

Let us not reject the grace of God – 11/09/2016

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:44)

Beloved in the Lord,

As a young boy I loved playing with magnets. I was fascinated by the fact that some things were attracted by the magnet, but some were not. I also found it interesting that two magnets would either attract each other or repel one another depending upon the polarity. In order to attract one another they had to have reverse polarity because two magnets of the same polarity always repel each other.

Jesus said: “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.” (Jn.12:32)

Jesus was referring to His death upon the cross. He was raised up on the cross, in order to draw men to Himself; He died in order to reconcile us with the Father.

It is by reason of sin that we are separated from God, and the Bible tells us that all men have sinned. Loving us, God wants to draw us to Himself. Jesus died in order to redeem us from sin and death and hell. His Blood paid the penalty for our sin. When Jesus died, He died for all mankind. His Blood paid the price for all people in all times.

Sadly though, many do not come to Him and receive His gift and so perish in their sin. Those who come to Jesus and trust in Him are saved. Those who reject Him are lost forever. Jesus calls all men, He draws all men, but few respond. We see this in our own Latvian Society today. The invitation is given to all, but few respond. So many reject the grace of God.

We could say that those who reject God's grace have the wrong polarity. While a person thinks that he doesn't need God, he really has put himself in God's place. That means that such a person will not be drawn to God because he is operating on the same polarity. The Bible does not attract such a person because their pride repels the Word of God. They have no room for God in their life. Everything else is more important. This is nothing new. Jesus told a parable about a King who prepared a banquet. We read:

“But He said to him, “A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many;¹⁷ and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.’¹⁹ Another one said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.’²⁰ Another one said, ‘I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.’²¹ And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’²² And the slave said, ‘Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there

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is room.’²³ And the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.’²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.’” Luke 14:16-24

Each one of the invited guests made some excuse for not coming. Each one thought other things were more important, or more attractive. Why? Because their hearts were wrongly tuned.

Emily Post, the etiquette expert, was once asked, "What is the correct procedure if one receives an invitation from the White House, but has a previous engagement?" She responded, "An invitation to the White House ... automatically cancels all other engagements."

If this is true of an invitation to the highest office in the land, how much more so of an invitation to the highest office in the universe—to talk to Almighty God himself!

Almighty God, invites us to worship Him in His House every Sunday. So few respond to His invitation and come. You are the faithful few, but where are the others? For you who faithfully come, there is a great blessing from God. God is pleased and He pours out His grace and favour lovingly. He is happy when we make it a priority to worship and adore Him. When we make God our priority, then Jesus promises that He will take care of the rest. Jesus taught: ***“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Mt.6:33)***

You see, we have a great promise that if we seek God’s Kingdom and make God our priority, then everything else will be taken care of. Paul affirms this in His letters: ***“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Phil.4:19)*** Jesus also said it in this way: ***“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.” (Jn.6:35)***

You see, the one who rejects God’s grace, who rejects the invitation, who doesn’t respond positively to God, has no idea what he is missing out on. It is also very dangerous to reject God, because it could happen that your heart becomes so hardened that it cannot be turned around.

God is patient, but from Jesus parable we see that there comes a time when God says that none of those who were invited who rejected the invitation will taste of the supper. There are eternal consequences to rejecting God.

The problem in today’s society is that very few people think about consequences. Very few have the big picture, the eternal perspective in mind. Many worry only about today. To be perfectly honest, I really don’t understand what is wrong with people. God is love. God is a gracious and merciful God. He desires the very best for each of us. His provisions are total. His thoughts are good thoughts and all of His ways are good and right. His bread is the Living Bread. No one who has really come to know Christ personally has ever been disappointed.

He forgives all of our sin, He takes away our worries and fears, He grants us peace and gives us joy, and so much more besides. As David wrote in Psalm 103:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

And all that is within me, bless His holy name.

² *Bless the Lord, O my soul,*

And forget none of His benefits;

³ *Who pardons all your iniquities,*

Who heals all your diseases;

⁴ *Who redeems your life from the pit,*

Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;

⁵ *Who satisfies your years with good things,*

So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

⁶ *The Lord performs righteous deeds*

And judgments for all who are oppressed.

⁷ *He made known His ways to Moses,*

His acts to the sons of Israel.

⁸ *The Lord is compassionate and gracious,*

Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.

⁹ *He will not always strive with us,*

Nor will He keep His anger forever.

¹⁰ *He has not dealt with us according to our sins,*

Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ *For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*

So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.

¹² *As far as the east is from the west,*

So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

¹³ *Just as a father has compassion on his children,*

So the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.

Yet, there are so few that believe in Him. It is a pity. It is a pity because the unbeliever is a loser here and in eternity. But for the one who has his heart in tune with God, the one who has the right polarity, who is daily drawn to God, attracted to Him, for such a one it is joy unspeakable and full of glory. Such a one is a victor in this life and in eternity.

In order to be correctly tuned, in order to have the right polarity, we need to empty ourselves of ourselves. We need to humble ourselves and submit totally to God.

Paul put it this way:

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God.” (Gal.2:20-21a).

May this be our daily confession as we draw nearer to Him every day. Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.***