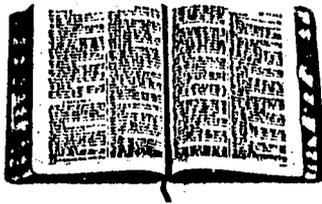


# THE INSTRUCTOR



“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for *reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*” (2 Timothy 3:16)

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## “SOME CALLS WHICH COME TO ALL” (Concluded)

Mankind receives many calls. They may be physical and or from man or they may be divine and thus from God. We can accept some calls or reject them, but there are some calls over which we have no control. In our previous articles we have considered *three calls*. They are: (I.) **The call of death.** (II.) **The call from the dead (*the resurrection*)** and, (III.) **The call to judgment.** We must accept each of these calls. We have no power to reject them. Let us now consider another call that comes to man.

**IV. THE CALL OF THE GOSPEL!** *Sin is universal.* We learn from 1 Kings 8:46 that “...that there is no man that sinneth not...” In Romans 6:23 Paul declared “...that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Also see Gal. 3:22; 1 John 1:10. *Sin separates from God, and the wages of sin is death!* (See Isa. 59:1-2; Col. 1:21; Rom. 6:23).

While on earth Jesus said: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give rest.”(Mt. 11:28). He also declared: “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Mt. 5:32). The *only way* to escape the wages of sin is

through Jesus Christ Who is the Saviour! He is *the way*, the truth and the life! He died for our sins and made proper atonement for them. (See 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 5:6-11; Tit. 2:14). His blood was shed for the remission of sins. (See Mt. 26:28; also see Heb. 7:25-27; 9:28). His blood will cleanse from sin! (See Rev. 1:5; 1 John 1:7-9).

In Rom. 1:16 Paul stated that *the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation!* Writing to saints Paul said: “Whereunto he (God – CRS) called you by our gospel...” (2 Thess. 2:14). To be cleansed by His blood we must accept *the call of the gospel*. To accept the calling of the gospel a sinner must first *hear the gospel* which is *the word of faith*, (i.e., the *Word of God*). (See Rom. 10:8-17; Acts 15:7; 9:6; Heb. 2:1-3). After hearing the gospel one must *believe* and *obey* it! In Mk. 16:15-16 Jesus told the apostles to “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” NOTE: It is obvious from this passage that *a sinner must believe the gospel and be baptized in order to be saved.*”

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# THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial...

### "THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD"

Writing to Christians Peter said: "...Testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand." (1 Pet. 5:12). The expression "the true grace of God" suggests to us the idea that there may be "a false grace." *Grace* is a vital topic and is of great importance. It is discussed in the New Testament. The *grace of God* is the *free mercy of God*. It is *God's unmerited favor toward mankind*. There are many *false doctrines* taught and numerous *false ideas* about *grace* abound. Let us go to the Scriptures to learn the truth about "*the true grace of God*."

### "THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD":

#### 1. CAME BY JESUS CHRIST!

John declared: "For the law was given by Moses, but truth and grace came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17). Jesus brought truth and grace.

2. CAN BE KNOWN IN TRUTH! We learn from Col. 1:6 that the saints at Colosse "...knew the grace of God in truth." If they knew the grace of God in truth (and they did) we, too, can *know* the grace of God *in truth*.

#### 3. GAVE GOD'S WORD!

Speaking to the elders at Ephesus Paul said: "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." (Acts 20:32). NOTE: The *word of God's grace* was given to us by the grace of God and it reveals to us that grace! Surely it was by God's *unmerited favor* that we have His Word.

4. GAVE THE GOSPEL! Paul received the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ "...to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24). NOTE: Indeed it was by *God's free mercy* that he gave the gospel that reveals to us that free mercy.

5. DID MUCH MORE ABOUND WHERE SIN ABOUND! Paul declared that "...where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." (Rom. 5:20). In Rom. 6:1-2 we read: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" Yes, sin abounded, but *God's unmerited favor* did much more abound. Grace was, is and always will be in abundance to take care of sin.

6. REIGNS THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTO ETERNAL LIFE! Paul declared that "...as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 5:21). NOTE: Grace *does not* reign *alone* (or *without* righteousness). FURTHER NOTE: Some people teach that the grace of God will reign without a person doing righteousness. However, such is not the case. (See Acts 10:34-35; 1 John 2:29; 3:7).

