

## WHAT HATH MAN WROUGHT?

A Man Who Really Knows God Never Graduates above the Statement, "I'm Only a Sinner Saved by Grace."

*"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me..."* Jer. 9:24

*By Pastor Del Wray*

What hath a man wrought or what hath a man done is the subject of my exegesis here? Answer is nothing.

Man is nothing more than a vile wretch saved by the grace of God. All men, absolutely all men; be the pastor, teacher, church member or even Saint Paul the Apostle we're all wretched except for the grace of God. When Jesus Christ visited planet earth the first time He entered a world of enemies to make friends with them. When we were born we were born His enemy. We came into this world hating God "haters of God" "For if when we were enemies..." Rom. 5:10. We're but vile wretches saved by the grace of God.

*"I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."* Isa. 66:4

I can hear some preacher or Christian now decrying, what audacity? What nerve, for you to say my pastor is a vile wretch? That he is and so are you apart from the grace of God. The only difference between the worst criminal imprisoned at Riker's Island, New York and me or you is the Holy Spirit in our life. The preachers, the Christians, there is no difference, "*there is none good*" "no man is good", we are vile and wretched, saved by the grace of God alone. The best Christian in this world is capable of committing murder or any other sin known to man. The truth is if we were honest we all would be on our faces before God crying out "God be merciful to me a sinner." Luke 18:13. So says the Holy Scripture and I agree. "You are right preacher!" I speak as a pastor to preachers; we as God's spokesmen have nothing to glory in but the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. And this is true of all His children. I remember years ago in a preacher boys class at Bob Jones University, Bob Jones Sr. told us preacher boys "to look for Jesus Christ presence in our lives not necessarily for sin." He said, "You'll find plenty of that there." He was discoursing Paul's Second letter to the church at Corinth a church experiencing recovery 2 Cor. 13: 5. "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*" And herein is the problem Pastors "...know not their own selves... Christians, don't even know their own selves. If we did there would be no room to complain about the pastor who preached on vile wretched Christians and pastors. Guilty! I'm guilty as charged. If pastors would repent, churches would repent; this nation would break out in revival and a revolution would break out turning this nation back to God. Not going to happen, "ain't, happening," isn't going to happen. Boy, I used

to get in trouble in school for using the word “ain’t” now they’ve placed it in the English vocabulary. Just so, we Christians have made sin tolerable and in many corners of our churches even acceptable.

I’ve been in this business for over 55 years now and the longer I’ve been at it the viler and more wretched I see myself. “The closer I get to Jesus Christ the darker and eviler I see this poor old mess of a preacher.” I still believe the Book, I believe it literally. Anybody who does not believe that the Bible is God-breathed has to be mentally deranged. He’s stark raving mad. He belongs in an insane asylum locked up in a padded cell somewhere wearing a straight jacket. Ridiculous you say well God must have thought so, He created such a place; Jesus Christ called it Hell.

*“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me...” Jer. 9: 23-24.*

So what hath man to glory in? We have nothing to glory in but our Saviour. Paul the Apostle said, “Though I preach the gospel I have nothing to glory of.” Why is it that we who preach the gospel have nothing to glory of? Well, firstly, we are conscious of our guilt. Any man who is not conscious of his own guilt can’t preach the gospel because he doesn’t know the gospel. And you can’t tell what you don’t know any more than you can come back from where you haven’t been. A man who preaches the gospel is conscious of his own guilt. The man who was led by the Spirit to write this Scripture said, “I am not worthy to be an apostle, I see no worthiness in myself.” Later on, he said, “I am less than the least of all the saints,” pick out the least saint in God’s house and I am less than the least saint.” Then, later on, he said, “Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” I wonder if I asked this morning, Will the chief of sinners please stand? Would anybody really stand? No, we wouldn’t stand. But the apostle Paul said that the man who really knows God feels that way. When somebody asked, “Paul, who is the chief of sinners?” He replied, “I am.” Dr. Harold Sighthler wrote: “suffer a sinner whose heart overflows, loving his Saviour to tell what he knows; once more to tell it would I embrace, what do you want to tell, Dr. Sighthler, “I’m only a sinner, saved by grace.” A man who really knows God never graduates above that statement right there, “I’m only a sinner saved by grace.” He may grow in grace, grow in talent, grow in gifts and grow in knowledge, but he’s still only a sinner saved by grace. We have nothing to glory of; we’re just using borrowed gifts. Turn to 1 Corinthians 4, and listen to verse 7, “Who maketh thee to differ?” Are you able to preach, who gave you the power? Do you have a little more than somebody else, who gave it to you? Do you have more talents than the next fellow, who made you differ? “What hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if you received it, why dost thou glory?” Why do you glory in your beauty?, God gave it to you. Why do you glory in your strength? Without God, you would not have it. Why do you glory in your wealth? God gave it to you. Why do you glory in your talent, in your singing ability? Why do you glory in your ability to play an instrument? You couldn’t play the radio without God’s grace, you’d be a simpleminded imbecile. Who made you differ? What do you have that God didn’t give you? If you are walking around with something, something somebody gave you, why are you bragging as if you have it of your own natural ability? Why do you think that you are better than anybody else? Only

God's merciful grace; God's gracious grace enables you to be anything but a stuttering, stammering moron.

Let me tell you a story I read recently. Charles Spurgeon wrote this in 1855, "Last week the quiet neighborhood of Newtown was disturbed by an occurrence which has thrown a gloom over the whole neighborhood. Something dreadful happened. A well-known teacher, a man who had been principal of the academy for young men for years, who was my own professor, has become mentally deranged, he has lost his mind. A warrant had to be issued for his arrest, and while waiting for the vehicle to carry him away to the institution for the mentally insane, this old white-haired man who had been principal stood on the porch of his home, where he had lived all his life before his friends and neighbors, handcuffed to two policemen. He was then led away. He was my teacher; he was the man from whom I learned whatever human learning I have acquired. He was a man of genius, a man of ability! How fallen, how fallen, how quickly can human nature sink below the level of the beast? Who made you differ? What do you have that you have not received? Salvation is the gift of God! Faith is the gift of God! Though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of, nothing! I can't break the heart, the Holy Spirit must do that; I can't convict men of sin, God has to do that I can't give repentance and faith, God must do that; I can't reveal Christ, this, too, is the Spirit's work. If my words are the only voice you hear, you'll just have to go to hell, and perish. You've got to hear Him speak from heaven. Have you heard Him speak from His throne in Glory by way of His Book, by way of the Bible, in this day and time we must stress the King James Bible? Preacher, you're not the preacher, He is! Soul winner, you're not the soul winner, He is! Christian, you're not living the acceptable life, He is! "*If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.*" What have you to glory of, nothing. Nothing! Why are you still glorying you self-righteous, glorying, pharisaical, hypocrite?

What God's aims are in His disposition of all things in the affair of redemption is that man should not glory in himself, but alone in God; That no flesh should glory in his presence, that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

"A faithful man acts regardless of the consequences" *Dr. Peter S. Ruckman*

WHAT HATH MAN WROUGHT? NOTHING!