



# THE SEVIERVILLE SOWER

*Sowing the seed (Luke 8:11) into the hearts of mankind.*

Sevierville Church of Christ | 208 Hicks Drive | Sevierville, TN 37862 | (865) 453-8009 | [seviervillecoc.org](http://seviervillecoc.org)

February 13, 2022

## The Grace of God

Garland M. Robinson

**T**he grace of God is His *good will, loving kindness, favor, benefit, bounty, gift, reward*, that is extended toward man. It is unearned, unmerited, undeserved by man. It is by God's grace that salvation is extended. In Ephesians 2:8-9 we read, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*"

God freely and generously extends the offer of his grace, mercy, forgiveness, redemption, salvation, to all, even the vilest of sinners. None are unconditionally singled out to receive His grace; nor are others refused His grace as the devilish doctrine of Calvinism teaches. Titus 2:11 makes this clear, "*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.*" Notice, ALL MEN, not just some men.

It is because of God's grace (his bountiful favor) toward us that He makes a way of escape from the penalty of our sins and transgressions against Him. However, simply because God makes His grace available to all, does not mean that all will enjoy its benefits. He does not force it upon anyone.

### A TRAGIC SITUATION

Some who claim membership in the church of Christ are teaching we are saved by "grace alone." They are falling "in line" with Calvinistic doctrine. Some are saying that it is an extreme position and false to teach that God has a part in salvation and that man has a part in salvation. Brethren, this is not a false statement. This is not an extreme position. It is correct to say that God has a part to play in salvation and man has a part to play in salvation. Without both parts, no man can be saved.

God has done, completed, finished His part. He offers salvation by making it available to all mankind. He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ, to die for the sins of the whole world (Heb. 2:9). He makes salvation available to everyone. However, he does not and will not force it upon anyone. He promised He will not save those who do not obey His Will (Matt. 7:21). To suggest He will save or that he may save those who do not obey, makes God a liar! But, God cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18). There's nothing more God can do in respect to one's salvation than he has already done. It is now left up to each individual to accept God's offer of salvation by obeying the conditions God has given.

God is powerless to save those who do not obey Him. Therefore, man has a part in his own salvation. It is the part God has commanded man to do: *faith* (John 8:24) and *obedience* (Heb. 5:9). Faith without obedience is a dead faith (James 2:26). It is certain man cannot save himself and certainly does not supply what is lacking on God's part, for God lacks nothing. Without God, man will not and can not be saved. On the other hand, however, God cannot save one who does not believe and obey. Man must

comply with God's requirements (conditions) in order to receive the benefits of God's saving grace. Since man must submit himself to God's will and obey it, man has a part in his own salvation, without which, he cannot be saved.

### HOW DOES ONE RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE?

In order to receive God's grace, one must comply with the requirements that God made. But even when one meets those conditions, he cannot say he has earned grace — that he deserves it. The offer of forgiveness and eternal life is too great. It cannot be earned. At no time can anyone perform a task or duty and thereby obligate God to grant him a reward. Nothing I do can place God in my debt where I deserve His favor. For example, a wealthy man, by his grace, may offer you a check for a million dollars — absolutely free. In order for you to benefit from it you would have to accept it. The condition may be as simple as stepping forward to take the check, signing your name on the back and taking it to the bank to deposit in your account. If you did so, have you earned the million dollars? Could you say you deserved it and that it was owed to you because you took it, signed it and deposited it? Absolutely not! But, you still had to meet certain requirements to receive the money.

The requirements God makes in order to receive His grace are:

- **Faith** in Jesus as the Son of God and savior of the world (Heb. 11:6; John 8:24; Mark 16:16),
- **Repentance** of sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30),
- **Confession** of Jesus as the Son of God (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10), and
- **Baptism in water** for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-6, 17-18).

There are also requirements to remain in God's grace:

- Deny ungodliness, worldly lusts and live soberly, righteously, and godly (Titus 2:11-12),
- One must grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18),
- Continue steadfast and unmoveable in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58) -- be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Have you met these conditions? If not, will you meet them? You can't be saved without faith and obedience!

## Prayer Requests & Announcements

Remember in prayer our sister Chris Bender who has been having health issues lately. She had a biopsy on Thursday and should have results tomorrow or Tuesday.

Remember in prayer Shirley Yeager's grandson, Doug Walters, who fell from a ladder while trimming a tree. He is recovering from injuries to his shoulder and knees.

Remember Jerry Sutton's brother-in-law, Darrell Layman, in prayer as he remains in poor health. He has had a tracheotomy and will be moved to specialty care.

