



September 12, 2010 – Will Mackey

Faith Is A Verb! Understanding Faith As God Defines It. Part 3 - (Ephesians 2:4-10)

1. Everything that is related to human salvation begins with God...His love, His mercy, His grace, His Salvation. (4-5)
2. God's love, mercy, grace, and the salvation He gives to humanity are an eternal testimony to the incomparable riches of God's kindness in Jesus Christ. (6-7)
3. Salvation is extended to the human heart by way of God's grace (unmerited favor). (8)
4. God's grace cannot be bought or earned by doing good works. It is a gift from God. (8-9)
5. However, God's grace and the salvation it offers cannot be received into a person's life until that person responds to God's gift with faith. Faith is an action-filled response to God's grace. (8)
6. When God's grace and man's faith come together, they produce holy living. (10)

Why Is This Stuff So Important?

1. What we believe determines our thinking and our actions. Our thinking and our actions determine where we spend eternity.

An Example:

If we believe that we are saved by God's grace only and down-play or under-define the concept of faith, then:

- We have no responsibility in our own salvation.
- Since we had nothing to do with becoming saved, then we can have nothing to do with becoming unsaved. We virtually have a religious license to live ungodly lives while maintaining a right standing with God.
- Since some are not being saved, God must want some to be saved and some to not be saved.

An Example:

However, if we believe correctly that we are saved only when we respond to God's grace with an obedient response called faith, then:

- We have great responsibility in our own salvation.
- Since we received God's salvation by responding in faith, we can, if we choose, walk away from salvation by withdrawing our faith.
- If people remain unsaved after they have heard the truth, it is because they chose not to believe and follow Christ. It is not because God has some pre-ordained disposition against them.

WE CAN CHOOSE LIFE!!!