



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – June 8, 2014

## ***Heart to Heart...***

Grace is an amazing thing. The more one looks at grace through the eyes of the Lord, the greater of impact it has on your life. Paul told the Ephesians: *"by grace you have been saved!"* (Ephesians 2:5) Grace from God is unmerited. It is undeserving favor that you can't work for or receive by any works! ***"But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace."*** (Romans 11:6)

Grace is one of the most misunderstood, mistaught and abused teachings of God. We need to read more carefully Scriptures to gain a better understanding and grasp of God's grace. Grace comes from the heart of God to us through Jesus Christ. Many religious people today teach God's grace as a "blank check" from God that allows one to do as they wish and in the end God's grace will save them! That's an abuse of God's precious gift of grace. Others believe that God has saved all religious people, no matter what they teach as long as they believe in the Lord Jesus because of God's grace. ***"For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ."*** (John 1:17) The grace of God only operates in the sphere of the truth!

Sometimes our songs preach better than the preaching! We sing many times not realize what we are singing. It makes me wonder if we are singing lies? (Just want us to engage our hearts!) Let's look at the song we sing to God, *"Amazing Grace."*

*"...how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me."* Grace is for the sinful! The sinful cannot get out of their sins without Jesus. Jesus is God's grace given because of our sin. Grace reaches sinners! It is for the ones, who in their sins, can only appeal to God undeserving favor. We cannot save ourselves.

*"I once was lost..."* Were you? Do you really believe that you were lost? When people are lost, they feel guilt, shame and the heartache of sin. We should feel it! Sin makes people miserable. Lost people cannot save themselves by being good! That's a works system, not grace.

*"Twas grace that taught my heart to fear..."* Grace is a teacher. When understood is teaches reverence for God and His authority. The fear of the Lord is what keeps one from abusing His grace. It takes away the "it's alright, grace will cover me!" attitude. Grace is received by faith. Grace produces trust. Grace brings about a godly obedience because we know we aren't deserving. God asks us to accept His word, lean on Jesus with all our heart and follow His word with obedience. Grace teaches! ***"Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefitted."*** (Hebrews 13:9)

*"And grace will lead me home."* The only way you are getting to heaven is by the grace of God. Jesus is the guarantee. We need to be one with Jesus.

Don't allow anyone to teach you away from the truth of God's word. Listen to the word of truth. Follow the truth as revealed. Apply the truth as taught from God. The grace of God works with the truth. If one is united with Jesus in baptism (yes, that's when and where we become one with Jesus despite what others might say), we stand in the middle of God's grace (Romans 5:1-2). Think about it!!!

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