



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 8 Number 22

May 31, 2020

The Offer of Grace

By Doy Moyer

What is the Christian's relationship to the world? It's always helpful to review what Scripture teaches us about our involvement in the world, and we want to keep these thoughts before us because the dangers are real. John wrote, "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever" (1 John 2:15-17).

Jesus told His disciples: "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you." (John 15:18-19)

In praying for his chosen disciples, Jesus spoke of their relationship to the world: "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world" (John 17:14-18).

We often talk about being "in the world but not of the world..." But what does that mean? "Of the world" would indicate a mindset that thinks and acts like the world without much effort to change others or to point them toward Christ. "Of the world" means a mind set on the flesh, with the focus being on what pleases us instead of what pleases God. Contrast that with Paul's admonitions:

“For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom 8:6-8).

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom 12:2).

What are our options when it comes to living in this world?

1. We can fully accept it and live in it (like an atheist). In this case we have completely given up on trying to live as Christ would have us to live. We have given ourselves over completely to the world, which is a mind that is hostile to God (cf. James 4:4).

2. We can fully reject it and live “out of it” (in total isolation). In this case we have given up trying to convert others and have a positive influence on those around us. Christ sent His disciples into the world to make a difference and let their lights shine (Matt 5:14-16).

3. We can try to accommodate Christianity to the world. In this case we hold onto an unbiblical form of “Christianity” without trying to buck against the world very much. We call ourselves Christians, but we won’t really try to reach out with the gospel. After all, we don’t want to offend the people of the world with something like a crucified savior (see 1 Cor 1:18ff).

4. We can try to accommodate the world to Christianity. In this case we are bringing in more of the world to affect more of God’s people (cf. 1 Cor 5:6-7). We make Christianity look more like a worldly endeavor rather than a spiritual relationship with God.

5. We can try to understand our relationship to the world through God’s lenses. This is what God would have us do. Our filter for understanding the world is Scripture instead of trying to understand Scripture through the lenses of the world. We see the world as lost and in need of Jesus, whereas the world sees “religion” as lost and in need of more worldliness. Yet the only hope we have of understanding our relationship with God is by understanding our lost condition without Him. Then we can begin to have a proper perspective of the world.

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (Col 3:1-2).

Grace Through Faith

by edwincrozier

Today's reading is Acts 3.

The famous and well-known passage in Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith." This has sparked all kinds of debate among those who claim Christianity. However, the lame man of our reading gives us the perfect picture to explain this. Did this man start walking because he was just so good at walking? Of course not. This man began walking by the grace of God. It was God's power, not the man's, not even Peter's, that healed him. However, don't read so quickly that you miss Peter's statement "And his name--by faith in his name--has made this man strong whom you see and know." Just picture yourself as a man lame from birth. How many attempts do you think you made to try to get up and start walking before you finally gave up to never try again? Every day, for as long as you can remember you have been carried by friends to the Beautiful Gate of the temple in hopes that God-fearing worshipers would take pity and provide you with something so you could eat that day. As you see a couple of promising donors, you ask for aid. One of them looks at you, reaches out his hand, and says, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" How would you respond? Me? I would smack his hand away and say, "Dude! If you're going to help, help. Otherwise, don't be joking around. Move along, you're getting in the way of people who might actually help me." However, that isn't what this man did. At the name of Jesus, the lame man took Peter's hand and rose up. This wasn't a dead lift on Peter's part. Peter didn't hook his arms underneath the lame man's shoulders and hoist him up. Peter grasps the man's hand. In order to get up, the man must cooperate. He must exercise legs that have never worked. In other words, the man had a faith-filled response. The man accessed the grace of God to heal him by faith. And it wasn't just any faith, it was a faith that acted, that took Peter's hand instead of smacking it away, that pushed on his own legs as Peter tugged on his hand, that stood up and walked, though every other attempt in his life had failed. This is grace through faith. Healing/salvation takes a faith-filled response, but when the healing occurs, we all know it is God who did the heavy lifting. It is God's grace that did the work. That is our salvation. It takes a faith-filled response: baptism. But when we are saved, it is God who did the work of saving. Praise the Lord!

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Rachel is in DC and will be traveling to the Ward reunion the end of this week
- Ross and Debbie are also traveling to the Ward reunion this week
- Pat Stockwell, Kass' mom is recovering from surgery
- Jaella's health during her pregnancy
- Debbie's nieces' baby with Down Syndrome has been released from the hospital
- Larry, Leukemia Diagnosis
- Ray & Ginger, as Ray deals with Alzheimer's Symptoms
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) in hospice care
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines
- June worship assignments

Worship Assignments

Today

Song Leader – Ray Mitchell

Lord's Table – David Porter

Wednesday

Song Leader – Ben Palmer

Invitation – David Porter

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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