

...by grace ye are saved...It is the gift of God:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: (Eph 2:8) At a Bible study workshop we attended, It was recommended that if you want to know what the text in Scripture accurately means, you must go “below the surface” by looking at other translations or looking at original language. What is grace especially in the context of the above verse, and what does it mean to be saved? I looked up the word grace in a Bible dictionary.

From the Holman Bible Dictionary:

GRACE: Undeserved acceptance and love received from another, especially the characteristic attitude of God in providing salvation for sinners. For Christians, the word “grace” is virtually synonymous with the gospel of God’s gift of unmerited salvation in Jesus Christ.

The above definition is what most of Christianity believes and we are saved (that is our place in heaven is secured when we accept this grace). Therefore, salvation is not earned it is a gift.

I decided to look deeper. First I looked up the original Greek word translated grace in a Greek Lexicon. The word translated grace is:

Charis (*khar'-ece*)

From [G5463](#); *graciousness* (as *gratifying*), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including *gratitude*):—

Then I looked up the word translated saved

σώζω
sōzō
sode'-zo

From a primary word σω̄ς sōs (contraction for the obsolete σάος saos, “safe”); to *save*, that is, *deliver* or *protect* (literally or figuratively):—heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.

You could translate Eph 2:6 this way:

By the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude, we are: delivered; protected; healed; preserved; saved; doing well; made whole.

Let me share with you and experience which confirms this idea of grace. Several years ago our young son suffered from a series of colds. We called a Practitioner for help. He told us “You need to warm your life up”. He asked me if I knew what Solomon asked God for at Gibeon (See 1 Kings 3:5-14). I answered “Yes, he asked for wisdom and understanding which he received partly because he asked in a very humble way.” He suggested that I read the story again!

Of course, I was obedient to the request and was surprised by what I found. Solomon did not ask for wisdom and understanding – he asked for an “understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad:” (1 Kings 3:9)

This was the first time that I began to consider Christian Science as a religion of the heart and that discernment is a heart quality – a quality of Love. In the Christian Science textbook we read:

“That God is a corporeal being, nobody can truly affirm....Not materially but spiritually we know Him as divine Mind, as Life, Truth, and Love. We shall obey and adore in proportion as we apprehend the divine nature and love Him understandingly, warring no more over the corporeality, but rejoicing in the affluence of our God. Religion will then be of the heart and not of the head. (Science and Health p. 140)

In a letter to First Church of Christ Scientist, Atlanta, Georgia Mrs. Eddy states this idea of grace: “When divine Love enters a humble heart, that individual ascends the scale of miracles and meets the warmest wish of men and angels.” (My p. 188)

That evening my wife and I asked divine Love to enter anew into our humble hearts and a process began which continues – our lives began to warm up! Our little son soon smiled in perfect health.

When we consider the true meaning of grace (the divine influence on the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude) and the healing which results, it is an amazing gift!!

Eric Sonnesyn – Lake Zurich, IL

Robyn Sonnesyn – Lake Zurich, IL