

Amazing Grace

No. 87

Introduction.

- I. One of my favorite hymns and one of the hymns that ranks high on the list of the most other Christians is ‘Amazing Grace.’ This beautiful and meaningful hymn reads:

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I’m found,
Was blind, but now I see.

Thro’ many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
‘Tis grace hath bro’t me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we’ve first begun.

- II. This song is pretty to the ear. But, beyond that, it is beautiful to the heart of a man who knows he is lost in sin and desires eternal life. To the person who does not recognize he is a sinner or thinks his sins are not so bad, this hymn will have little or no meaning.

- I. **All Men Are Sinners And Stand Condemned** - The Bible makes it abundantly clear that all men are sinners and stand condemned.

A. Listen to this awful description of the Gentile world in Paul’s day and of mankind today.

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹because that which is known of God is manifest in them; for God manifested it unto them. ²⁰For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, *even* his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse: ²¹because that, knowing God, they glorified him not as God, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴Wherefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts unto uncleanness, that their bodies should be dishonored among

themselves: ²⁵for that they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶For this cause God gave them up unto vile passions: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working unseemliness, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was due. ²⁸And even as they refused to have God in *their* knowledge, God gave them up unto a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰backbiters, hateful to God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, unmerciful: ³²who, knowing the ordinance of God, that they that practise such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but also consent with them that practise them. ASV

- A. Paul goes on in Romans 2 to show that not only did the Gentiles sin and deserve to be punished, but that the Jews had sinned against God and His laws and thus deserved to be punished. (Rom. 3:10, 23, 6:23a; Rev. 20:14b-15).
- B. John also emphatically affirms that all have sinned. (1 Jn.1:8, 10).
- C. I am thankful the Bible does not end with these statements of guilt and condemnation. If it did, we would all be without hope. We would all be doomed to hell. O how wretched, how miserable, how fearful we would be.

II. **Salvation Is Offered By God's Grace** - The Bible also makes it abundantly clear that salvation is offered by God's grace.

- A. Listen to these sweet and inspiring words of hope. (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3, 5, 8-9).
- B. These scriptures affirm man can be saved by God's grace.
 - 1. Grace means "free and undeserved favor."
 - 2. It is something that cannot be earned. It is something that cannot be merited. It is a free gift from God.

III. **Stories Of God's Grace** - The New Testament contains some wonderful stories of God's grace.

- A. The **conversion of Paul** is a story of God's amazing grace.
 - 1. Here is a man who had done many horrible things. When the Jews stoned Stephen for preaching

the gospel, Paul was there and consented to his death. He was not satisfied with Stephen's death. He had other Christians put in prison and blasphemed the name of Christ.

2. Despite the fact that he was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and injurious, and deserved to be condemned in hell, God forgave him and made him an apostle by His grace.

B. The case of the **sinful woman** is a story of God's grace. (Lk. 7:36-39).

1. Jesus responded to their criticism saying.

LUK 7:40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher." **41** "A certain moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. **42** "When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. Which of them therefore will love him more?" **43** Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly." **44** And turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair. **45** "You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. **46** "You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. **47** "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." **48** And He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven." **49** And those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this man who even forgives sins?" **50** And He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." NASB

2. This woman did not deserve the privilege of touching Jesus or even being near Him. She did not deserve to be forgiven. She did not even deserve to ask for it. She deserved to be punished for "the wages of sin is death."
3. But Jesus saw her genuine repentance and her great love for Him and by His grace forgave her of all her sins and told her to go in peace. He treated her as she desired to be treated, not as she deserved to be treated.

C. The parable of the **Prodigal Son** is another wonderful story of God's amazing grace. (Lk. 15:11-24).

1. When the son said, "I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight: I am no more worthy to be called thy son," I am thankful the father did not reply, "You're right, so go away." The loving and gracious father forgave the son and treated the son with love and respect.

2. The father treated the son as he wanted to be treated, but by justice could not hope to be treated. He called him “son” and reinstated him in the family and celebrated his return.

Conclusion.

- I. What does all of this mean to us?
 - A. Jesus said. (Jn. 3:16).
 - B. Listen to the words of Paul. (Rom. 5:8; Tit.2:11).
- II. **The Bible teaches that God loves us all and salvation is available to all of us by God’s grace.**
 - A. The Bible assures us that God loves us. He loves us even when we are unlovable. He loves us even when we are covered by the filth and mire of sin. He wants to shower His grace on us. He wants to save and bless us and receive us into His sweet fellowship.
 - B. We can receive heaven’s undeserved forgiveness and favor if we are willing to follow the instructions of Jesus. (Jn. 3:36; Lk. 13:3; Matt. 10:32; Mk. 16:16; Matt. 7:21).
 - C. Jesus tells us that we must believe, repent, confess, be baptized, and be obedient to be saved by God’s grace. Only then does God bestow His free gift.
- III. Beloved ones out of Christ, you are lost. You are doomed for the devil’s hell. You need God’s grace. You need to be covered by the blood of Christ. God offers you His grace today if you will but reach out by faith and obedience to receive it. Come and accept God’s amazing grace. Let God forgive and transform you. Come now as we stand and sing.