

Week 6: Grace and Faith

1. Key Scriptures

1) Ephesians 2:8–9

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

2) Romans 3:24–28, Galatians 2:16

2. Learning Objectives

- 1) To properly understand the relationship between grace and faith in salvation.
- 2) To grasp Paul's teaching on freedom from the law and work through the lens of grace.
- 3) To rediscover the essence of faith as trust and commitment.

3. Lecture Summary

1) What is Grace?

- (1) Greek: Charis (χάρις)– a gift freely given to the undeserving
- (2) All things—creation, salvation, calling—begin with God's grace
- (3) Grace is God's unilateral and unconditional favor

2) What is Faith?

- (1) Greek: Pistis (πίστις)– trust, faithfulness, assurance
- (2) Faith is more than intellectual agreement; it is complete trust and surrender to God
- (3) For Paul, faith is not opposed to action but is the proper response to grace

3) The Relationship Between Grace and Faith

- (1) Cause of salvation: God's grace
- (2) Means of salvation: Our faith
- (3) Salvation flows from grace; faith is the hand that receives the gift

4) In Contrast with Works

- (1) Paul repeatedly emphasizes salvation is “not by works” (Gal 2:16, Rom 4)
- (2) Works bring pride, but grace and faith produce humility and gratitude

4. Application

- 1) Believers must live lives that depend not on their merit but on God's grace
- 2) True faith goes beyond words—it leads to a life of obedience and transformation
- 3) Salvation is a gift, not a reward; and those who receive it respond with holy living

5. Discussion Questions

- 1) Why did God choose to save us by faith and not by works?
- 2) What dangers arise when grace is misunderstood or misused?
- 3) How does grace keep us humble, and how does faith lead us to obedience?