

Can Grace Really Be That Good – Part 2?

Introduction and Review

- We considered how bad sinners really are & how good grace really is.
- Humanity's self-assessment is radically different from God's assessment of humanity (Col. 1:21) – *alienated from God, hostile in mind & doing evil deeds.*
- The goodness of grace reveals that believers are: reconciled, holy, blameless & above reproach (Col. 1:22) – *proper friendly interpersonal relations, set apart to God, no moral faults & free from accusations.*

I. Who Can Be Saved? (Mt. 19:23-26)

A. Wealth and possessions (v. 23-24)

People view wealth & worldly success as a sign of special favor & blessing from God – the person is favored by God. Unbelievers & believers accept this view of prosperity.... God's perspective: possessions (false security) can be an obstacle in salvation. Wealth provides no advantage to sinners; it's actually a disadvantage! Problems resulting from wealth: worry (get & keep it), prejudice (Jas. 2), oppression (Jas. 2), fights & quarrels, luxury & self-indulgence (Jas. 5), pride & false security.

B. God and grace (v. 25-26)

*Possessions & wealth do not count toward salvation & are a disadvantage – “greatly astonished”. This principle was/is extremely difficult even for believers to accept. Many believers are reluctant & intimidated to share the gospel with wealthy people. “If people who have a lot to offer cannot be saved, then the poor have no hope.” – **WORKS!** God's perspective: salvation is a miracle of God on the basis of grace alone & is available to anyone (v. 26; Jn. 6:44).*

II. What Will We Have? (Mt. 19:27-30)

A. Sacrifices after salvation (v. 27)

Since the wealth of the unbeliever does not impress or satisfy God, what about sacrifices of the believer. Unlike the rich young ruler, they made significant sacrifices to follow Christ

– family, careers, health, etc. So is there any benefit for believers who humbly sacrifice for Christ even when they are not wealthy or successful?

B. Rewards after salvation (v. 28-30)

*“the new world” (παλιγγενεσία) means the renewal or rebirth of the world. In the born again world, Jesus will rule with glory (majesty, power, wisdom, etc.). The 12 Apostles will share or participate in this rule of Christ (gracious unmerited & undeserved reward). All believers will receive 100 times more than they sacrificed “for my name's sake” in this life & blessings in eternity (v. 29; Mk. 10:30; Lk. 18:30 – 10,000%). **Double sacrifice (2 x sacrifice) = 100%**. *How can one believer get 10,000% more in family members & possessions? Answer: by coming into the family & kingdom of God which is enormous with unlimited resources. Why such a large number? So that we can see the reward is far more than we deserve – Grace! Many people who are popular in this life will receive very little or no reward & many believers who are insignificant now will receive magnanimous rewards – Grace, not popularity (v. 30)!**

ILL: It was extremely difficult for believers to renew their minds & be set free from thinking of serving God on a merit basis (in order to get something in return). It was also difficult to think of God as lavishly generous & unbiased (Mt. 20:1-16).

APPL: The same is true for believers today...

CONCLUSION

Therefore my brothers & sisters in Christ I certainly hope that you are satisfied with Christ response to these two questions: Who can be saved? Anyone can be saved by having faith in Jesus Christ alone on the basis of grace alone –nothing else matters! What will we have who have humble sacrificed for Christ? We are brought into the family of God with countless family members & limitless resources from our God who supplies all our needs. These blessings are for us in this life and throughout all eternity & it's all by grace. Jesus says that we will be rewarded 10,000% more than we deserve to show that we shouldn't attempt to count our blessings – too many! Can grace really be that good? Yes it is better than eye has seen, or ear heard, or the heart of man has imagined... Grace is just that good because God is that good & worthy of loving service, sacrifice.... (1Co. 15:58)!

And if you are not a Christian, you can become a member of this enormous family of God with countless members too. You can know the joy of serving & sacrificing for Christ. You can be saved by this same grace; you must believe in Jesus...

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[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)