

The Bishop's Corner

God's Grace and Mercy

Praise the Lord Saints,

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: that in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindness toward us, through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:4-9)

There are many things that God has to change within us when we get saved. Most of us were not like Apostle Paul when he got saved—raised in the church and taught in the scriptures; therefore we don't have that foundation. Whatever stops us from praying and reading our bibles each day is an idol because we must make up our minds that we're going to serve the Lord. “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24)

Thanks be to God for his great mercy and grace which keeps us when we first get saved as well as while we are learning in order to live a new life in Christ. It's like being a newborn baby; there is so much to learn in Christ because we have to work out our own salvation (Philippians 2:12). The earlier we get saved, the lesser amount of damage we do to ourselves and others.

However, we must learn to do things according to the Spirit and not the law. Every law that man makes has an earthly consequence. We need to make sure we are doing things after the Spirit and not the law. We must have the holy nature of God so we can always do the right thing without having a law. Holiness is not a doing it is a becoming. “Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.” (II Corinthians 3:6)

If we believe that Jesus died and God raised Him from the dead, and we ask God to save us, He will save us and give us a new birth. We will know immediately that we have this new birth, but the accuser (the devil) will come and tell us that we are not saved. If we don't say, “I am saved,” and learn the ways of the Lord, we will go back into sin, and the Holy Spirit will leave us. (I Peter 5:8)

When we grow in God, we learn how to follow peace with all men. “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.” (Hebrews 12:14-15) If we are not peacemakers then we are not spiritual. “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)

Because of God's great grace and mercy, even though Israel got off course in the book of Ezekiel, He told them He would save them regardless of their ways and doings. “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:16-27) Thanks be to God for his great mercy and grace!

God bless you,

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