

VII. Concerning Grace in Regeneration

- ❖ We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected, in a manner above our comprehension, by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth; so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

Grace- God's unmerited favor...

Key Text: Eph 2:5-10

- ❖ Grace in Regeneration, is a complementary article of faith that further explains the grace of God in the work of salvation. We have already studied how man is dead in sins and can nothing in and of himself to save his soul. Thus, we undertook the doctrine of salvation in two parts: Man's part and God's part. I intentionally left out much of the latter in foresight of this article. With that I introduce God's role in salvation or, properly, Grace in Regeneration.

The Truth of Regeneration

John 3:1-8/ Here, Jesus explains a great, deep truth to Nicodemus. That truth is regeneration. I recently saw a bumper sticker that said, 'I was born right the first time.' What gross misunderstanding of Biblical truth. As Baptist, we teach one must be 'born again:'

1. Eph 2:10, Eph 2:5, 2 Cor 5:17, Col 3:10, Romans 6:11, I Pet 1:23
2. 'Born Again (Greek: anothēn)': from above, from a higher place. (Thayer)/ Strongs # G509.

- ❖ Having already discussed regeneration in a previous article, we noted that regeneration occurs at a point in time when a man is saved. Note:

'If we compare one scripture with another, it will be sufficiently manifest that by regeneration, or being begotten or born again, the same change in the state of the mind is signified with that which the Scripture speaks of as effected by true repentance and conversion. I put repentance and conversion together, because the Scripture puts them together (Acts 3:19), and because they plainly signify much the same thing' (Jonathon Edwards).

Regeneration: Changing Hearts, Changing Minds, Changing Lives

- ❖ After a person is saved, often, people see a dramatic change between darkness and light in a person's life. That change is contributed to the Grace in regeneration. I've heard it said that, 'God changes your want to.' That is exactly what takes place in regeneration. 'Old things are passed away; Behold, all things are become new!' (II Cor 5:17).
 1. *'Regeneration involves the illumination of the understanding, the consecration of the affections, and the rectification of the will.... The affections of the unrenewed soul are placed on unworthy objects, and cleave to them with the greatest tenacity. There is no relish for things spiritual and divine, no appreciation of moral excellence, no love of holiness and of God. Regeneration recalls the affections from unworthy objects, and places them supremely on the ever-blessed Jehovah-enshrines them in his infinitely perfect character.... The will of the unregenerate man is perverse, for it conflicts with the will of God. It chooses cursing and death rather than blessing and life. In regeneration its obliquity is overcome and rectified, its perverted action is arrested and changed'* (J. M. Pendleton, Christian Doctrines, pg 259).
 2. A new disposition given by the grace of God: Ps 110:3, II Cor 5:17, Eze 36:26, I John 4:7, Heb 10:22-23
 3. Which is wrought solely by God: John 3:8, James 1:16-17, Phil 2:13
 4. The plan of Salvation, in summary is wholly of Grace: Acts 15:11, Rom 5:6-8, Eph 4:7, I Cor 15:10, Matt 18:11, etc...

Faith & Repentance: Inseparable Graces

- ❖ That Faith and Repentance cannot be separated is a Christian truth. They are so closely linked that one cannot exist without the other. Further, it should be noted that they are 'graces' or from God. True faith and repentance is a gift from God as we will hear note...
 1. Fruits of Regeneration: Galatians 5:22-25, Matt 3:8-10, I John 5:4-5
 2. Faith and Repentance/Graces from God: Acts 11:18, II Tim 2:25, Eph 2:8-9,
 3. One cannot exist without the other: Mark 1:15

Summary

We will refine faith and repentance in our next article. Therefore, I have left this somewhat open ended. However, the main idea of this article is to inculcate into our minds and hearts that salvation or regeneration is not possible aside from the grace of God. It is His mercy that sustains us!