

My attention was drawn to the soft, almost mournful sound of a single trumpeter playing “Amazing Grace.” The crowds appeared oblivious to both the musician and the music. Still, he played—sending a musical message of the love of God out to whoever knew the song and would think about the words as he played.

I thought of this experience as a parable. The music seemed to be an invitation to the masses to follow Christ. As with the gospel message, some believe in God’s amazing grace and choose the narrow way. Others ignore His grace, which is the broad way that leads to everlasting destruction. Jesus said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matt. 7:13-14).

Jesus died so that “whoever calls” on His name (Rom. 10:13) can find forgiveness in His grace.

*Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see. —Newton*

Christ believed is salvation received.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

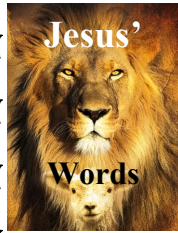
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Ignoring Grace

by Bill Crowder

In the hectic downtown of one of Asia’s great cities, I marvelled at the busy foot paths filled with people. There seemed to be no room to move in the crush of humanity, yet it also seemed that everyone was moving at top speed.





Responses to Jesus

From the interactions recorded in Luke 13:22-35 we can discern 4 differing responses to the Lord Jesus:

1. Those who are _____, verses 22-24

(Matthew 7:14) Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

(Deuteronomy 4:29) But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

(Genesis 3:21) Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.



(Genesis 4:3-5) And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. (4) Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, (5) but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

(John 14:6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

(Romans 10:9) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

2. Those who are _____, verses 25-30

(John 10:7-9) Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ... (9) I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

(Hebrews 6:4-6) For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, (5) and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, (6) if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

(John 3:16-18) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (18) "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of



God.

(Hebrews 1:3) ... He .. by Himself purged our sins, ...

(Ephesians 2:8-9) 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.

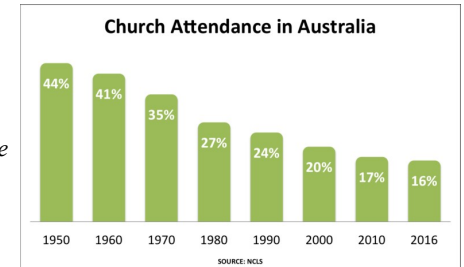
3. Those who _____, verses 31-35

(Romans 1:21-24) because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (22) Professing to be wise, they became fools, .. (24) Therefore God also gave them up ...,

(Romans 1:26) For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

(Jeremiah 14:11) .. "Do not pray for this people, for their good.

(Mark 8:38) For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."



4. Those who are _____, verses 24

(Mark 1:15) .. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

(Acts 20:21) testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Hebrews 6:1) Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

