**Biblical Foundations – The Doctrine of Common Grace (Pt.3)**

**What are the undeserved blessings that God gives to all people, both believers and nonbelievers?**

**Reasons For Common Grace**- why does God bestow common grace on underserving sinners who will never come to salvation?

1. **To Redeem Those Who Will Be Saved**- Peter says the day of judgment and final execution of punishmentis being delayed because there are yet more people who will be saved. (2 Peter 3:9-10) In fact, this reason was true from the beginning of human history, for if God wanted to save any people out of the whole mass of sinful humanity, he could have destroyed all sinners immediately (for then there would be no human race left). Rather, he chose to allow sinful humans to live for some time, so that they might have an opportunity to repent and bear children and enable subsequent generations to live, hear the gospel, and repent.
2. **To Demonstrate God’s Goodness and Mercy**- God’s goodness and mercy are not only seen in the salvation of believers but also in the blessings he gives to undeserving sinners. When God is” kind to the ungrateful and the evil” (Luke 6:35), his kindness is revealed in the universe to his glory. (Psalm 145:9) In the case of the rich young ruler, even though the man was an unbeliever and would in a moment turn away from Jesus because of his great possessions, Jesus still loved him. (Mark 10:21) Many have questioned the justice of God to delay the execution of punishment upon sin and give temporary blessings to human beings- however, it is still justice because the punishment is not forgotten, just delayed. In delaying punishment, God shows clearly that he has no pleasure in executing final judgment but rather delights in the salvation of men and women. (Ezekiel 33:11)
3. **To Demonstrate God’s Justice**- When God repeatedly invites sinners to come to faith, and when they repeatedly refuse his invitations, the justice of God in condemning them is seen much more clearly. Paul warns that those who persist in unbelief are simply storing up more wrath for themselves. (Romans 2:5)
4. **To Demonstrate God’s Glory**- God’s glory is shown in many ways by the activities of human beings in all the areas in which common grace is operative. In developing and exercising dominion over the earth, men and women demonstrate and reflect the wisdom of God, demonstrate Godlike qualities of skill and moral virtue and authority over the universe. Though all of these activities are tainted by sinful motives, they nonetheless reflect the excellence of God and therefore bring glory to him.

In thinking about the varying kinds of goodness seen in the lives of unbelievers because of God’s abundant common grace, we should keep three points in mind-

1. **Common grace does not mean that those who receive it will be saved.** Even the most skilled, most intelligent, most upstanding, wealthiest, and most powerful people in the world still need the gospel of Jesus Christ or they will be condemned for eternity. They may appear outwardly to have no needs but scripture says they are “enemies of God”. (Romans 5:10, James 4:4)
2. **We must be careful not to reject the good things that unbelievers do as totally evil.** By God’s common grace, unbelievers do ***some*** good, and we should see God’s hand in it and be thankful for common grace as it operates in every friendship, act of kindness, and every way in which it brings blessings to others.
3. **The doctrine of common grace should stir our hearts to much greater thankfulness to God.** When we ride through neighborhoods and see houses and families dwelling in security, or when we consider the abundant benefits of advancements in technology and medicine, or when we stop and observe the beauty of nature, or we receive the most minute education from the vast storehouse of knowledge and wisdom, we should realize that God in his sovereignty is ultimately responsible for all these blessings and that God has granted them to sinners who are *totally undeserving* of any of them.