

AMAZING GRACE!

Ephesians 2: 1-10 (part two)

August 23, 2020

What Magnanimous Love! (2:4,5,7)

Opulent language: "rich in mercy, the great love with which He loved us"

When we were dead: **2:5; Romans 5:6,8,10**

The goal of His kindness is to show more kindness: **2:7**

The featured character of God garnering praise (**see 1:6**)

The continuing extension of His kindness without end

Incorporation Into Christ (2:5-7)

Raised with/in Christ

Seated with/in Christ in the heavenly places (the spiritual realities)

Receiving God's kindness in Christ

Private plane to Tahoe

Scandalous Grace (2:5,8,9)

Trained from childhood in consequences, just deserts, earning

The lessons from nature: touch fire, get burned; smell a flower, experience delight

The wrench in the machinery of reality

The parable of the workers in the field: **Matthew 20:1-16**

If we're honest

The Order of Grace and Works (2:10)

Good works as a result of God's gift of grace, not as a precursor to it

The litterer and the gift of the garbage truck

Grace and the Question of the Salvation of the Human Race

How to understand the phenomenon of some ending up in the "lake of fire"?

A. Everyone is finally saved

Grace as premier value of the coming age

My story seen in everyone else, even the worst sinner

The Christian character of hoping for this

The problem: judgment predicted in the Scriptures: **Rev 20:15; Matt 25:46; John 5:28,29**

B. God chooses who is saved and who is not saved

All are destined for judgement and helpless and hopeless to avoid it

God freely chooses to rescue some, and chooses to leave others be

God created persons predestined for rescue and others predestined for loss

Who are you to talk back to God? Romans 9:20

I am humble before this but cannot make sense of it on this side of heaven

C. Humans can respond to a universal grace

Everyone in the world is dead, God floods the whole world with grace

The difference maker is NOT who God chooses to rescue

The difference maker is who chooses to respond to grace

Can this response be understood as something less than “works”?

The analogy of the man in the cold dark:

The grace of light suddenly shines upon him

Choice one: turn toward the light

No shadow on or in front of the person

Able to move forward seeing and seen

Choice two: turn away from the light

Casts a shadow (now) in front of the man

Imagine that shadow over time solidifying into a dark hole

Imagine the man, wanting to escape the light, crawls down into that hole

The mechanics of that man’s rejection were three:

An initial turning away from the light

A persevering in remaining turned away from the light

A conscious choice to leave the realm of light for a self-created

darkness

Choosing to walk in the darkness: **1 John 1:6**

Relative to These Three Models:

I hope for the first (that all will be saved by grace)

I humble myself before the second (that God makes sovereign choices)

I assume the third (that people can respond to grace), and thus make my appeal.

Relative to the Up, In, Out Triangle

Formed and fueled by the grace of God toward us (UP), we treat each other in the church with gracious patience, understanding, and forgiveness (IN), and we engage the world with generous well-wishing, sacrificial service, sharing the gracious love of Jesus in word and deed that we ourselves have experienced (OUT).
