THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLE

CHAPTER 2:8-9

MEDIA REFERENCE # WNX199 ~ DATE MAY 8, 1996

TITLE:

"MASTER MOSES, MEET FATHER ABRAHAM" - PART 1

BEING READY TO SHARE THE LORD

THEME:

Ephesians 1:3
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

INTRODUCTION

In Ephesians 2:1-10

THE CASE IS MADE HERE OF SALVATION BEING BY GRACE

"The Grace of God" - *the most misunderstood attribute that God possesses.*

It is the most "Abused Goodness"
That God has to Offer because it is directly the result of the Death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ

That Salvation is based upon the Nature of God

1.	BASED ON GOD'S ATTRIBUTE OF	MERCY	VV. 4
2.	BASED ON GOD'S ATTRIBUTE OF	LOVE	VV. 4
3.	BASED ON GOD'S ATTRIBUTE OF	GRACE	VV. 5
4.	BASED ON GOD'S ATTRIBUTE OF	KINDNESS	VV. 7

When it comes to Getting to Heaven

Grace is the Ride that will get you there - Ultimate Insult to the Work-Alcoholic

Master Moses, Meet Father Abraham

The Position of a Master is a controller and one to whom we are obligated.
The position and power of the Master is established by Authority!

There is never any doubt as to who's in charge - Always the Master!

The Position a Father is one who is by title and by nature the sire of the family. The giver of love, of direction, of stability, of meaning.
We find our roots in the history of our father.

The Purpose of the Law

#1 To establish before mankind, GOD'S righteousness and Holiness and
#2 To announce what standard GOD would except to live in His presence

The Law Magnifies Sin = Death

1 Corinthians 15:55
"O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory?" The **sting** - (the goad or poison, or the toxin) of death is sin

But there is More Bad News!
And the **strength** of sin is the law..... But thanks be to God, who **gives** us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:21
Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor tobring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith..... But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

John 1:17
For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Even though Moses was a great man of God - Abraham wouldn't have been his first choice among friends!

- Moses knew God in the "Mountain of Fire"
- He saw the lightening of God and the thundering voice
- He saw the burning bush at Sinai.

Moses was given the law and warned to keep it and all those who heard it!

- Abraham knew God His speaking voice
- Abraham knew God in Valley of Haran

(khaw-dal'); the valley of flab or fat. The valley of idleness and lacking or. To be a place of falling and loneliness

- Abraham knew God His - by promises!

(A Picture of a Person without God, a Lost & Lonely Life)

Genesis 12:1
Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. Gen 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

Israel claimed (the good Jew did) that Abraham was his father. The progenitor of the nation of the people - and that was true!

But Israel was also claiming allegiance to Moses!

Throughout the New Testament the Religious Jew Challenged Jesus as to His Loyalty to the Law

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Note the order: - Which Came First (The Relationship or the Rule?)

#1 Abraham was called before Moses was (The First Born)
#2 Abraham's Call was personal
#3 Abraham's Calling was based upon God reaching out to him
#4 Abraham was called a friend of God by Personal Relationship

#1 Moses was called much later (The Second Born)
#2 Moses was called to a Nation and People
#3 Moses' Calling was based upon Man reaching up toward God
#4 Moses was Called "The Law Giver"

In Abraham

"Was Personified the Goal of God's Intentions"
A relationship that God would have with man based upon man's faith toward God, and Gods love toward man

In Moses

"Was personified the perfect, unyielding standard of the law and of the righteousness of God"
A revelation that God and man are worlds apart, in person and in perfection. A law based, works centered knowledge and existence of God in the lives of the people!

The Grace - Available to us extended freely without obligation to receive or to reject. It is THE GIFT of THE GRACE

A Parabolic "Example" of God's Grace - #1

Luke 15 the Prodigal Son
"A certain man had two sons. "And the younger of them said to his father, `Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land and he began to be in want. "Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. "But when he came to himself, he said, `How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! `I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, (HERE IS THE POINT TO THE PARABLE) :19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your

hired servants. “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. "And the son said to him, `Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, `Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet `And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; `for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' (A life without the grace of God is a life that is dead)

We are dead without grace - Ephesians 5:14

A Parabolic “Example” of God’s Grace - #2

Luke 18:9

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. :11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, `God, I thank You that I am not like other men-- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. :12 `I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, `God, be merciful to me a sinner!' :14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

A Parabolic “Example” of God’s Grace - #3

Matthew 20:1

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. "Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent the man into his vineyard. "And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, "and said to them, `You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. "Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. "And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, `Why have you been standing here idle all day?' "They said to him, `Because no one hired us.' He said to them, `You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.' "So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, `Call the laborers and give them their wages, beginning with the last to the first. "And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. "But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. "And when they had received it, they complained against the landowner, "saying, `These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.' "But he answered one of them and said, `Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? `Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?

