

Grace is a divine provision for those who are . . .

- so depraved, that they cannot change their own nature;
- so averse from God, that they will not turn to Him;
- so blind, that they can neither see their malady nor the remedy;
- so dead spiritually, that God must grant spiritual life.

Grace is the sinner's last and only hope; if he is not saved by grace, he will never be saved at all. --A. W. Pink

THE BAPTIST CATECHISM

AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

(Presented here as originally published – this does not constitute a full endorsement of the Riverside Baptist Church)

84. Q. Which is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's (Ex. 20:17).

85. Q. What is required in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition (Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:6), with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbour, and all that is his (Job 31:29; Rom. 7:15; 1 Tim. 1:5; 1 Cor. 8:4, 7).

86. Q. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate (1 Kings 21:4; Esther 5:13; 1 Cor. 10:10), envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour (Gal. 5:26; James 3:14, 16), and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his (Rom. 7:7, 8, 13:9; Deut. 5:21).

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Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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CALLED TO BE SAINTS

Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:6-7

The terms “called” and “saints” seldom appear in the post-modern conversation. In an age in which there are no absolutes in the minds of many, the things addressed here find no place. Both terms describe a condition rather than an optional choice on the part of men. The thought of being called does not look to some discovered talent. It is rather descriptive of that which has brought about an ordered (not suggested) response. To be a saint requires being set apart and committed to the service of our Lord and such are properly called “Holy ones.” The thoughts of men tend to look to a self-attained state of holiness and accomplishment worthy of that designation. The Apostle Paul would speak of being what he was by the grace of God. Thus, men designate men to something that can only be a matter of divine operation. It is not said that these aspired to be saints or that they earned sainthood or that, for that matter, it was a matter of choice. The designation “the called” identifies particular individuals who had been sovereignly acted upon in such a way as to bring about a divinely desired result.

The words are explicit as to who called and the reason of it. The thought of calling, to many, is what they term as a “general call” that is verbally expressed and falls on the natural ear. Indeed “...faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” Even here there is the implication of something accomplished rather than something attempted. The call of God unto

salvation and holiness does not stop at the natural ear but is registered indelibly in the heart. It is literally incorporated in the hearts and minds of those addressed so that they do not think in terms of what they must do – they think in terms of what they have been made to be. They are “the called of Jesus Christ.” Again, it is to be emphasized that this calling is the outcome of a specific work on particular persons by a sovereign Lord.

In this case the people are Romans. The apostle certainly did not intend that all Romans were to be included in this special designation. There is a greater distinction given to those addressed. They are called “beloved of God.” They were those on whom the love of God had been manifested from all eternity to all eternity. The Lord declared as much through the prophet: *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. Jeremiah 31:3.* Paul assured the Romans that there could never be any separation from the love of Christ – see Romans 8:35-39. The aim of the election was from the beginning “...that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love (Ephesians 1:4).”

As a result of the love of God our Savior they have been called. Note the inclusion of “calling” in, *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. Romans 8:30.* What began in eternity

is manifested in time and is sovereignly and graciously brought to full fruition upon and within an undeserving people made holy and acceptable to God by operations of Him the Holy Spirit. Such is the nature of the salvation purchased by Jesus Christ our Lord by the shedding of His own blood. William Hendriksen expressed it well in writing: *By this inner or effective call is meant that operation of the Holy Spirit whereby He so applies the gospel to the minds and hearts of sinners that they become aware of their guilt, begin to understand their need of Jesus Christ and embrace Him as their Lord and Savior.* Paul was literally telling them that they had become saints by virtue of having been called. He was not telling them what to do – he was telling them who they were.

Through the years I have heard many declare in a condescending manner that “I am no saint.” This was their way of excusing their lack of separation from the world. Perhaps they thought that there was some merit in such a confession. However, the scripture does not make distinctions among saved people. If one professing to be a Christian is not a saint then he is lost. The command to “be ye holy” is not to be taken lightly for without holiness no man shall see the Lord... (Hebrews 12:14).” John wrote emphatically that one born of God cannot sin!

The Holy Spirit does not bring to life an unholy person. Of course, there is an old nature remaining but not in control any longer. There is in the heart and life of all true believers a living attraction to and a quest for holiness. After all they are “called to be saints.” They are the “called of Jesus Christ.” The new nature with which they have been born is the nature of Christ Himself! Of a certainty, there is no such thing as a “carnal Christian.” That would be tantamount to saying there could be a carnal saint. Grace is, indeed, greater than our sin in fact and in practice.