Paul and Ellen Ostrander have been diagnosed with COVID and are quarantining at home.

Please remember Kevin's aunt, Belinda Lang, in prayer. She is in ICU with COVID and is also battling pneumonia. She has suffered with lupus for many years as well.

Please keep Dennis Danilchuk in your prayers as his neurologist has had to double his medication because of the severe tremors he has been experiencing.

This week the Thursday night ladies' Bible class will not be held due to the Marriage Retreat.

The *Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat* will be held February 16–20 at both the Gatlinburg and Sevierville congregations. Sevierville members will be able to attend at our building without cost. For schedule information go to <https://smokymountainmarriage.com>.

We will begin a monthly fellowship night on Friday, February 25 at 6:30 in the fellowship hall (it will usually be held on the third Friday of each month). All are invited to come and bring friends, games, and finger foods.

### Continue to Remember...

Chris Bender, John and Helen Carr, Connie Duncan, Dennis and Marty Danilchuk, Lindsey Johnson, Shirley McKnight, Sue Moore, Lyn Morris, Joanne Roark, Shirley Yeager, Becky Duncan (Joe and Connie's daughter-in-law), Adam Lane (son-in-law of Vickie Price), Harlie McClung (John and Helen Carr's 12 year-old great-granddaughter), Anita Ogle (Sherry Simms' friend), Casie Rains (friend of the Hansens), Paul Rolan (Mary Kate's brother), Frankie Simms (Scott Simms' father), Wayne Tart (Tammie Fish's brother).

**Ladies' class Thursdays at 6:15 at the Hansen's house**

**Fellowship night: February 25, 6:30**

**Monthly afternoon song service: February 27**

**Fellowship lunch: March 6**

## Evangelism Materials

Extra supplies for our evangelism work are freely available in the supply room to our members. Instructional books, DVDs, and Bible study materials are available. We also have a variety of cards for our Compassion Card work.

## Weekly Assemblies

**Sunday:** Bible Study ..... 9 a.m.  
Worship ..... 10 a.m.  
Worship ..... 1 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Bible Class ..... 7 p.m.

## There's Power in the Word

Steve Miller

Man has always been impressed with power. Power is "the ability to control others; to have authority; and to have influence" (Webster's New World Dictionary). Some men have spent a lifetime trying to obtain power only to abuse it. Others have been successful in using it. There is a power that can divide asunder the soul and spirit (Heb. 4:12). It is the Word of God.

The Psalmist said, *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Psalm 119:105). The Word reveals the way to heaven. It is the guide for our lives. We cannot go wrong in following God's inspired Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

A study of the Word of God shows its effect upon the disciples in the early church. When Paul and Silas came to Berea, they found those who *"were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so"* (Acts 17:11). The Bereans did not go home and take the preacher's word for what they heard. They studied the Word of God to see if the message was correct. How many people in the pews do this today? How many return home from worship to discuss, much less to study the passages they heard in the sermon or Bible class? Hopefully, more than we can tell. People who take the message as "Gospel" without checking the Word of God are living dangerously in their attempt to be pleasing to God. An open mind and heart in our study of the Scriptures is essential in having the attitude of changing our lifestyle or religious beliefs to fit God's standard. There is power in the Word—if we will study it!

The powerful Word of God brings results. When Peter preached the first Gospel sermon on the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection, the Word he preached brought results. *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls"* (Acts 2:41). Paul stated, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"* (Rom. 1:16). The power is in the Gospel, the Word, the good news of Christ. God's Word convicted the people on Pentecost of their sins and it will do the same today when it is preached uncompromisingly and in love. The Word of God will bring results if we will just preach it, teach it and most of all, live it.

Not only is the Word powerful enough to bring results, but it can also be a comfort to those who are in Christ. Paul comforted the Thessalonian brethren by revealing the truth concerning the dead in Christ. *"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him ... For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words"* (1 Thess. 4:14-18). It is comforting to know that Jesus has prepared a home for the faithful. We should look forward to the second coming of Christ in that we will be taken up with Him in the clouds to stay for ever and ever.

The Word of God is just as powerful as it was in the days of Abraham, Moses, Peter and Paul. Even man's wisdom in 2022 cannot surpass the all-inspired, authoritative, living, active, comforting, convicting, powerful Word of God. Let us be prepared to *"take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"* (Eph. 6:17).

### Elders

Randy Hansen, Robert Moore, Kevin Ruiz, and Jerry Sutton

### Deacon

Lenwood Johnson (finance)

### Preacher

Kevin Ruiz