

# GRACE DOCTRINE AND ITS SPECIAL IMPORTANCE Part 1

Lesson Theme: Paul's Gospel is special because it applies directly to us today.

## A. Introduction

- Ad agencies choose a catchy slogan.
- Paul's message: "Distinctively Different."

## B. Paul's Apostleship and Message

- Grace message differs from traditional Christianity.
- One unifying truth: Paul's apostleship and message.
- Others received messages from God about Israel.
- Paul: Gentiles' apostle for the Dispensation of Grace (Rom. 11:13; Eph. 3:2).

Key Verses: **Galatians 1:11-12**

"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

## C. The Preaching of the Cross

- Paul first preached the Cross as good news, rejected.
- Peter blamed Israel for the Cross (Acts 2:22-23, 36).
- The Twelve didn't understand Christ death (Matt. 16:22; Luke 18:34).
- Salvation paid by Christ's death: not revealed until Paul (Eph. 1:7).
- Before Paul, the Gospel of the Kingdom which included water baptism (Matt. 4:23, 9:35; Mark 16:16).
- Centered in *who He is*: the Christ, the Son of God.
- Paul's gospel centered on *what He did*: died for our sins and rose again (Rom 4:24-25).
- Christ's blood to *the many*: Israel (Matt 26:28, 20:28).
- Paul's Gospel of Grace extends to all (1 Tim. 2:6)

Discussion: **Why do you think God chose Paul to reveal these truths?**

## D. Salvation Without Works

- Salvation by grace through faith alone, no works: Paul first to present (Rom. 4:5, 3:20-22,28).
- Before Paul, faith with works (water baptism, animal sacrifices, ...) as an expression of faith.
- Adding works to grace for salvation frustrates God's grace (Gal. 2:21).
- Christ died in vain if salvation is by works.
- Before salvation, we cannot do good works (Rom. 3:12).
- Good works after Holy Spirit regenerates (Eph. 2:10).

Discussion: **Is it possible to be so bad God will not save a person?**

## E. Grace Reigning

- God shows grace in all dispensations (Gen. 6:8).
- Noah built an ark: showed faith (Heb. 11:7).
- Present dispensation: only one called, "the Dispensation of the Grace of God" (Eph. 3:1-2).
- Paul describes grace as reigning on the throne as king (Rom. 5:20-21).

## F. Summary

## G. Application

## H. Gospel

## I. Encouragement

## **ENERGIZE**

### **Summary**

Paul's apostleship and message is distinctively different from what came before him and these differences are special for everyone alive today. He received his revelations directly from the resurrected, ascended, Lord Jesus Christ. These teachings deal specifically with Jews and Gentiles today in the Dispensation of the Grace of God. The Twelve Apostles knew about the Crucifixion of Christ as an historical fact, but Paul first introduced the preaching of the Cross as Good News by which people are saved. Since Christ died for all, this message is world-wide in scope and extends to everyone. Paul also introduced the teaching of salvation by grace through faith alone, without being expressed by rituals and good works. The grace of God was shown to mankind in every age, but now it is the ruling principle that governs all of God's dealings with man. Paul describes grace as reigning on the Throne.

### **Application**

Once we see that Paul's apostleship and message were different and unique to him, we are able to see clearly that salvation is by grace through faith, plus nothing. We will not be swayed to believe a false gospel of works or think that it is just for our small group. We will be able to present the Gospel of Christ in a plain and simple way that will bring hope to the lost and truth to those in error. We will be able to explain why different churches believe differently, and what God's solution to the problem is. To clear away the rubbish of religious tradition and dispensational error gives a renewed confidence that the Bible can be understood and makes it all the more precious to us. *(Note: Dispensational error is trying to apply teaching belonging to the wrong dispensation. Example: putting the Law of Moses in the Dispensation of Grace.)*

### **Gospel**

Up to now, you may not have known that the Gospel of the Grace of God is unique to Paul, and that he is God's spokesman to all nations today. You may have been confused by the many voices in the religious world telling you that you must do something, submit to a ritual, keep commandments, or a host of other things to try to make yourself acceptable to God. They may have even used the Bible to make their point. Paul says only one thing is necessary: believing the Gospel of the Grace of God. Christ loved you, died for you, and rose again from the dead. He is waiting for you to say in your heart, "Yes Lord, I believe that I am the sinner for whom Christ died. I am receiving Him now as my Savior believing that His shed blood on the Cross paid for my sins." On the authority of God's Word, you can be certain that you have passed from death to life.

### **Encouragement**

Living according to God's Word is not popular, but the message of Grace is worth the loss of popularity. Satan and the things of this life will tend to sidetrack you, but God gives you the power, through His Word and the Holy Spirit, to keep you on track. The Apostle Paul says that the Christian life is like a race and to finish well will bring His approval and great reward. It seems especially hard in the teen years to live for Christ; adults do not understand your problems, other teens treat you wrongly, and you are not sure what your future will be. The older believers in Christ rejoice because you are willing to follow Him, in spite of the difficulties. You can be sure that your faithfulness to Christ and your desire to follow the "Grace Way" will be honored by God. You will never know how much your faith means to others. Thanks!