What a precious description of the identity of the Roman believers and of all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in truth. The great provision for us includes the designation, “the called.” *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28.* To call oneself a saint would sound self-aggrandizing to many. That we are called to be and are saints is humbling to everyone who thinks in terms of the great cost and the blessedness that attends such a calling. May we ever be in the way of praising Him who has called and may we truly know that peace of which Paul wrote. *bhs*

TRUE CROSS-BEARING

A certain man decided to obey Jesus Christ’s exhortation “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). He made a collapsible cross of wood, weighing forty-five pounds and having a wheel attached to its bottom. He put the other end of the cross on his shoulder in Hollywood, California on Christmas Day 1969 and began a trek around the world, rolling his cross behind him. He followed a vehicle carrying provisions, provided by private funding. He claims to have carried his cross a distance one and a half times around the earth at the equator, across every ocean, in every nation and major island group on all seven continents (including Antarctica), taking an estimated 76 million steps and carrying a total weight of over 16 billion pounds. The weight of the cross caused about one inch of growth to his right shoulder, resulting in him claiming to be perhaps the only person in history who has been physically shaped by the weight of a cross. He is listed in the Guinness World Records for the world’s longest walk. He is acclaimed as the only person to literally and physically walk

the face of the earth. The world's media lauds his feat with headlines like "One of the Top Ten Incredible Travel Feats" and "Surely the toughest endurance exercise ever undertaken". During his walk he held audience with numerous important people including heads of state and leaders of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and other religions. He now travels around the world speaking of his cross-bearing. During his pilgrimage he divorced his wife and married another woman.

How different are the faithful to Jesus Christ in obeying His exhortation.

Our crosses are spiritual, not physical – and do not violate God's prohibition against idolatry. They are permanent, not collapsible. They are carried daily, not merely often. They are borne by us, not rolled along behind us. Their weight cannot be measured in physical pounds. (Re the afore-cited man's claim to be perhaps the only person whose physical body was shaped by the weight of a cross, Jesus Christ and countless martyrs come to mind.) We are daily supplied by Jesus as we follow Him, not a vehicle with provisions funded and driven by others. We are not interested in making individual world-records for distance traveled and countries visited and such, for we go only where Jesus leads us. The world's media will not laud us, for they know not what we do, and what we do is not newsworthy to them. We will not hold audience with world and religious leaders, for they will treat us the same way they treat Him whom we follow. We will not boast of our cross-bearing, for we have denied ourselves, and glory in our Lord and Savior alone. We do not travel around the world speaking of our cross-bearing, for we instead go into all the world to speak of Christ and His gospel. And we do not consider ourselves to be following Jesus when our personal lives are contrary to Him.

Are you faithfully obeying Jesus Christ's exhortation to deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Him? Daniel Parks



ALWAYS NOW Oswald Chambers

We . . . beseech you that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. — 2 Corinthians 6:1
The grace you had yesterday will not do for to-day. Grace is the overflowing favour of God; you can always reckon it is there to draw upon. "In much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses" – that is where the test for patience comes. Are you failing the grace of God there? Are you saying – Oh, well, I won't count this time? It is not a question of praying and asking God to help you; it is taking the grace of God now. We make prayer the preparation for work, it is never that in the Bible. Prayer is the exercise of drawing on the grace of God. Don't say – I will endure this until I can get away and pray. Pray now; draw on the grace of God in the moment of need. Prayer is the most practical thing, it is not the reflex action of devotion. Prayer is the last thing in which we learn to draw on God's grace. "In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours" – in all these things manifest a drawing upon the grace of God that will make you a marvel to yourself and to others. Draw now, not presently. The one word in the spiritual vocabulary is Now. Let circumstances bring you where they will, keep drawing on the grace of God in every conceivable condition you may be in. One of the greatest proofs that you are drawing on the grace of God is that you can be humiliated without manifesting the slightest trace of anything but His grace. "Having nothing . . ." Never reserve anything. Pour out the best you have, and always be poor. Never be diplomatic and careful about the treasure God gives. This is poverty triumphant.