1. Grace *God's Goodness Made Known* vv. 8a

For by grace you have been saved through faith,

A.) Grace, The Divine Vehicle

"For by grace"

Saved by grace alone

* **Grace GRK 5485 charis (khar'-ece)**
Gracious manner, an act of benefit or favor.
An Object of Divine Favor and Affections

- We are not saved by works
- We are not saved by faith
- We are not saved by anything

We are saved by the Grace of God that comes through Jesus Christ Alone separate from works, separate from faith, separate from anything

Jesus has saved us and that act of Christ for us is called grace
Jesus has saved us and that act of Christ for us is called grace

Titus 2:11
For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

Peter's Commentary

1 Peter 1:10
Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of **the grace** that would come to you,

It's Faith that Puts it in your Pocket

Allot of People are confused about this work of Grace as though they had some kind of input

- I will try harder next time (wrong)
- I Will Confess my Sin (Wrong)

(Confession Doesn't Clean You - Christ Cleanses You when you confess...)

- I Will Give More (Wrong)

B.) Grace - Is the Power that Saves vv. 8b

"You Have Been Saved"

He has saved Us in eternity - that's where you're going!

And when you get there, you will discover that your place has been reserved for you forever

When Departing a Foreign Land,

They'll ask you "What is your final destination" your answer is Los Angeles, California

(People will look at you and will envy you - because of your final destination)

Your Destination was not determined by the Airlines, it was not determined by the Government.
- It was determined by where you live!

Philippians 3:20
For our citizenship (our manner of living) is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

It is Grace that has Brought to us Salvation, Empowered Our Salvation, Promised Our Salvation and Has Performed Our Salvation

Can You Now Say That "You're Saved"

If you are hoping to someday be saved - you are still bound by a self-performance, works centered attempt to earn God's approval

2.) Faith *Is God's Gift of Sight* vv. 8b

A.) Faith Is How We See to the Other Side

"Through faith,"

Harry Houdini at Niagara Falls walked across pushing a wheel barrow
then he asked if they believed he could do it again

Young Man Get in the Wheel Barrow

Do you Trust your Faith or do you Trust the Chair ?
Does your trust, your Faith hold you up or is it the chair that holds you up?

Faith cannot save you - Faith can only take you to what is to be trusted in

If you are Trusting in Your Faith, You are in Grave Danger
If you are trusting (having Faith) in Jesus Christ - You are Saved!!!

I can have all the Faith in the world
That my '67 Volkswagen will win this year's Indy 500 race....

But My Faith Will Not Take me across the finish line
Because the object of my faith was having faith in nothing....

Faith is Not a Gift

- Though it is given by God, Nowhere is it said to be a gift in the Bible - But it is given by God

Romans 10:17
So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

3.) Salvation is by Grace *Cannot be Earned* vv. 8c

And that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God

1.) Salvation Is of the Lord and Him Alone

<u>And that</u> not of yourselves

The "That" Here means (Salvation by Grace) not the Faith

Philippians 1:6
Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

1 John 5:13
These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may **know** (have the knowledge of - to be aware of it)that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

4.) Salvation is by Grace Produces Humility vv. 9

Not of works, lest anyone should boast.

1.) Salvation *That Excludes all Human Pride*

WHY DID GOD SELECT PAUL OF ALL PEOPLE

(According to the flesh. He had to be the most self-righteous man on the block...)

Paul's qualifications in the flesh

Philippians 3:3

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. "THE PROCLAMATION OF SALVATION" But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith

(If you're going to get to heaven... you've got to be able out do Paul's Works!
And Nicodemus & the High Priest of Israel, Martin Luther & John Paul)

The World Hates self-righteousness
Even to the Point of rebuke, even by the world!

No boasting allowed

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Jesus, God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

Every Time Grace Enters the Room,

The Law must sit down in Submission to it because a greater than Law has come - That's Grace!

2.) Salvation Is Eternally Secure in Him vv. 9b

You Can Never Lose Your Salvation Because

it was Never Found!

(It was Given to You as a Free Gift)

You Can Never Lose Your Salvation Because

Your salvation was given apart from Good Works
(which means it cannot be lost because of Bad Works)

Salvation is an Unearned, Freely Given Gift
Not a Reward that God owes you

1. The Law Pays no Dividends to You but death
2. The Law Cannot Complement You - it sees no good in you
3. The Law Demands and it Points to Jesus and Him alone - It's Hero!!!

Moses' Ministry was to Point Out your Sins & Faults
(I know people with this ministry today)

Abraham's ministry was to reproduce

Moses never had a problem having kids - law never has a problem having kids

But Abraham's son came by faith and came supernaturally - by God's Grace

Chuck Smith wrote a book called
"Why Grace Changes Everything"

Because it removes all your past

A physiologist at DUKE University did a study on the mentally and emotional ill and found out the second most common reason for their condition was that they were

bound to their past. Either blaming themselves or blaming someone else - which will lead to insanity!

Philippians 3:13
Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead

Because it gives you the power to start all over again
Because it keeps you going on
Because it's all of God and not of us

Because it has been promised to all those who will receive it