

Grow in Grace  
March 5, 2017



Scripture Lesson is 2 Timothy 1:6-10; 2:1-7. **This is an excerpt from the message.**

Ver. 9, 10: Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: To encourage him to suffer, he urges two considerations: The nature of the gospel which he was called to suffer for, and the glorious and gracious designs and purposes of it.

The gospel aims at our salvation; He has saved us, and we must not think much to suffer for that which we hope to be saved by. He has begun to save us, and will complete it in due time; for God calls those things that be not (that are not yet completed) as though they were. Rom. 4:17 Therefore he says, who has saved us. It is designed for our sanctification. Called us to holiness, Christianity is a holy, effectual calling. All who shall be saved hereafter are sanctified now.

The origin of salvation is the free grace and eternal purpose of God in Christ Jesus. It is not by merit of our works. This grace is said to be given to us before the world began, that is, in the purpose and designs of God from all eternity through Christ Jesus.

The gospel is the manifestation of this purpose and grace: By the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who was with the Father from eternity and was perfectly apprised of all his gracious purposes. By his appearing this gracious purpose was made manifest to us. By the gospel of Christ death is abolished. He hath abolished death, taking it out of the way, by taking away sin and the sting of death. 1 Cor 15:56 Death once an enemy has become a friend; it is the gate by which we pass out of a troublesome, sinful world, into a world of perfect peace and purity. Death does not triumph over those who believe and obey the gospel, but they triumph over it. He hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. He has shown us another world more clearly than it was before discovered under any former dispensation, and the happiness of that world, the certain recompense of our obedience by faith. It is offered to us by the gospel. Life and immortality are brought to light, it has the preeminence above all former discoveries. It motives and excite our endeavors in seeking after glory, honor and immortality.

The Bible gives us rules of conduct which each Christian should know and abide by.