

The Grace of God

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There seems to be a lot of confusion in the Lord's body concerning the grace of God. We believe that a lot of error has been taught on the subject. It was reported that a preacher made the following statement: "We are not saved by the right stance on any doctrinal issue; but rather by the grace of God." Do you get it? He is saying that it doesn't matter what you believe (or practice) on any Biblical subject – God's grace covers all. We deny it!

We've often said that grace is the unmerited (unearned) love and favor of God. That seems to be a fair and accurate definition. Now let's be sure we understand it. Consider this example: I make the following offers to two individuals:

- #1: Wash my car, and I'll pay you \$5.
- #2: Come to my house - I'll give you \$5.

Is there any difference here? Of course there is. If you don't think so, just ask these two fellas. Individual #1 has to work to earn his \$5, while #2 receives a gift. #1 is a case of pay for meritorious work. #2 illustrates a gift given on the basis of meeting a condition ("come to my house"). #2 does nothing to deserve his \$5 – it is a gift – but he must meet the condition to receive it.

Salvation is the product of God's grace. There is nothing you can do to earn it (Eph. 2:8,9). However, there are conditions you must meet in order to receive it (Rom. 10:9,10; Acts 2:38). So then, YES, you must be right in matters of doctrine in order to be saved. These doctrinal matters are God's conditions in order to receive His gift. But, it is still a gift – not earned – it is by God's grace.