will ever remain grateful to God and to Grace Evangelistic Ministries, and will remain expectant for a repeat of such program in the near future, especially in the year 2000. The meeting was the 1st of its kind in Imo State! It was a seminar, not a “miracle encounter” but something more than a miracle—exposure of the mind and heart to biblical teaching leading to great deliverance from doctrinal garbage and idiosyncrasies of religion. What do we need these days other than this type of teaching! In fact, emotional Christianity was nailed to the wall—dead! And we are all glad that we attended. God, we pray, let this teaching in reference to salvation be sustained.

We are happy, really elated.

Pastor—Imo State, Nigeria.

REV. MOSES C. ONWUBIKO'S Evangelistic Meeting Schedule

January 27 – March 15, 2000: US

March 16 – April 24, 2000: Nigeria (Owerri and Olu, Imo State. Bukuru and Jos in Plateau State)

April 25 – July 27: US

July 28 – August 25: (with Mr. George H. Mueller: Ghana, Lithuania or Germany)

August 26 – November 30: US

December 1 – December 28: Nigeria

December 29 – January 18 2001: Cameroon

THERE WILL BE A GREAT JOY IN HEAVEN OVER ONE SINNER WHO [CHANGES HIS MIND ABOUT CHRIST AND BELIEVES IN HIM] (Luke 15:7)

While Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko was in a Hotel in Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria, a young lady—a housekeeper--entered his room to do her daily work. After the cleaning, Moses invited her to sit down. Then he asked her whether her eternal destiny has been settled; whether she would be with God if she were to die that very day? After some discussion, he realized that she was still an unbeliever. He then presented the gospel to her. When he finished, she personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ! Then Moses gave her some doctrinal literature to assist her in her spiritual growth.

At the end of her shift, she went home to announce her salvation to relatives and friends. Then legalism reared its ugly head. Some believers, like the Judaizers of Paul's day (Acts 15:1-3), told her that she should quit her housekeeping job. They told her that a believer is not supposed to work in a Hotel. Her joy was hampered. The following morning, she met with Darlington E. Elekwa, the chapter president, who reassured her that working in a Hotel had nothing to do with her salvation. Indeed, we have a long way to go in Africa. Thank God for the battle belongs to Him.

Dear Reverend Moses C. Onwubiko,

I just read “Comfort in Suffering” and “Grace News Today” Volume 12 from a friend, and I love your teaching! I had to laugh when I read “Grace News Today.” I guess you haven’t heard that “d” word (i.e., doctrine) is a dirty word nowadays. You can’t even use that word around some people. I was talking with a Christian about Bible doctrine, and he said to me, “you don’t discuss doctrine. Doctrine divides, love edifies; we should accept all denominations no matter their doctrine.” “We have a lot of Jehovah’s witnesses, and oneness people coming together in fellowship, in love and not in doctrine,” He added.

Thank you for telling people how important doctrine is. I also greatly appreciate your addressing people that use the church lingo to show how pious they are.

Once again, thank you. I pray that God will provide for all your needs, and that He will receive more praises through you and your ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Suffield, CT USA

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

A reply to indifference to Bible doctrine

I know that there are unseen audiences who are vigorously pursuing and applying Bible doctrine on a regular basis. Many of you, by means of the grace of God, have become mature and are serving as funnels through which God’s blessings flow to those who are indifferent to Bible doctrine—blessing by association. To this end, I pray that the trends of spiritual maturity via Bible doctrine will continue to rise.

It is a heartbreaking to see many believers ignoring the perception and application of Bible doctrine—the very thing that God designed to sustain believers in this life, the very thing that would build in them true love and capacity for life, the very thing that determines their blessings in time and in eternity.

Many years ago, I brought the issue regarding Bible doctrine to a co-worker. I told him about the importance of Bible doctrine, spiritual growth, glorification of God, and God’s blessings in time and in eternity to come. He immediately became upset. He said, “who cares about Bible doctrine; I am very content with my salvation.” From that moment he began to avoid me. It is because of people like this that God the Holy Spirit urges believers today, “...that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth [Greek: alethia, truth, i.e. Bible doctrine—the body of what is believed]” (1 Timothy 2:1, 3-4). It is God’s desire that believers come to know Him and His plan for their lives through Bible doctrine.

WHAT IS DOCTRINE?

DIDASKALIA, which means “that which is taught,” is one Greek word translated DOCTRINE. When the Word of God is taught exegetically, categorically, and with the historical context taken into account, the result is Bible doctrine. Doctrine is not a foreign word to the Bible. Our Lord Jesus Christ used the word: “But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as DOCTRINES the precepts of men” (Matthew 15:9). The apostle Paul also used it extensively. To the church at Ephesus he wrote, “And He gave some...

evangelists, pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints [i.e., believers] for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of DOCTRINE, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming” (Ephesians 4:11-14).

