

# "The Grace of God Which Was with Me"

I Corinthians 15:9, 10

## Introduction:

- A. The grace of God made a preacher out of a persecutor (vs. 9,10).
- B. The grace of God makes hope possible for us all.
  - 1. No one merits salvation - must have "unmerited favor".
  - 2. No one can save himself - i.e. pardon his own sins.
- C. Paul was keenly aware of 2 facts about the grace of God.

## Discussion:

### **I. It Made Him What He Was.**

- A. He was a Christian. (Acts 26:28,29).
  - 1. He became such by being told what he must do. (Acts 9:6).
  - 2. He became such by being baptized. (Acts 22:16).
- B. He was an apostle. (1 Cor. 15:9,10).
  - 1. He became such by obedience. (Acts 26:16-20).
  - 2. He did not think obedience made it any less grace.
- C. He was a saved person. (Eph. 2:8,9; Tit. 2:11-15)
- D. He was strong sufficient person (2 Cor. 12:9)

### **II. It Could Have Been in Vain (cf. Acts 26:19).**

- A. It is in vain for one who seeks another basis for salvation.
  - 1. The law of Moses. (Gal. 2:21; 5:4).
  - 2. One's own righteousness. (Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 10:1-4).
  - 3. Any way other than the Lord's way.
- B. It is in vain for one who rejects its opportunity. (2 Cor. 6:1,2)
- C. It is in vain for one who continues in sin.
  - 1. One cannot make grace a license to sin. (Rom. 6:1-23).
  - 2. One cannot "go on sinning wilfully" without insulting the spirit of Grace. (Heb. 10:26-29).
  - 3. One cannot use grace as excuse for wilful ignorance and careless behavior.

## Conclusion:

- 1. Grace is not the rational for overlooking and ignoring sin.
- 2. Grace giving us an opportunity to repent and be forgiven.