

Week 2 Notes: John Wesley's Scripture Way of Salvation
Methodism 101
February 1, 2022

What is grace?

- Grace is the undeserved love and forgiveness of God that is made available to us through Jesus Christ.
- Grace makes the process of salvation possible.

John Wesley on grace and salvation

- Sermon: "The Scripture Way of Salvation"
 - 1765
 - Ephesians 2:8
 - Builds on earlier sermons to give a comprehensive understanding of salvation.
- Wesley had an Arminian understanding of the nature of grace.
 - Jacobus Arminius (1560-1609) was a Dutch reformist who disagreed with John Calvin's ideas about grace only being for the elect, and grace being irresistible.
 - Arminius and Wesley believed that grace and salvation are universally available to all people.
 - They also believed that because of free will, humans could resist or reject God's grace.
 - They understood salvation to be a participatory process or a "dynamic relationship" between God and man.
- John Wesley understood salvation to be experienced through three types of grace: prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying.

Prevenient grace

- The grace that is at work in our lives before we are aware of it.
- The Holy Spirit is at work awakening us to the presence and existence of God.

Justifying grace

- Occurs when we claim faith in Jesus Christ, when we are "assured" that Christ is God incarnate who loves you and died for your sins.
- Pardoning grace that redeems our relationship with God, and grants "forgiveness of all our sins."

Sanctifying grace

- grace that moves us on to perfection
- perfection: "perfect love, excluding sin, love filling the heart, taking up the whole capacity of the soul. It is love rejoicing evermore, praying without ceasing, in everything giving thanks."
- causes us to be "more and more dead to sin" and "more alive to God."
- occurs through faith alone.
- good works are often the product of our sanctification, but they are not what makes us more or less sanctified. It is the faith that inspires those good works that makes us sanctified.

How have you experienced prevenient grace in your life?

How have you experienced justifying grace in your life?

How are you experiencing sanctifying grace in your life?