

"TRUE FREEDOM"

July 5th, 2009

Everything about the American way of life teaches you get what you EARN

This causes a problem in relating to God because does not relate to us on PERFORMANCE

Many never develop a close relationship with God because they think He is MAD at them

Mercy is when God DOESN'T give you what you deserve.

Grace is when God gives you what you DON'T deserve.

WHAT IS GRACE?

God's GIFT to me

The world says you get to heaven by being GOOD; God says the only way to get into heaven is by God's GRACE

Romans 11:6 (NASB) "If it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace."

Every religion can be summarized by one word - DO, i.e. You earn God's APPROVAL

Christianity can be summarized by one word - DOVE - Jesus did it ALL

Romans 3:24 (NCV) "All need to be made right with God by His grace, which is a free gift ... through Jesus Christ."

Received by FAITH

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV) "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves. It is the free gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."

If we got to heaven by our works, everyone would be BRAGGING

Romans 4:16 (NCV) "People receive God's promise by having faith. This happens so the promise can be a free gift."

We have every reason to celebrate – our past sins have been FORGIVEN; we have a purpose for LIVING now; we have an eternal HOME in heaven

Available to EVERYONE

God doesn't play FAVORITES

No matter what you've done, God loves you & wants you to come HOME to Him

Romans 4:16 (NCV) "The promise is not only for those who live under the law of Moses but for anyone who lives with faith like Abraham."

Romans 10:13 (NIV) "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Comes through CHRIST

Acts 15:11 (NIV) "We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved,..."

We are saved by Christ's grace because He's the one who PAID for it

Grace is FREE but it is not CHEAP; somebody has to pay for it.

Romans 5:15 (NCV) "... many people have received God's gift of life by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ."

In the Bible those who have accepted God's grace are said to be "IN CHRIST"

When God sees you, He doesn't see your IMPERFECTION but Christ's PERFECTION
2 Peter 1:3 (NCV) "Jesus has the power of God, by which He has given us everything we need to live and to serve God. We have these things because we know Him."

You can't do anything to make God love you MORE or LESS; because His love is not based on your performance but His grace.

When you understand this, you will run TO God, not FROM God, when you fall.

Your past is not your PRESENT

Extended throughout ETERNITY

Romans 6:23 (NLT) "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

You must accept God's GIFT of grace

Isaiah 30:18 (NIV) "The Lord longs to be gracious to you."

There is one person who will never reject you - Jesus Christ

My Next Step Today Is:

- I want to receive God's gift of grace by accepting Christ as my Savior and Lord
- I want to play in the summer New Hope co-ed volleyball league beginning Sun, July 12th
- I plan to attend the "Everyone A Reader" training Sat, July 18th
- I want to be baptized at the beach on Sun, August 2nd