

The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

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(618) 667-6708



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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God's Training Grace

- Renn Ferguson

No, my laptop did not autocorrect “saving” to “training”. When we talk about God’s grace it is almost always in the context of it being crucial to our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9). It most certainly is, but an aspect of that saving grace is that it trains us. Notice what Paul wrote in Titus 2:11-12, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age” (ESV). Paul clearly states that God’s grace trains us but the question still remains as to how His grace trains us.

First, God’s grace trains us through God’s word. When we look at scripture, we see that there are generally two faiths spoken of. One is an individual’s convictions (Hebrews 11:1,6). The other is the system of faith under which we live (Jude 3). How is it that God’s grace trains us through His word? Well, is not His word in and of itself an act of God’s grace? We most certainly did not deserve for God to send Christ to die on the earth for our sins it was because of His grace that He did. Nor, do we deserve salvation but it is because of His grace that we may have it. Similarly, God did not owe it to us to give us His word. Yet, because of His grace He did. Why? He desires for us to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).

Second, God’s grace trains us by giving us the motivation to live righteously. In his letter to the Romans Paul explained to them that grace is not a shield or cloak for sin (Romans 6:1-2). In fact, grace ought to drive us to faithfulness. How is that we, who have tasted God’s saving grace, practice the very things that grace has brought us out of? It is because of God’s grace that we have become dead to sin. It is because of His grace that we have the free gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23). If we have that promise, why would we continue in sin? The reasonable answer is that we wouldn’t! Therefore, God’s grace inherently teaches us to strive to live a life pleasing to Him.

In next week’s article we will look at the areas in which God’s grace trains us. For now, let us praise and thank God for His incredible grace!

CONNECTIONS

BIBLE STUDY

**NIGHT
WITH
1 JOHN**

SATURDAY
August 27
5:00 PM

2022 Theme:
More About Jesus

The Correspondent is a weekly publication of the COLLINSVILLE-TROY CHURCH OF CHRIST. The church meets at 1400 Troy Road, Collinsville, Illinois 62234