

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Genealogy

Genealogy is the study of family histories, descent, and ancestors (American Heritage Dictionary 552). Genealogies play an important role in both Bible and current history. The book of Genesis is often viewed by some as "boring" because of the genealogies. The New Testament begins with the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Interest in genealogy has skyrocketed over the past ten years. One may log on to web sites such as ancestry.com, peoplesearching.com, allfamilytree.com, and onegreatfamily.com spending hours, days, months, and even years searching out one's past. While said hobby can be entertaining and enlightening it has had a "history" of damaging people's spiritual standing with God. The problem is not really that one may spend too much time with the hobby (although this alone is the problem with many hobbies). The apostle Paul identified problems surrounding genealogy studies at I Tim. 1:4; Titus 1:14; and 3:9 in that they "*minister questionings, rather than a dispensation of God which is in faith*" (I Tim. 1:4). When people argue over who is more important rather than looking to the doctrine of Jesus Christ for salvation there is a spiritual problem.

People seem to thrive on wanting to feel important or needed. One way of causing others to view me as important is to tell them of someone very famous in my ancestry. If I can only find someone who had made some great accomplishment, been involved in some great endeavor, or

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Tonight is our **Last Sunday of the Month Singing!** Get with one of the song leaders to have your favorite songs sung!

Next Sunday begins a **new quarter for Bible Studies**. Be sure to pick up your child's Sunday study book so that they may be prepared for class.

Christians from the Floral Heights church of Christ will man a booth at the Burkburnet Friendship Festival this **October the third 2009**. We will need volunteers to man the booth (i.e., pass out invitations for Bible studies and be ready to give answers to any and all regarding the faith we hold [I Peter 3:15]). If you are interested in doing this work please talk to one of the elders or deacons.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

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someone famous then this will give credibility to me personally. We live in a generation that thrives on acceptance, personal confidence, and intense concern about what others think about us. Let us all recall the fact that we are only sojourners passing through this world. We all are given an allotted amount of time to live and then all things that took place in our ancestry will really mean nothing. We will give eternal answers to no mere man on the day of judgment.

Jesus warned the Jews in John 8 about trusting too much in ancestry. The Jews considered their ancestry that connected them to Abraham as entitling them to his eternal rewards (see John 8:31ff). Jesus tells them that it is not one's ancestry that saves but rather one's individual works (John 8:51). The apostle Paul's ancestry was one to be proud of yet he commanded, "**have no confidence in the flesh**" (Phil. 3:3). Paul writes, "*Though I myself might have confidence even in the flesh: if any other man thinks to have confidence in the flesh, I yet more: circumcised the eight day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; as touching zeal, persecuting the church; as touching the righteousness which is in the law, found blameless. howbeit what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ...*" (Phil. 3:4-8).

When it comes to my salvation I will not be saved by something an ancestor did in the past. I will not be saved by my dad, mother, or brother's faith. I will stand alone before Jehovah God and give account for the deeds done while I have lived in the flesh. Enjoy your genealogy but never place hope or faith in it. There is only one who eternally saves and that is Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

John C. Robertson

Abraham and God's Grace

Introduction:

The apostle Paul quotes from Genesis 15:6 saying, "*Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness*" (Romans 4:3). Paul then connects all those who would follow in the faithful steps of Abraham to that same state of righteousness at Romans 4:12. Abraham was a man of obedient faith (Gen. 17:9; 18:19; 22:1-18). James tells us that Abraham was justified by his works of obedience (James 2:20-24). Let us consider Abraham's justification by God's grace as it relates to us today.

I. What is Grace?

- A. Lexicons tell us it means "favor"
- B. The Bible defines grace as justification (Rom. 3:24; 5:1-2), redemption (Col. 1:13-14), forgiveness (Eph. 1:7), sanctification and obedience (Romans 6:16-23).

II. Why did Abraham (and all of us) need God's grace?

- A. Because man has always been under law (Rom. 5:13; Gen. 2:16).
- B. Because we all violate God's laws (i.e., we sin) (I Jn. 1:8; Rom. 3:23).
- C. Because sin separates man from the Holy and Righteous God (Rom. 3:20; 7:7; Gal. 3:19, 24; Isa. 59:1-2).
- D. Because the only way of being forgiven of sins and restored to fellowship with God is by GRACE (Ephesians 2:8).

III. Is God's Grace Conditional or Unconditional?

- A. Consider the fact that those who continue in sin have no part in God's grace (Rom. 6:1).
- B. Note other Bible examples of people receiving God's grace:
 - 1. Noah (Gen. 6:8)
 - 2. Joshua (Joshua 6:1-5; Heb. 11:30)
 - 3. Namaan (II Kings 5)
 - 4. The blind man who washed at the pool of Saloam (Jn. 9:7).
 - 5. Three thousand people on Pentecost (Acts 2).

IV. An inseparable connection between Grace and Man's Obedience:

- A. Grace instructs man to be obedient (Titus 2:11-12)
- B. If grace is equated to redemption, justification, and the forgiveness of sins then one's natural question ought to be, "How do I obtain God's favor?" God gives us the answer (see Acts 2:38).

Conclusion:

Noah was not saved by building the ark. Abraham's salvation did not come as a result of leaving his homeland on a whim. Marching around the city of Jericho did not cause the walls to fall. Namaan's seven baths in the Jordan did not cleanse him. The pool of Siloam's waters did not give the blind man his sight. These all obtained God's favor, His grace, by complying with God's instructions.