

Elder Ronnie Loudermilk



Jesus Christ and Him Crucified

1 Corinthians 2:1-2, "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." My prayer this morning is for the family of God to understand why it's so important to hear the message of Salvation by Grace on a regular basis. The Bible is inexhaustible with subjects that need to be preached and taught to the family of God, but the message of grace is one that cannot be over preached. 'Why, you ask?' (1) Because we, the children of God, need to be reminded over and over that it's not about us, but about Jesus Christ our Lord. In Galatians 6:14 the Apostle Paul writes, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,..." The Apostle, when he wrote this, understood that the human mind was a leaking vessel (Heb 2:1). He knew that, if we are not constantly reminded that we are all depraved sinners saved by the grace of God, we would, because of our carnal nature, begin to glory in our own works. The message of grace takes all glory from man and declares that all glory belongs to the Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ. (2) Because we need to be reminded what we would be without Jesus Christ. In 1 Timothy 1:15 we read, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." The Apostle understood the consequences of sin, but was also thankful to the Lord who saved him from his sins. Paul didn't try to paint a pretty picture about himself, but made it clear that he was a hell deserving sinner and without God's grace, he would find himself in eternal condemnation. In 1 Thessalonians 1:10 we see that Jesus "delivered us from the wrath to come." In Romans 5:9, "we shall be saved from wrath through him." The message is clear dear child of grace, without

the grace of God, we will all face everlasting condemnation. (3) Because we need a foundation to base our godly life on. When we gander at a beautiful home, we always pay attention to the roof lines, siding, windows, shutters and paint colors. We rarely will pay much attention to the foundation. But without a strong foundation, it all will soon crumble. And so it is with a godly life. Unless we have a strong foundation, it will be a short lived experience. In scripture, every exhortation of godliness is based on the Lord and the grace we have in Him. In Ephesians 5:25 when husbands are commanded to "love your wives", this exhortation is based on "as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it." In 1 John 4:11 when we are exhorted to "love one another." If the reader would read the previous verse, you will understand the foundation for this command, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." In Romans 12:1, when Paul tells us to offer our "bodies a living sacrifice", this is based on the "mercies" that God has had for us. (4) Because one of the identifying marks of the true Church of Jesus Christ is believing that salvation is by the grace of God. Have you ever thought what the Apostle Peter, John, Paul or even James would do if they walked into a Church house today and didn't hear the preacher preaching grace. I'm sure they would share a few thoughts, and one would probably be, 'Don't forget about Jesus Christ'; Who, by His "precious blood" (1 Peter 1:19), has saved us and "washed us" (Rev 1:5) from our sins, and has "obtained eternal redemption for us" (Heb 9:12). Amen! Elder Ronnie B. Loudermilk