Grace at Work

Ken Chapman · Ephesians 2:1–9

INTRODUCTION

- If you've been a Christian for a long time, there are probably certain spiritual realities that you just take for granted, and maybe don't give a whole lot of thought to.
- Let's talk about this idea of grace and see how it reconciles with faith and as well as works of obedience or conditions that we must meet.
- You were dead. You were powerless. There was nothing you could do but God. God could do something.

1 God's Grace Is Key

Ephesians 2:4–6

- We were saved by grace. And in fact, that's our first point. God's grace is key.
- Without God's grace, there's no sense to continue the sentence. There's no point to talk about anything else.
- You've heard grace defined. It just simply means a kindness shown, a gift given.
- In this scenario, it also means that it was an unmerited or an unearned gift.
- God intended us to receive that grace, but also to show grace to others, even others who don't deserve it.

2 Faith Is Our Response to God's Grace

Ephesians 2:7–9; Hebrews 11:6

- The fact that I, and you, are undeserving and can do nothing to earn or even deserve our salvation, in no way nullifies the concept that there's still something that I must do in response to God's grace.
- And so faith, Paul says, is our response to God's grace.
- The word faith there in Ephesians 2 and in verse 8 is feminine. And the word gift is neuter.
- Any honest reader of the New Testament has to come away with the conclusion that faith is something we do in response to God.
- That doesn't mean I've earned my salvation by believing in God. But it is my response.
- There are no works, there is no faith, even that I can come up with, that I can have in my life that will earn this gift. It's still a gift.

3 Grace, Faith, and Obedience Are Completely Reconcilable

Hebrews 11:30; Joshua 6:1–5; Joshua 6:16–20

- What we're going to see in this story is that grace, faith, and obedience are completely reconcilable.
- By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled seven days.
- See, I have given Jericho into your hand, its king and the mighty men of valor.
- Yes, God has given it to us, but he still wants us to do something. He's still giving you instructions.

- Those three things mesh perfectly in this story grace, gift, faith, and obedience. One does not cancel out the other.
- Every one of those Israelites would have said, God has given us this city. But every one of the right thinking Israelites would also say, but we needed to do what God told us to do.

THE CHALLENGE

Would you march around that city of sin and have it destroyed in your life? Would you render obedience to the gospel this morning? Would you be saved by grace through a faith that obeys Jesus Christ this morning?

MY NOTES