The Bible is like a cow. We know that no one can eat a cow alive. It must be butchered, cleaned, and prepared, then eaten in relatively small portions. Similarly, the Word of God must be carefully dissected, by comparing Scripture with Scripture, verse with verse and finally put together for believers to assimilate on a regular basis. The accumulation and application of this Bible doctrine is what keeps the believer afloat in the devil’s world. More importantly, it gives the believer the opportunity to reciprocate the love of God toward him, by growing in grace and consequently glorifying Him in this world. Apart from Bible doctrine residing in a believer’s soul, his life on earth is a mini-hell! He has nothing of value in time, nor in eternity to come.

In reference to the importance of Bible Doctrine, the Apostle Paul admonished the Church at Ephesus: “And now I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace [i.e. Bible doctrine], which is able to BUILD you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).

Therefore, I appeal to those who love Bible doctrine, to pray for those who are indifferent to it. Pray that God in His marvelous grace will open their spiritual eyes to behold and “comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know [by means of Bible doctrine] the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that [they] may be filled up to all the fullness of Christ. Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:18-21).

SPECIAL NEEDS:

We thank God for meeting the “special needs” listed in the previous newsletter. One of our supported recently sent us a check to cover the needs listed.

Gratitude for Answered Prayers

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2).

Please join us in thanking God for the following answered prayers:

- For helping us meet our budget for the month of January.
- For leading us to a publisher in Africa that would reprint our literature for the spiritual enrichment of the believers in Africa.
- For providing us with a Television set and VCR for the R. B. Thieme, Jr., Videotape group in Nashville.
- For His children whom He used to meet the needs of this ministry in January 2000.

God Will Provide
Genesis 22.8

"God will provide" is the attitude of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. We do not beg for money. We believe that if this ministry is honoring to God, He will provide EVERYTHING necessary for its continuation. "God will provide" was Abraham's reassurance to his confused son, Isaac (Genesis 22:8). When, as His servants, God gives an assignment to us, He is under obligation to provide for the job. When God does not provide, it could mean one of three things. One, God may not want the job accomplished at that particular time. Two, it could mean that those who are to carry out the mission are not prepared to do so yet. Lastly, it could be a sign that God does not want to have any part of the ministry. Therefore, it is absolutely foolish and arrogant for us as believers to try to devise a way to accomplish a task in the name of God when He has already rejected it. For example, when we use gimmicks to manipulate people to contribute money, we are not glorifying God. It is blasphemy on our part to think that God does not know how to provide for the work that He has assigned. Take a moment and think about the following question: When we work to accomplish a job that God has rejected, who will be glorified in the end? God? Or me?

Letters to Grace Evangelistic Ministries

We would like to share with you some of the letters that have been sent to us. As you read these letters, please join us in giving thanks to our gracious God who does all the work.

Our purpose in sharing these letters with you is to show you that your partnership, financial and prayer support to this ministry is indeed yielding fruit to the glory of our loving Father.

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

Calvary greetings to you in the precious Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I received the parcel you sent to me (four books). I have read them and enjoyed every one of them. I have also passed them on to my friends, and many of them have requested that I give them the books. For this reason, I am requesting 20 copies each.

One of the books that I enjoyed most is "Comfort in Suffering." I have been in suffering all my life, but when I read that book, it tuned my spiritual view around. I enjoyed the five principles we should remember when under suffering. Through those principles, I was comforted. Now, I have the courage to face any problem in my life knowing that God is in control. I give God the praise.

I would like to be receiving other Christian materials along with the one I requested. I shall be much grateful, if my requests are granted.

Thank you.

*Yours in Christ,
Ondo state, Nigeria*

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries

Greetings in Christ.

I have enjoyed your books, "Comfort in Suffering" and "God's Plan After Salvation". These books have become part of my library that I am willing to share with others. I find these books to be doctrinally

sound and experientially believable. So many Christian authors merely use marketing strategies to market God and His gift of salvation.

I have shared these books with six people so far and they come back to me and say how much these books have helped them to focus their faith in God.

As a prison inmate, I find myself dealing with so-called jailhouse religion and an unhealthy focus on prosperity preachers who promise and deliver nothing.

One person, who was suffering many difficulties, felt that he had lost his faith because he was not receiving the blessing of prosperity that were being promised to him. After he read "Comfort in Suffering" he began to see his true relationship with God and rediscovered the joy of his salvation.

I thank God for your ministry. God is clearly using it to reach His people. To God be the glory.

*A servant of Christ,
USA*

Dear Rev. Onwubiko,

Thank you for the package I received in January 20, 2000 from you. It is helping me a lot in understanding the Scripture. I have shared the books and the Newsletters with the members of my congregation. Our prayer is that God will continue to supply your needs, and that many will come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Thank you.

*Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor – Teacher, Philippines*

Financial Policy

Grace Evangelistic Ministries does not solicit funding. We believe that God in His grace will continue to meet our financial needs as they arise.