7. BRINGS REDEMPTION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS. In Eph. 1:7 (referring to Christ) Paul said: "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." NOTE: Without the grace of

God there could be no redemption or forgiveness of sins. God is to be praised for His wonderful grace!

8. JUSTIFIES US! The apostle Paul said: "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Rom. 3:24). Titus 3:7 says: "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." NOTE: Without the grace of God there is no justification.

9. BRINGS SALVATION! Titus 2:11 says: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." NOTE: Without the grace of God there would be no salvation for men. His grace that brings salvation has appeared to all men. Isn't it wonderful that His unmerited favor that brings salvation has appeared to all men?

10. WILL SAVE US! Paul said: "...*(by grace ye are saved;)*" and "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." (Eph. 2:5, 8-9). In Acts 15:11 Peter said: "But we believe that through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we shall saved, even as they." NOTE: Salvation is by grace for both Jews and Gentiles. Without the free mercy of God no one could be saved.

11. TEACHES US! In Titus 2:11-12 Paul stated: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." NOTE: Without question, the "grace" that saves is the *grace of God* that teaches us how to be saved. Any "grace" that does not *teach God's Word* about how to be saved is not "*the true grace of God*". The gospel of the grace of God must be preached in order for men to be saved by grace.

12. MUST BE CONTINUED IN! In Acts 13:43 (referring to the time that Paul and Barnabas were in Antioch in Pisidia) we read: "Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the

Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God." While on their return preaching trip returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22). NOTE: The *grace of God* and the *faith must be continued in*. One cannot continue in one without continuing in the other.

13. IS WITH ALL THOSE WHO LOVE OUR LORD IN SINCERITY! Paul said: "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen." (Eph. 6:24).

14. MUST BE STOOD IN! Peter said: "...I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand." (1 Pet. 5:12). NOTE: We must *stand* in the grace of God! There is something to do!

15. IS SUFFICIENT FOR US! In 2 Cor. 9:8 we read: "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." NOTE: There is no lack in the supply of God's grace. It is sufficient to enable us to accomplish every thing God requires of us. (Also see 2 Cor. 12:9).

16. REQUIRES LABOUR! In John 6:27-29 we read: "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. Then said they unto him, What shall we do that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." NOTE: To work the work of God *we must do something*. The *grace of God* teaches us to *work righteousness*. (See Acts 10:34-35; 1 John 2:29; 3:7).

Any "grace" that does not do or require the above things is not "*the true grace of God*" wherein we should stand!

(Continued from page 1)

In Acts 2:38 Peter told inquiring sinners to "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,..." We learn from Rom. 10:9-10 and Mt. 10:32-33 that a sinner is to *confess with his mouth that Jesus is Lord*. This confession is to precede baptism. (See Acts 8:37 - KJV).

In *believing, repenting, confessing and being baptized for the remission of sins* a sinner is *obeying the gospel of Christ*. In 1 Peter 4:17 Peter asked a question as to "...what shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God?" In 2 Thess. 1:6-10 we learn from Paul that "our Lord Jesus Christ shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ ; Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." NOTE: This is *God's Word* telling us what will

happen to people *who do not obey the gospel of Christ!*

The *grace of God* provided the way of salvation for sinners. The *grace of God* teaches us (through the Scriptures) what we must do in order to be saved by the blood of Christ. (See Tit. 2:11-12). You cannot be "saved by grace through faith" *unless you believe and obey the gospel!*

The *call of the gospel* is extended to every sinner. We can either *accept* it or we can *reject* it. The *call of death, the call from the dead (the resurrection)* and the *call to the judgment cannot be rejected*. We have no choice in those calls, *but it is left up to us as to whether we accept or reject the call of the gospel*. However, if we *refuse to accept the call of the gospel, we will be lost in hell forever and ever!* (CRS)

**GOSPEL MEETINGS**

Elon, New Hope, AL April 20-22, 2001 @  
7:00 p.m. Fri. & Sat. & 6:30 p.m. on Sun.

**SENTENCE SERMONS**

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge..." (Proverbs 1:7).

\* \* \* \* \*

"There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and is not washed from their filthiness." (Proverbs 30:12).

\* \* \* \* \*

"Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death". (Prov. 11:4)

\* \* \* \* \*

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Prov. 15:3).

\* \* \* \* \*

"The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." (Prov. 16:31).

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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