

Grace News Today



Volume 2
January 1998

“Faith Alone in Christ Alone”

Greetings to you from all of us at Grace Evangelistic Ministries. This is our second issue of “Grace News Today.” Many of you have already responded positively to our first issue in December 1997. We want to assure you that our stand remains unchanged. As a missionary-oriented organization, we are committed to evangelizing unbelievers with the simple grace gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We continue to emphasize salvation provided by God alone through faith in Christ alone. We also continue to follow-up with those who respond to the gospel message.

When believers are not exposed to sound Bible teaching after salvation, they are unfruitful to God. In essence, these believers go through their life without experiencing the indescribable and marvelous joy which God, in His Master’s grace, gives to those who truly love Him. Obviously, many believers are not enjoying the life characterized by inner peace of the soul which can be experienced even under the most adverse circumstances of life. Paul and Silas had this tranquility while in prison, and they sang while in chains (Acts 16:22-25). Peter had inner peace while he was in prison which was demonstrated by the way he slept, though his life was in great danger (Acts 12:1-6). The absence of tranquility of the soul, in believers, can be traced to lack of sound Bible teaching, perception, and application of that teaching.

We live in a time of great apostasy—a time when entertainment is substituted for daily study and application of the teaching of the Word of God. In our first issue, the schemes of Satan were exposed. Indeed, he works around the clock to keep believers from precisely following God’s game plan. He knows that he has nothing to lose. He is aware of the fact that he has been sentenced to the lake of fire forever (Matt. 25:41), and he fights with determination to keep you from fellowship with God on a consistent basis. How does Satan accomplish this? By distractions! He plays his cards well in order to prevent you from ever making God’s Word your number one priority. He is aware that once you start learning sound Bible teaching and begin to grow spiritually (II Peter 3:18), you will eventually reach the point where God truly becomes real to you. He knows that once this happens, you will live a life focused on Him (Phil. 1:20-21).

My challenge to you is for you to ask yourself the following questions:

1. Are you receiving sound Bible teaching from your pastor?
2. Are you substituting fellowship with God with something else?
3. Is Bible doctrine more important to you than being admired, famous, successful or wealthy?
4. Are you truly making spiritual progress?
5. Are you taking our Lord’s command seriously by making rewardable deposits in your bank account in Heaven (Matt. 6:20-21; I Tim. 6:17-19; Luke 12:33-34)?

Table of Contents

Letter from Moses Onwubiko	p 1
Doctrine of Salvation	p 2
Testimonies & Gratitude	p 4
Letters to GEM.....	p 4
Here is the Truth	p 5
Good News Update.....	p 5
Duplication/Distribution	p 5
Bible Doctrine for Thought.....	p 5
Join us in Prayer.....	p 6
Overview	p 6
Financial Policy.....	p 6
Contact Us.....	p 7
Current Publications <i>free</i>	p 7

6. What is the source of your happiness? The Word of God or some form of entertainment?
7. Is your ultimate goal, as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, to reach spiritual maturity and glorify God – much like the apostle Paul?

Paul declared with certainty, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all (those who finished the race successfully) who have loved His appearing” (II Tim. 4:7-8). The answers to these questions are a matter between you and God. For He is the One who has purchased you by the precious 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 *(Continued from Volume One)*

THE ROLE OF GOD THE FATHER IN SALVATION: In the previous issue, we defined salvation as the ultimate manifestation of the righteous of God, His justice and His love expressed in grace to us—the sinners. In essence, the righteousness of God condemned the entire human race as the offspring of Adam who willfully sinned in the garden of Eden (Romans 3:23; 5:12,19; I Cor. 15:22a).

On the flip side of this coin, God’s unconditional love toward condemned man moved Him to offer His only Son, the unique Jesus Christ, to be the **ONLY ONE** who could make the sacrificial substitute for the entire world (John 3:16). His justice gathered together the world’s sins—ranging from the original sin of Adam to the last sin of the millennium—and poured every single one onto His Son on the cross. Then He judged His Son. The result of this action was the provision of salvation in grace to us, His enemies. Do you now see how these three characteristics of God, righteousness, justice, and love were displayed on the cross? You may ask, where does grace come in? Grace is the pipeline through which we, the undeserving ones, receive God’s gift of everlasting life. This is obtained only through a personal faith, which is complete and absolute confidence in His Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:36).

Let’s focus on God’s grace for a moment. The Bible clearly declares that we are spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1-5), and the Holy Spirit intends to communicate divine policy in terms that we can understand. Death is something every normal person understands, so try to think about what a dead person is capable of? You may say, “That’s a crazy thing to think about!” Yes, it is, but in reality that is the only way to help you relate to God’s grace toward you when you were spiritually dead.