We do not charge for books or audiotapes. No money is requested. Anyone desiring to receive our books, tapes or other spiritual materials can receive them at absolutely no cost.

When gratitude for the Word of God and understanding of the need to reach the unsaved souls with the simple grace gospel and sound Bible teaching motivate you to contribute, you have the privilege of giving and sharing in the dissemination of the Word of God. This is a grace ministry.

Bible Doctrine for Thought

Who is the source of your pride?

“A quitter never wins...a winner never quits. What goes into our minds, comes out in our actions. God never fails. Lasting joy comes only through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Christians also have problems, but Christ is the power to overcome. We have no basis for PRIDE except in our perfect example, Jesus Christ.”

The Rainbow Bible--KJV

Here is the Truth

Will God ever stop loving a believer because of the believer's failures?

The answer is NO. The love of God towards a believer has no bearing in what the believer does—whether good or bad. God is perfect; therefore He has a perfect love. God's love anchors in His integrity! It depends TOTALLY on who and what He is, and has nothing to do with man. The love of God is described throughout in Scripture as an UNFAILING LOVE: "How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low men find refuge in the shadow of your wings" (Psalm 36:7). His promise to David, His son or to you who have believed in Christ remains unshakable: "I will maintain my love to him [David and any believer in Christ] forever, and my covenant with him will never fail" (Psalm 89:28). King David failed God in many ways, but not a single time did the love of God fail David! Why? Because "[God's] love endures forever" (Jeremiah 33:11c). Now, we can begin to fathom why the Apostle Paul poignantly declared: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present [failures of a believer] nor the future [failures], nor any powers [including the power of God the Son and the Holy Spirit], neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the [unfailing] love of God that is [forever anchored] in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39). Now that you have known the truth, does it mean that you can live your life anyhow you please? May it never be! The Supreme Court of Heaven stands by to punish anyone who takes the grace of God for a ride!

The Good News

When our Lord Jesus Christ was on the cross, He had you on His mind. There was never a sin committed that was not poured out on Jesus Christ on the cross (I Peter 2:24). He endured all afflictions so that He might pave a way for you to have life more abundantly through Him. Regardless of how sinful you have been in the past or are now, you can be forgiven and your slate wiped clean by God. How? By telling God right now that you are believing in His Son, Jesus Christ. The moment you put your entire trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will automatically become a regenerate person before God forever. The Bible says, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). Will you believe in Him today? Or will you reject Him? The decision is totally up to you.

Would You Join Us in Prayer?

GRACE EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES' PRAYER GROUP

The importance of prayer cannot be over emphasized!

The God-Man, our Lord Jesus Christ, gave us an unparalleled and a perfect example to follow. His life and earthly ministry was encapsulated in a lifestyle of prayer. Prayer occupied a place of singular importance in His own life and teaching. In time of decision and crisis He gave himself to prayer. Thus our Lord prayed when He was baptized (Luke 3:21, 22); when he chose his twelve apostles: "And it was at this time that He [Jesus Christ] went off to the mountain to pray and He spent the whole night in

prayer to God” (Luke 6:12, 13); when he was transfigured (Luke 9:29); when He was engaging in sustained and exhausting service: “And in the early morning, while it was still dark, He arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there...” (Mark 1:35-39); when He called forth Lazarus from the grave (John 11:41-43); when He was burdened for Simon Peter (Luke 22:31-32); when He faced betrayal, execution, and divine abandonment (Mark 14:32-42; when he thought of His disciples and their future ministry (John 17); and when He died (Luke 23:46).” Therefore, if you are a believer who takes prayer lightly, sin no more. “Far be it from me that I should not sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you” (1 Samuel 12:23).

If Jesus Christ a perfect God and a perfect man spent all night in prayer (Luke 6:12-13), we the mortal believers should spend all year in prayer! (Moses C. Onwubiko).

In light of the importance of prayer, would join us as we pray...

1. That God would provide financial support for the March / April conference in Nigeria
2. That God would make the conference a success
3. That God would continue to open doors for our message
4. That God would spiritually enrich the newly formed church in Cameroon
5. That believers everywhere may have interest in Bible doctrine
6. That God would protect Rev. Moses C. Onwubiko and Mrs. Debby A. Hagar as they serve our Lord in Africa (March / April)
7. That God will continue to meet the spiritual and the material needs of our supporters and partners
8. That God would help us to meet our budget for year 2000
9. That God would continue to sustain Col. R. B. Thieme, Jr. and his staff
10. That God would protect Mr. George Mueller and his wife as they travel back from Cameroon to Germany.

Our Grace Ministry Has No Limits

Therefore, if you would like to be on our mailing list to receive this bi-monthly issue, "Grace News Today", or other materials of spiritual value, please write to the following address:

Grace Evangelistic Ministries

P. O. Box 17246

Nashville, TN 37217-7246

or

call us at **(615) 365-0015**

or

you may visit our web site

on the Internet at:

<http://www.gracemissions.org/>

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