

Sovereign Grace – The Only Grace that Saves!

Acts 15:4-11

April 13, 2008

*We are commanded to “earnestly contend for t__ faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” (Jud.3-4)

I. Spurious Grace

*Spurious: “of origin different than that claimed, not genuine.” (Webster’s Dict.)

*For the true believing Jews there had been a radical change. Their worship had gone from O.T. rituals surrounding the Temple to the reality of it in “spirit and truth” in the N.T. ch__ch.

1) To continue to observe many of the O.T. rituals was not only not necessary, but even harmful and sin__l. (Luk.5:36-38; Rom.14:6; Gal.4:10; Col.2:16-17)

2) To these Pharisees acceptance of the Gentiles without circumcision and requirement to keep the Law was an attack on their way of life and as____ce. (Act.15:4-5; Rom.10:1-4)

3) This “much disputing” went on before the Apostles. They had been taught by C____t the Gospel which is the foundation for every N.T. church. (Act.15:6-7; Eph.2:20; 1Co.3:11; Gal.1:10-11; 2:1-9)

*Any grace preached that points one to tr__t for salvation in anything other than or along with the finished work of redemption by the Lord Jesus is spurious grace. (Rom.11:6; Eph.2:8-9; Gal.1:6-9)

II. Sovereign Grace

*Sovereign grace is the favor bestowed freely by God totally apart from anything within the recipient to merit it or to obligate it. It is H__ good pleasure.

1) It is God’s sovereign grace as to who pr____es the Gospel. (Act.15:7; 1Co.3:5)

2) It is God’s sovereign grace as to who h____s the Gospel. (Act.15:7; 14:16; 13:48)

3) It is God’s sovereign grace as to who be____es the Gospel. (Act.15:7; 13:48; Phi.1:29; Eph.2:8-9)

III. Saving Grace

1) G__ testified of this saving grace in these Gentiles. He knows those that are His. Does He know you as His? (Act.15:8-9; 1Sa.16:7; 2Ti.2:19; Rom.8:15-16)

2) Both Jewish and Gentile believers have their h____s cleansed by faith. (Act.15:9)

a) Both alike are cleansed by faith from the g____t of sin. (Rom.4:20-5:1; 8:1)

b) Both alike are cleansed by faith from the p____r of sin. (Phi.2:12-13; 1Co.6:9-11)

c) Both Gentiles and Jews who have this saving faith will be cleansed from the very pr____ce of sin. (Act.15:11)

Does the Lord know you? Have you experienced His sovereign, saving grace in Christ Jesus?