

Dead Men Can't Believe

As we study the Bible it is important that we are careful to LISTEN to God's word and not impose our pre-conceived ideas into its verses.

Man is in a condemned state before God because of his sin.

We are under the curse of death and hell in the lake of fire (Gen 2:17; Ezek 18:4,20; Rom 5:12, 6:23; Rev 20:14). "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ" at Colosse (Col 1:2), God, through Paul, taught that they were dead in their sins but God quickened them that is, He 'made them alive' and forgave them of all their sins:

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

"The saints" at Ephesus and "the faithful in Christ Jesus" (Eph 1:1) were taught the same truths. **WHILE they were 'DEAD' "children of disobedience" and "children of wrath" naturally God quickened them and made them 'LIVE' "children of God" supernaturally according to His mercy and by His grace:**

Eph 2:1-7 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

- 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
- 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
- 4 But God, who is rich in mercy,
for his great love wherewith he loved us,

(Eph 2:) 5 Even when we were dead in sins,
hath quickened us together with Christ,
(by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, (the 1st resurrection, Rev 20:4-6)
and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: (as we
reign with Him as kings and priests, Rev 1:5-6, 1 Pet 2:9, Exo 19:6)

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his
grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Dead men can't believe so God makes them alive and gives them faith:

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

We will see that

- The grace is the grace of God.
- The salvation is the salvation of God.
- The faith is the faith of God.
- None of this is 'of ourselves'.
- It is all the gift of God.

The grace is God's grace the grace of God.

The gospel by which men are saved is the gospel of God's grace:

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life
dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the minis-
try, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the
grace of God.

Simply defined, grace is 'undeserved favor' that cannot be bought:

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Even faith is given because of the grace of God whether Jew or Gentile:

Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the
end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only
which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of
Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Rom 11:5 Even so then at this present time also
there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

The salvation is God's salvation
the salvation of the LORD.

Salvation belongs to God. It is His to give to whomever He will:

Psa 3:8 Salvation belongeth unto the LORD:
thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.

The righteous are made righteous by the Lord's doing not their own:

Psa 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: (Jonah 2:9; Lam 3:26; Psa 68:20, 98:2) he is their strength in the time of trouble.

Salvation is not 'ours for the taking' whenever we 'may decide' we want it:

Lam 3:26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait
for the salvation of the LORD.

Salvation comes from God. It is His to give to whomever He will:

Psa 62:1 Truly my soul waiteth upon God:
from him cometh my salvation.

God's grace brings salvation:

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (1 Tim 2:4; John 1:9; Psa 74:12; Isa 45:22, 49:6)

All flesh have seen the salvation of God (Luke 3:6, Isa 40:5) as it has gone to the ends of the earth (Isa 49:6, 52:10, Mark 16:15, Rom 10:18):

Acts 13:47-48 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Again, the scripture teaches that salvation is "of God":

Phil 1:28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

'Mid-Acts-ers' only admit election to 'service' but never 'salvation'.

They deny the plain truth. God chose us to give us the gift of His salvation:

2 Thess 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

The faith is God's faith the faith of Christ:

We are not justified by our own faith IN Christ ... but by the faith OF Christ:

Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

God imputes His righteousness to us by the faith of Christ:

Phil 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

It is not of ourselves not by our own will:

God told Moses He will be gracious (give grace) to whom He will be gracious:

Rom 9:15-16 For he saith to Moses, (Exo 33:19)
I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.
 16 So then it is not of him that willeth,
nor of him that runneth,
but of God that sheweth mercy.

We receive the True Light of the World (John 8:12, 9:5) we believe on the name of Jesus Christ His Son we are born of God not of our own will but of GOD's will. He gives us power to become His sons:

John 1:12-13 **But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**

13 **Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

We are 'begotten' of God with His word, by HIS will not by our own will:

James 1:18 **Of his own will begat he us** with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

God saved us according to His mercy (Titus 3:5). We must be born (Greek word <gennao>) again (Greek word <anothen> in John 3:3,7) to see the kingdom of God:

1 Peter 1:3 **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again** (Greek word <anagennao> translated "being born again" in 1 Peter 1:23) **unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

God does His will in us. God works His work in us.

God gave us the will to work for Him:

Phil 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

The gift is God's gift the gift of God:

The gift of God is a well springing up into everlasting life (John 4:14, Isa 12:3). The LORD is the fountain of living waters (Jer 17:13).

Christ was That Spiritual Rock, the same spiritual drink they all drank (1 Cor 10:4). Whosoever that is athirst is invited to come and take of the fountain of the water of life freely (Rev 21:6, 22:17). It is the gift of God:

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, (John 7:37) and he would have given thee living water.

The gift of God is by the grace of God which comes by Jesus Christ:

Rom 5:15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

God's gift of His Son (John 3:16) is everlasting life. The other end is death:

Rom 6:20-23 For when ye were the servants of sin,
ye were free from righteousness.
21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?
for the end of those things is death.
22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God,
ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.
23 For the wages of sin is death;
but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God is the source from which each benefit originates:

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights,
with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

God's greatness (Psa 145:3), His judgments (Rom 11:3), His riches (Eph 3:8) are unsearchable. He does marvellous things without number (Job 5:9). The gift of God is so wonderful that it is cannot be fully described:

2 Cor 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

We were God's adversaries when He brought us into agreement with Him:

Rom 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,

much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Love began with God. He FIRST reached out to us:

1 John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ is the reason for every person

who has been saved, who is saved, and who will be saved:

Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author (cause) of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Our salvation began with Christ and it is completed in Him:

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author (chief leader) and finisher (completer) of our faith;

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

God started the work in us we did not start it in ourselves

and He will complete it:

Phil 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform (also translated accomplish, finish, perfect) it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Dead men can't believe so God makes them alive and gives them faith.

To put the carriage before the horse is wrong. God quickens us first:

1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I wanted to give a few more thoughts about the messages on Rewards for the past 2 weeks. You cannot disregard many verses because of a verse or passage you don't have clarity on yet.

When the day of the Lord comes, who shall stand when He appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and He shall purify and purge His people that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness (Mal 3:2-3):

1 Thess 2:10-12 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted
and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

12 **That ye would walk worthy of God,
who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.**

Before salvation we are the servants of sin but now that we are made free from sin and become servants to God, we can and should deny sin and produce holy fruit (Rom 6:20-22) so that we are not unfruitful (Titus 3:14).

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

We are to abide in Christ that we are not ashamed when He comes:

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"