

HIDDEN TREASURE (Part 1)

II Corinthians 4:3-7

Throughout these verses Paul tries to open our eyes to the fact that God has poured into the hearts, souls, and spirit of every believer treasures from heaven. The great treasures begin with “the light of the glorious gospel of Christ” and “the light of the knowledge of the glory of God.”

TROUBLING TIMES

II Peter 3:14-18 Encouraged by the Holy Spirit to warn believers, Peter writes about future events and reminds the readers about Paul's writings. He tells of some difficult passages that some will wrestle with because of a lack of spiritual insight. He then warns believers to grow in grace in order not to fall.

I Corinthians 6:9-11 Here is a perfect example of some of Paul's writings that have confused and discouraged many believers. If we do not have a good understanding of the doctrines of Christianity that Paul has taught in his epistles we could get pretty upset and even doubt our relationship with God.

Hebrews 6:4-6 More writings of Paul that are difficult to understand because of the fundamental doctrine of eternal security. Many believers get bogged down with these scriptures.

Philippians 2:12 Paul is writing to the church and encouraging them to stay united. If believers do not understand the doctrine of grace they confuse verses like these as teaching a salvation by works.

II Peter 1:10 In Peter's writings here is another questionable verse that gets some believers to question whether or not they are truly saved simply because Peter tells us to “make sure of our calling.”

I John 3:8-10 Most believers do not even read these verses because they get confused and they cause much discomfort. If we are unable to fully grasp bible verses like these we tend to ignore them.

DIAMONDS AND GOLD

God's Grace – Common Grace – Common grace is that favor of God that is given to mankind in ways that show His care for His creation: sunshine, rain, shelter, food, conscience, laws, fresh air, government, general health, and the general structure and organization of nature and the universe.

Saving grace – Ephesians 2:8-9 Saving grace is that special grace that God extends to those who will acknowledge their total dependence on God for eternal life in heaven. Those that hear, believe and receive the gospel of grace through faith (trust) in the person and work of Jesus Christ for salvation.

Justified – Romans 3:24-26 Justification means that God imputes (*an action of God toward a person*) righteousness to the saved person. That is to say He (The final Judge) declares the person not guilty and counts the saved person totally free of sin and as righteous as Jesus Christ. See **(Rm. 8:1)**.

Redeemed – Ephesians 1:7; I Cor. 6:20 Being redeemed because of the grace of God means that God has purchased back that which needed to be ransomed. He liberated or rescued us from bondage.

Eternal Life – I John 5:11-14 Because of the grace of God He has promised us eternal life. Often times this promise is taken lightly by believers because we back slide to a position of doubt. We must remember that if we are not walking in the Spirit we do not have fellowship with God and therefore God will not give us the satisfaction of having full confidence in our standing with Him.

Baptism of The Holy Spirit – I Corinthians 12:13; Gal. 3:26-27; Eph. 1:13 At the moment we believe in Christ the Holy Spirit of God comes into our life, seals us, and enters us into an eternal union with the Lord Jesus Christ. The sealing by the Holy Spirit is one of the guarantees of eternal security.

Regeneration – Titus 3:5; II Cor. 5:17 In the process of regeneration, at the moment we trust Christ the Holy Spirit imputes spiritual life into a body that was spiritually dead. Regeneration has a broad meaning as in **(Matt. 19:28)** where Jesus refers to the earth's renewal at His Kingdom. Paul's reference to regeneration takes on the meaning of a new man, a new way, a new order, a new life in Christ.