

## God's Amazing Grace

*"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, Was blind, but now I see. 'Twas 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, toils and snares I have already come; 'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far and Grace will lead me home."*

This very popular hymn was written by John Newton in 1779. The words seem never to become outdated or inappropriate.

Webster defines **amazing** as; 1. *obsolete : bewilder, perplex* 2. *to fill with wonder : astound intransitive, verb : to show or cause astonishment*. It is certainly an astonishing thing for the Lord of Lords and King of Kings to have so great of an interest in souls of men to rescue them from sins deathly grip. The word **grace** is often defined simply as "unmerited favor". Grace is given by God, not earned by man. Unfortunately, many have no understanding of the grace of God.

There is no doubt that man is saved by grace. It is impossible to be so good that God would be required to save. In fact it is just the opposite; it is because we are able to save ourselves that God sent His only begotten son to the cross for our sins. How does the grace of God save?

By a plan that can be taught. *"Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world"* (Titus 2:12).

By the blood of Jesus. *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace"* (Eph. 1:7). But all will not be saved. *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it"* (Mt. 7:13,14). Man must do something to reach the blood.

Faith is essential in the plan of God to save man. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"* (Ephesians 2:8). Faith saves when faith is put into action. The walls of Jericho fell, not because of military strategy, but because they believed God and acted accordingly. *"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days"* (Hebrews 11:30). Noah was saved by grace. *"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD"* (Genesis 6:8). He was saved by faith. *"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith"* (Hebrews 11:7). Noah was saved by obedience. *"...prepared an ark to the saving of his house..."* (Hebrews 11:7).

The salvation God offers to man through the gospel is a matter of grace. It is given to man, but not without conditions to receive it. Those conditions are faith and obedience. But not every one would be saved. *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men"* (Titus 2:11).

Bill Dedmon - 4/15/07

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