

5

God Cares by Grace Alone

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

⇒ What is grace?

SUMMARY

In this session, we will take a closer look at the conditions that make it impossible for us to be with God without Him taking the first step toward us. We will consider the depth of Man's sinfulness and the saving power of God's grace in and through Jesus Christ.

LISTEN

“By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.” - Ephesians 2:8

- The world’s view of mankind is radically different than God’s view. God rightly recognizes that we are born into spiritual brokenness.
- God does not wait for us to choose Him. He chooses to save us.
- Christ came, lived, died, and rose again to save God’s chosen people *completely*.
- The Holy Spirit of God enlightens God’s chosen people’s minds and renews their wills so that they would hear and respond to God’s call.
- God does not give up those whom He has claimed as His own.

Notes

DISCUSS

- How does tonight's message show God to be in control?
- Which of the five points on the last page give you the most comfort? Why?
- Which of the five points on the last page give you the most difficulty? Why?
- One way to summarize tonight's message is to say, *God Saves Sinners*. What are some other ways to summarize ?
- If God is not in control of salvation, then what is the alternative? If salvation does not depend upon God, what (or who) is the deciding factor?
- As you consider the last question, remember this obvious truth: *God is God, and I am not.*

FOLLOW UP

Key Readings

- ◆ Man's Spiritual Brokenness
 - ◇ Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8; 2 Corinthians 3:5
- ◆ God's Choice to Save
 - ◇ Ephesians 1:4-5; Romans 9:11-16; James 2:5
- ◆ Jesus Saves God's Chosen People Completely
 - ◇ John 6:35-40
- ◆ The Holy Spirit Brings In God's People
 - ◇ John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:23, John 6:44, 65
- ◆ God Preserves His People in Secure Faith
 - ◇ Isaiah 43:1-3; John 10:27-30; Romans 8:35-39

As you consider these passages and the points that they illustrate, what is your immediate response? How do these passages show not only God's *control*, but God's *loving care* for His people?

Imagine that you're at a Youth sports event and you hear an enthusiastic father shouting loudly in support of his son. He's loud, and he isn't getting any quieter. Even if *you* find him to be a bit over-the-top, what might the son feel, knowing that his father is cheering him on so mightily?

What questions come to mind as you consider these passages?