Bottom line, a spiritually dead individual cannot contribute a thing, nor understand that God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit made a costly decision to provide salvation through the substitutional death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Salvation was complete (John 19:30) before you and I became aware of our need for it. So, you see, you were never in the position to contribute to your own salvation. You were not in the position to make Jesus Christ your Lord any more than a dead person is not in the position to participate in his own funeral arrangements! Jesus Christ went to the cross while you were still spiritually dead: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners (spiritually dead), Christ died (was judged by God) for us” (Romans 5:8). This is a demonstration of God’s love in action—putting all the sins of the human race on His Son’s shoulders. (II Cor. 5:21; I Peter 2:24).

When the gospel was presented to you, when you were spiritually dead, you couldn't understand it (I Cor. 2:14); therefore, the Holy Spirit graciously came to your assistance and helped you to understand what Jesus did for you on the cross (John 16:8). Then when you responded to the gospel message by "faith in Christ and in Christ alone," your response was permanently credited as eternal salvation. At that time, God permanently transferred you from spiritual death to life (John 5:21, Romans 6:13).

So far, we have examined the following components of God's essence: Righteousness, justice, love, veracity, omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, immutability, and sovereignty. We have seen that the Almighty God has what it takes to keep His promises. "He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23b), and He can never withdraw His grace gift (Romans 11:29).

At this point, it is necessary to define our direction in the form of an outline:

<u>Volume</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1	Introduction and Definition
2	The Role of God the Father in Salvation
3	The Role of God the Son in Salvation
4	The Role of God the Holy Spirit in Salvation
5	The Sealing Ministry of God the Holy Spirit in Salvation
6	Review of God's Essence / Salvation an act of God's grace
7	Man's Efforts to Please God
8	How to Obtain Salvation / Falsehoods of Salvation
9	How to Obtain Salvation as God intends
10-12	Salvation Explained...
13	Adoption
14	Adoption / The 40 Things God Does for the Believer at Salvation

And now that we have covered the introduction and definition, our next subject is, "The Role of God the Father in Salvation." Many, many years ago in eternity past, God in His omniscience (I Samuel 2:3; Job 37:16) saw Adam and Eve committing their first sins of disobedience. He saw the dialogue between the serpent (Satan) and the woman Eve. He saw Eve being deceived (I Timothy 2:14b) by the serpent (Genesis 3:1-6). God also saw Adam willfully disobeying His command to not eat the fruit from a specific tree (Genesis 2:15-17; II Timothy 2:14a). When God saw this disobedience before it even occurred, He did something about it. The first thing He did was to chair a meeting where He (the Father) presided as the head of the other two members—the Son and the Holy Spirit. Here's the outcome of this painful meeting:

- 1. Condemnation:** The Trinity agreed to condemn both Adam and Eve and their future offspring (Genesis 3:16-19; Romans 3:23). Romans 5:12 adamantly declares, "Therefore, just as through one man (Adam) sin entered into the world...and spread to all men, because all sinned."
- 2. Judgment:** After condemning Adam and Eve, God had no other choice but to render a verdict on them and all of mankind: "...the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a). This "death" is a spiritual death—total separation from God.
- 3. Provision of Salvation:** In eternity past, God the Father drafted a plan of salvation that would not violate His integrity. The plan is one of grace (Genesis 3:15; Romans 5:19; I Cor. 15:22). The Father is the planner, the Son carries out the plan, and the Holy Spirit reveals the plan.
- 4. Rejection of Salvation:** The Father renders the verdict of judgment on those who reject His plan of salvation forever (Lake of Fire) (Rev. 20:11-15; John 3:18, 36). In a nutshell, this meeting explains the verse, "For He (God the Father) chose us in Him (Jesus Christ) before the creation of the world (billions of years ago

in eternity past)” (Ephesians 1:4). Adam and Eve were later created. They were forbidden to eat from one particular tree; however, they both disobeyed God—which resulted in spiritual death. God was not shocked. Why? Because He already knew they would disobey Him. God then confronted Adam and Eve and pronounced His judgment (decided upon in eternity past) upon them.

Adam and Eve were condemned equally but judged separately, and Adam became the carrier of the original sin. Why? The Bible explains it like this, “...it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression” (I Timothy 2:14). God made Adam the carrier of sin because Adam knew what he was doing when he took the fruit from Eve’s hand. That also explains the verse, “For as through the one man’s (Adam) disobedience the many (all of mankind) were made sinners...” (Romans 5:19a). Therefore, through Adam, the entire human race was condemned (Romans 3:23). This also explains part of the reason why our Lord Jesus Christ had to come into the world through the virgin birth.

