

He had heard the words over and over, but the full significance did not sink into his mind and he was such a clear thinker he was determined to really understand it. He spent much time pondering over the Word.

And then God brought him to the full understanding of the statements he had been memorizing even as a small boy. He came to realize that it was God's amazing grace and that alone by which any one can be saved. He tells about his misunderstanding at times. He'd said to a person, Until you are willing to go to Borneo or wherever God leads you, you will not be saved. He said, Did I tell them the Gospel? He came to the conclusion he had not told them the Gospel.

God does not save us because we're willing to go and serve Him in some difficult place or in some difficult way. He does not save us because we have sense enough to understand the teaching of the Bible. He does not save us because of any goodness in us. It's purely a matter of grace, a matter of resting on the grace of God.

When Lance came to fully realize this, it made a tremendous difference in his life and activities. Some people said, There is nothing you can do." Well, if you tell people that they will say then why bother with Christian service? Lance says that when a person realizes what it means what Jesus has done for him, ^{you} ~~you~~ can't help but show Him ^{his} ~~you~~ gratitude by making every impulse and every act and thought serve the purpose of Christ alone.

As Paul said, Though I give my body to be burned and have not true Christian love, I am nothing. ~~What we do~~ cannot win God's favor, but if we have God's grace we will do what He wants us to do. God's grace then is given to those whom He chose; those elected before the foundation of the world, but we do not know who they are.

Every sinner deserves death and only by grace is anyone saved. We've heard a lot in recent years about easy easy believism. It is a term which I personally do not like like because I think it can lead to much misrepresentation. Simply saying yes to certain statements, to certain formulas does not make a person a Christian. On the other hand, the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness but to us who are saved it is the wisdom of God. It is foolishness to those who are lost.

You go to someone and you say, Here's a nickle, take it, it's yours. Here's salvation, take it, it's yours! That's not the gospel. The Gospel, if a person really takes it he realizes his sin. He realizes his desert of eternal punishment for the sin that is within him. He realizes how wonderful it is what God has done (for him) and it is only through resting in the finished work of Christ that he can be saved. "Through faith" does not mean a work we do, but it means a yieldness, a submission, a bowing before the grace of Christ and receiving it into our hearts. So easy believism is not belief at all. True belief is not easy. But true belief is not a matter of committing yourself. It is not a matter of taking Christ as your Lord. It is not a matter of determining that you'll do what he wants.