

Two Sides to Every Coin

Hymns from "Favorite Hymns of Grace."

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Hymns of Worship

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Devotional Summary: "Two Sides to Every Coin"

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV) **For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

You have heard the phrase "There are two sides to every coin." Well, we want to look at this phenomenon as it applies to our walk with the Lord here in this facility. You will note in our text that it starts out with a really good statement of the truth of our salvation. We are saved by grace - "**G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense." Grace is the unmerited favor of God lavished upon us by His mercy and kindness. "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe" (Elvina M. Hall, 1820-1889). There is no way we could ever do enough good to earn our salvation on our own. It is a free gift from God Almighty just because He loves us. Our salvation rests on this truth by our faith - and it is all a gift from God!

John 3:16 (KJV) **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

This is the other side of the coin that we have been talking about. You may ask, "What is it?" The other side of the coin is that we are saved by His grace, **for good works**. Now let us look closer at the other side of the coin.

Matthew 22:37-39 (NKJV) **Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

Here our Master, Jesus Christ, gives us the ground and the focus of our love, our "good works" that we were created for. First and foremost, we are to love God - this is an expression of a child's love for their dad. It is a "natural" and constant love that grows out of the relationship that the spiritual child has with their spiritual dad.

Second - as we turn the coin over we now see the consequence of and the expression of this love for our Heavenly Father - we do what He has asked us, commanded us, to do. We love others as we love ourselves!

There are definitely two sides to THIS coin! Love God - Love Others. Who is "others"? Look around you. Who is close enough to you to say that they have seen what kind of person you are? Who is close enough to you to say that you are kind and patient with them...or not? "Others" are, basically, everybody you meet, everybody kin to you, all your fellow residents here, all of the care-givers who have chosen to make it their profession to care for you. This includes that family member who you feel has let you down. This includes your fellow resident who gets on your nerves all the time. This includes the CNA or the nurse who you do not get along with all the time. Love your neighbor as yourself! Whew - hard to do sometimes! Huh?

Thank God there are two sides to the coin! The gift of salvation is the gift of God's grace - TO YOU and THROUGH YOU - ask and ye shall receive! Listen carefully to this verse from John 16:

John 16:24 (KJV) Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Jesus has given us a great promise and all He asks us to do is believe in Him enough to ask for Him to help us. Go to God, in Jesus' Name, call out to Him for the strength to love the unlovely, to overcome your selfishness in your relationships, to be kind and patient with everyone you meet. When you are having trouble with the "practice" side of the coin, then flip the coin over and call on God's grace to bless you with the strength and the spiritual tools to obey Him. We are not the source - He is! He knows what you need before you ask Him and He stands ever ready to come to your aid...when you ask. Humble yourself when you see your attitude falling short. Confess to God your sin of pride or selfishness. He will forgive and He will supply. This is the other side of the coin! God wants you to love everyone - God will provide you with the genuine love to do so. Ask, and ye shall receive! The same God that we lean on for our eternal salvation is the same God who will give us the grace for Christian victory in each and every day.

Closing Hymn

At the Cross

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Prayer Requests and Corporate Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Recessional

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