

Desperate Measures

Understanding differences --Time and culture impact our understanding

To properly understand and apply God's word, we need to grasp the culture, audience and language in which it was written in—in order to make the correct assumptions as it translates to us now.

Understanding the Bible leads to understanding God' Will

We will examine one aspect within the scope of God's will

Travel back in time to Ephesus

Third largest city

Temple of Artemis

Dark place with magic, superstition, and crime

Do good

Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:8-9, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

Saved (**SOZO**)

Galatians 4:4-7, "But when the set time had fully come, **God** sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive **adoption to sonship**. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir."

The world was looking towards salvation

Grace (**CHARIS**)

*Ephesians 1:6-8, "To the praise of his **glorious grace**, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."*

Charis: "that which causes joy, pleasure, gratification, favor, acceptance, for a kindness granted or desired, a benefit, thanks, gratitude."

Faith (**PISTIS**)

Expositors says: "Paul never says 'through **the** faith,' as if the faith were the ground or procuring cause of the salvation." Alford says: "It (the salvation) has been **effected by grace** and **apprehended by faith**."

In the Mediterranean culture of reciprocity that existed in and around Ephesus during those days. It was a **PATRONAGE SOCIETY!**

Luke 7:1-9, "When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The

centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."

In the Greco-Roman world, there was an intricate system of patrons who would do such favors for clients who were in need.

This This unmerited favor was called "**CHARIS**" (**GRACE**).

The clients were to respond with faithfulness — gratitude, public praise, and loyalty. This was called "**PISTIS**" (Greek for **FAITH**).

For recipients also, **gratitude is a moral category**.

Seneca said, "Homicides, tyrants, thieves, adulterers, robbers, sacrilegious men, and traitors there always will be; but worse than all these is the crime of ingratitude." (1.10.4)

Luke 17:17-18, "Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?"

God being our benefactor, acted out of an unconditional generosity that has nothing to do with human worthiness or merit or works. The saving grace, that is being saved--being created a new, came to humans through Christ. It results in a newly created Christian--one who walks in those Good Works that God has prepared beforehand for them.

Here are additional supporting verses:

Ephesians 4:1, "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."

*Galatians 1:3-5, Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the **present evil age (PONEROUS)**, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Colossians 1:10, "so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God..."

Matthew 5:13-16, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Romans 12:1-2, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the

pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

1 Peter 3:16-17, “keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Acts 10:38 Jesus of Nazareth . . . went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Hebrews 13:16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Paul urges believers to **“WALK WORTHY.”** This is expressed in the 2 Greek words, PERIPATEO AXIOS.

PERIPATEO meaning to, “walk around”

AXIOS meaning, to balance out (where we get our word axle! Balance the load)

Our culture that fights against our understanding of many spiritual things

We have become desensitized and distracted