

jan 29

grace in vain

"by the grace of God i am what i am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. on the contrary, i worked harder than any of them, though it was not i, but the grace of God that is with me." 1 Cor 15:10

have you ever thought of grace being in vain? i suppose that means it was wasted. wasted on an ungrateful heart and a degenerate mind? while that may be true, perhaps, just perhaps, it might also be true of a fairly decent person; one just too busy with the pursuits of life to bother with forming a relationship with their creator.

we all might easily agree with the former being true. we can see the dark deeds and evil destruction they bring into the lives of others. our Lord speaks of those people. "therefore their way shall be to them like slippery ways; in the darkness they shall be driven on and fall in them." jer 23:12 in other words, the more they pursue and relish in their dark deeds, the more they are drawn into them until it becomes like an addiction one cannot break.

these are the ones john spoke of in john 3:19. "and this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." these are they who can see the light but choose rather to go into the darkness. while, "the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak," they have chosen to let the flesh

rule over the spirit.

and all it takes is, "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." rom 10:13 not whoever does but whoever calls. "if anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." 1 cor 3:15 that's how much our Creator loves us.

then what about that "fairly decent person?" surely his ways are not slippery. they recognize there is a light side and a dark side and they tend to lean towards the light. the problem is: "but we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags." isa 64:6 none of us can approach the holiness and purity of God. there is only One who ever did, and He became the willing sacrifice and substitute for all.

i think it is not so much that they lost their "first love" as much as they never bothered to pursue it. they are likened unto the parable about the seeds. "but when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away." matt 13:6 unless one is rooted they will surely wither away.

let us now come to the conclusion of the matter. was the grace of God in vain? i think not. "if we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself." 2 tim 2:13 perhaps it was in vain of accomplishing it's desired effect, but not in vain of having been offered. the righteousness of God prevailed. this fact remains: "he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of

those who diligently seek Him." heb 11:6

all have had a witness. "for since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." rom 1:20-21 and if that witness wasn't enough, when Jesus came as a sacrifice, He also opened up our understanding. "I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old." psa 78:2

so believe, seek, knock, pursue! bring your broken heart and tears to the Lord with all sorrow and regret for having missed the mark. "the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." john 6:37