

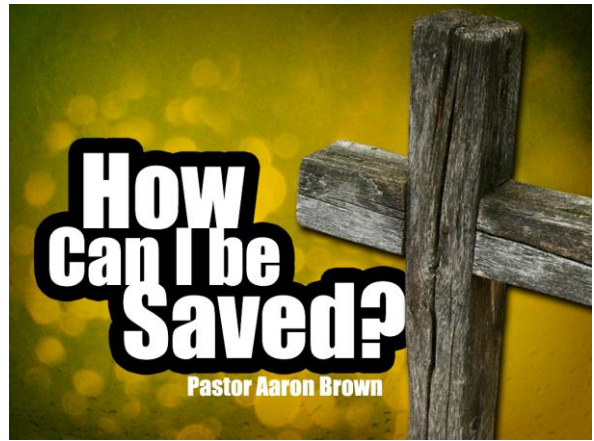
Discussion of Sermon

October 9, 2011

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

By Grace

What do these verses say about why we need to accept grace? What does it mean to be “an object of wrath?”



As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. Ephesians 2:1-3

What two qualities of God are found in the following verses that help us to understand the meaning of grace?

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. Ephesians 2:4-5

Mistake # 1: Salvation without Repentance (turning from sin)

Look up these verses to see the need of genuine repentance. Luke 13:1-5, Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19

How does the following quote from Charles Colson demonstrate genuine repentance?

That night when I sat alone at my car, my own sin - not just dirty politics, but the hatred and evil so deep within me - was thrust before my eyes, forcefully and painfully. For the first time in my life, I felt unclean, and worst of all, I could not escape. In those moments of clarity I found myself driven irresistibly into the arms of the living God. Charles Colson, Who Speaks for God

Through Faith

Do you think these quotes provide a good definition of faith?

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Martin Luther

Faith is the flip side of repentance. While repentance speaks of turning from sin, faith is turning to the Savior.

John MacArthur The Gospel According to Jesus

Do you think Pastor Aaron's definition of faith is a good one?

Fully
And
Intimately
Trusting
Him

Look up this saying by Jesus to know what it means to FULLY trust him. Matthew 16:24-25

What do you think Steven Furtick is trying to say in this quote?

And by that grace, he works faith out of you. But when you really understand God's work in you, your natural desire will be to surrender your life to him. To obey him unconditionally. That posture of surrender will result in radical steps of faith—and a confidence that flows from a heart that's fully devoted to God's plans. Steven Furtick Sun Stand Still pg 80

Mistake # 2: Salvation without Surrender

What does it look like if someone tries to accept salvation without surrender?

Consider this quote by Bonhoeffer. Do you know of people who trust in “cheap grace”?

Grace alone does everything, they say, and so everything can remain as it was before....Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer Cost of Discipleship

Mistake # 3: Salvation without Genuine Faith

What is the difference between mere intellectual assent and genuine faith? Which is Jesus describing when he says: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

Not Works

Why do you think Paul felt he had to state that salvation is not by works?

Mistake # 4: Salvation without Jesus

Do you think that on judgment day, God will simply weigh your good deeds vs you bad deeds?

How does this Scripture show that we could never be good enough? *Isaiah 64:6*

Do all roads ultimately lead to God? Are all religions equally valid?

What do these verses say about the possibility of being saved without Jesus? *Acts 4:12, John 14:6*

Look up these verses and note the common word in all of them. What does this mean?

John 3:36 John 5:24 John 6:37 John 8:12 John 10:9 John 11:25-26

The following prayer is the first step in fully and intimately trusting Jesus. Remember, it is not the words that you say, but the attitude of your heart that allows Jesus to change your heart.

Father God,

I admit to you that I am a sinner. I have rebelled against you and I know that I deserve to die. I come seeking your rich mercy. Please forgive me for all my sin. I willingly turn from my sinful ways and ask for your strength to keep me pure and holy.

I understand that you have paid the penalty for all of my sin through the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross. I fully trust His death as a payment for my sins and I accept the forgiveness that you freely give me.

I want to be made brand new and to start over. I want an intimate relationship with you. I accept my adoption into the family of God. Thank you for loving me in spite of my sins. Help me to love others in spite of the ways they have sinned against me. I choose to extend forgiveness to...(pray specifically for those who have sinned against me.)

I renounce all the work of Satan in my life and I cancel all of his strongholds in my life. I ask that you would cleanse me and remove every evil thing from within me. Remove every barrier that would keep me from knowing you more intimately. I want to fully and intimately trust you.

I ask that you will fill me with the Holy Spirit so that I might live the life that you would desire. I offer myself to you and ask that you would use me in your service.

(Add anything else that might come to your mind at this point in your prayer. Talk to God just as you would a loving father.)

If you have questions about this prayer, please contact Rev. Aaron Brown at aaron@marysvillefumc.org 740-412-2440