

The Mercy of God Applied to Sinners

Ephesians 2:4-10

July 22, 2007

A Key Question:

How does the super-abundant mercy in the heart of God become effective or efficient for a person?

What is the mechanism by which the mercy of God is applied to the lives of sinners?

Answer:

The mercy of God is applied to the lives of sinners “by grace, through faith.”

Eph. 2:5, 8-9: “...even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved...For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

One More Idea:

The simple faith that believes in Christ and makes the mercy of God effective for life is also a gift from God.

Eph. 2:8-9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works so that no one may boast.”

Five Reasons...

1. The Greek allows it and it is the natural reading.
2. Ephesians 1:1-14 support this view
3. Ephesians 2:1-3 & 5 support this view
4. Ephesians 2:11-12 support this view.
5. Other text support this view...

Supporting Texts:

John 6:44

Romans 9:14-23

John 6:63-65

Romans 12:2

Acts 11:18

Galatians 2:15-16

Acts 16:14

Galatians 3

Romans 3:21-31

2 Tim. 2:24-26

A Final Quote...

“That we believe to salvation and obtain salvation through faith is *entirely owing* to divine assistance and grace; God has ordered all so that the whole shall appear to be of grace.” Matthew Henry, *Commentary on Ephesians*

Another Key Question:

Besides being justified and being made an heir of eternal life, what specifically happens to a person when he or she believes in Jesus Christ by grace through faith?

What happens when the mercy of God is applied to sinners?

Answer:

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, ***made us alive together with Christ***—by grace you have been saved—and ***raised us up with him*** and ***seated us with*** him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...”

Three Additional Blessings:

1. God made us alive with Christ...
2. God raised us up with Christ...
3. God seated us with Christ in the heavenly places...