Concerning the role of God the Father as the planner, Jesus Christ says, “I have come to do the will of the Father” (Hebrews 10:7; John 14:10). What is the will of the Father? This question brings us to the role of God the Son, Jesus Christ. The Father’s will is that the Son would be judged on the cross for the sins of the world. The “will of the Father” for His Son involved the most intense and agonized suffering ever experienced. Jesus Christ knew what obeying His will would entail. He knew He would be identified with the sins of the whole world. Knowing that He would actually set aside His eternal glory and be judged on the cross, He offered the following prayer to the Father: “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You (God) will” (Matthew 26:39). At one point, He said to His disciples, “My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death” (Matthew 26:38). So, the “Father’s will” for His Son, Jesus Christ, resulted in the most monstrous, unspeakable suffering ever experienced by any man or woman. When He encountered the sins of the world, He cried out, “‘Eli, Eli, LAMA SABACHTHANI?’—that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’” (Matthew 27:46). Why did God forsake Him?

To be continued in the next issue . . .

TESTIMONIES AND GRATITUDE

We thank God for His provisions. Financial support for the ministry is gradually increasing. Beyer Printing has elected to print our monthly newsletter, mailing envelopes, and letterhead at no cost. This is strictly a free will contribution from Mr. Philip Beyer, the president and CEO of Beyer Printing, Inc. in Nashville. Indeed, we thank God for His continued manifestation of His wonderful grace through this ministry.

LETTERS TO G.E.M.

Dear Grace Evangelistic Ministries,

We were honored to be in the audience at the ordination of Moses Onwubiko at Berachah Church in June of 1995. We have studied under R. B. Thieme Jr. ’s ministry for 32 years and are personally blessed when men like Moses come along to carry this doctrinal teaching forward. We will be anxious to hear about your ministry to Africa and will pray for your continued success. We would also like to have two of your “Comfort In Suffering” books that Thieme so highly recommended.

*Yours in Christ,
Tulsa, OK*

Dear Sir,

I saw Moses Onwubiko on one of R. B. Thieme Jr.'s video tapes and am very interested in his ministry. I have seen a copy of his book, "Comfort in Suffering," and would like to receive ten (10) copies if possible. Also any other printed material Moses may have authored. If this is too many books for you to send, I understand and would appreciate receiving whatever you decide on. I have several sick family members and would like to help them through this book.

*Thank you,
Palatka, FL*

HERE IS THE TRUTH

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing" (II Timothy 4:7-8).

Do you realize that these verses are a slap in the face of the false teachers who claim that no one can be sure of their salvation until Christ's appearance? Paul had a solid assurance of his salvation while waiting for Christ to return. As seen in these two verses, Paul not only had assurance of his salvation but also of the great reward that awaited him in Heaven.

GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Rev. Moses Onwubiko and George Mueller will leave January 14, 1998, for missionary work in Cameroon and Nigeria.

DUPLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

There has been a tremendous number of requests from Africa (individuals in the secular world and pastors) for R.B. Thieme Jr.'s literature and audio tapes, and the number of requests are increasing. The cost of mailing these materials to Africa is so high that many requests are never fulfilled; therefore, we want to establish an Audio Duplication Center in Africa to meet these requests. We believe in the importance of making sound Bible teaching available to every person regardless of race, color, or origin.

BIBLE DOCTRINE FOR THOUGHT

God's purpose for leaving you here on earth after salvation is so you can learn His Word (I Peter 2:2) and grow in grace (II Peter 3:18), and thereby glorify Him in this 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 Onwubiko, Evangelist
Grace Evangelistic Ministries

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER (JAN 1998)

(For a current prayer list, please see the latest newsletter)

As we pray...

1. That God will continue to lead us in the right direction.
2. That God's Word may have a dynamic impact here in America and abroad.
3. For our staff members—that God will continue to give them clear vision in all aspects pertaining to this ministry.
4. For open doors for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. For our supporters—that God will continue to meet their needs.
6. For financial needs of this ministry.
7. For God's protection as we travel.



OVERVIEW G. E. M. (1998)

(To see an updated Overview, please see the latest newsletter)

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 will 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.



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

Grace Evangelistic Ministries is a non-profit, tax-exempt, missionary organization. And under the Internal Revenue code 501-C (3), all contributions to this ministry qualify for tax-deductions.

If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive this bi-monthly issue of Grace News Today with no obligation, please contact us:

Grace Evangelistic Ministries

P. O. Box 17246

Nashville, TN 37217-7246

or call us at (615) 365-0015

To receive updates and prayer requests:

E-MAILCAFE: debby@debbyhagar.com

Or visit us on the internet: www.gracemissions.org

SCRIPTURES CITED

Verses in this work are from the New American Standard Bible (NASB). Used by permission. Words and phrases in brackets are not part of the text.

Publications Currently Available from G.E.M. Free of Charge.

[Please Click here to See Publications.](#)