

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 - Prepared to Meet Thy God

Growing up as a child, I remember a beautiful song used to invite individuals to respond to the invitation of God's call, "Prepare to Meet Thy God." The first verse and the refrain begin like this:

Careless soul, why will you linger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God?  
Hear you not the invitation?  
Oh, prepare to meet thy God.

Careless soul, oh, heed the warning,  
For your life will soon be gone;  
Oh, how sad to face the judgment,  
Unprepared to meet thy God.

Events that occurred this morning in London, just as they did September 11, 2001, jar us back to the reality that we are mortal and our time on this earth will not last forever and, when we depart, is completely out of our control. Mankind, for the most part, does not heed the words of Eph. 4:31-32: Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Realization of our mortal condition should lend us to preparation for that time when our eternal destination, our home for all eternity, will be decided. Counter to the fact that we have no control over when we leave this earth, Our Lord tells us that we CAN know where we will spend eternity.

God tells us about His mercy and He extends it to His own. In addition, we are covered by His grace. The grace that comes from being His child. None of us are perfect but we are perfected in Jesus (Heb. 10:14). Jesus made one sacrifice good for all time for those who are sanctified. We (Christians) are sanctified by the blood of Christ. Sanctified means to be set apart (In this context sanctified means to be set apart into the right relationship with God).'

Ephesians 2:4-9 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Titus 2:11-12 tells us, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

The grace of God has provided for us a blueprint in the scriptures that show how we might have eternal life. God's grace is conditional. The principle is illustrated by the example of Noah, who "found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8); and yet, as the writer of Hebrews shows, the patriarch and his family were saved by preparing an ark in obedience to God's instruction (Gen. 6:13-22). Jehovah proffered the grace. Noah, by faith, obeyed the Lord, and so was blessed.

While God extends grace, human beings must be willing to "receive" the favor (2 Corinthians 6:1). Grace is accessed at the point of obedience to the Gospel. Eternal life is the result of grace. One experiences that "life" when he is raised from the water of immersion (Romans 6:4). Heaven's grace plan system includes obedience. Obedience and grace do not stand in opposition to one another.

Attacks like today will always grieve us, concern us, and even scare us. But, through the grace of God, it will never "own" us.