

**The Attackers: The Sovereign Executive of Witnessing: The Necessity of a Witness, Rom 10:14; 1:16; Show Mercy to the Unbeliever with the Gospel, Rom 11:30–31; Common & Efficacious Grace, Eph 1:13; God's Peace Treaty Is Ratified by Faith in Christ, Eph 2:8–9; Acts 4:12**

**Romans 10:14** - How shall unbelievers call on Christ in whom they have not believed? Furthermore, how will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? Furthermore, how will they hear without a preacher [ or missionary, evangelist, ambassador? ]

**Romans 1:16** - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek [ **Gentile** ]. (NASB)

- (20) From these principles we arrive at this conclusion: There is no place for prejudice with regard to the evangelism of the lost. Every believer was once in a state of unbelief.
- (21) We are to show mercy to those who have not yet heard or who have previously rejected Christ as Savior.

**Romans 11:30** - For just as you Gentiles once were disobedient to God regarding Jesus as Messiah, but now have been shown mercy because of the Jews' disobedience,

**v. 31** - so now also these Jews have not believed in order that because of the mercy shown to you Gentiles, now they [ **the Diaspora** ] also might be shown mercy [ **through evangelism by Gentiles** ]. (EXT)

- (22) The believer must orient to the reality that the status quo of the unbeliever is the result of his own free will rejecting Christ as Savior.
- (23) The unbeliever may be of another race than yours, have a different culture, and whose worldview expresses a cosmic ideology.
- (24) None of these things are of any importance to the ambassador since the only issues he is qualified to address are the gospel and the lost person's response to its presentation.
- (25) Therefore, even though prejudice is removed as a mitigating factor, it is imperative that the ambassador subscribe to these two principles in presenting the gospel: (1) be flexible with the nonessential comments made by the lost person and (2) be inflexible about what one must do to be saved: faith alone in Christ alone.
- (26) It is true that the unbeliever is incapable of processing the supernatural content of the Word of God. But, when the gospel is presented to him, the Holy Spirit functions under the principle of common grace.
- (27) Common grace is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in making the gospel understandable to the spiritually dead person.
- (28) Efficacious grace is the ministry of the Holy Spirit making the faith of the spiritually dead person effective for eternal salvation.

**Ephesians 1:13** - In Him also, you heard the message of truth [ **common grace** ], the gospel of your salvation, in whom also, when you had believed [ **efficacious grace** ], you were sealed by the Holy Spirit [ **guarantee of eternal security** ] with reference to the promise [ e.g., John 3:16 ].

4. These principles on total depravity and the imperative of the Holy Spirit's involvement in the act of salvation reveal the underlying policy of the integrity of God – His matchless grace.
5. It is by means of grace that God's justice imputed all our sins to Christ and judged them in Him instead of us.
6. It is by means of grace that the Holy Spirit acted as a human spirit so we could understand the spiritual truth of the gospel of salvation.
7. Only by means of grace could He take the feeble positive volition emitted by spiritually dead people and convert it into saving faith.

**Ephesians 2:8** - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

**v. 9** - not as a result of works, so that no man should boast. (NASB)

8. Clearly, there is simply nothing we can do to be saved. Salvation is a grace gift from God. We either accept the gift or we reject it.
9. Accepting a gift does not require you to make a commitment to your benefactor. If that were true, then salvation would be much like joining a clique.
10. God would be the dominant clique Leader and we, His codependent followers, would perform certain duties in return for His favor.
11. This is nonsense! There is no giving involved in this example and there is no grace to be found. Faith plus commitment is works!
12. All God requires for salvation is the unbeliever's nonmeritorious faith in the Scripture's claim that Christ is his substitutionary sacrifice.
13. This is God's condition for establishing peace with members of the human race. He offers the gospel as His peace treaty.
14. All the unbeliever is asked to do is ratify it through faith in Christ. In the statement, "I believe in Christ," the verb, *believe* is transitive and it therefore demands an object. A transitive verb carries the action from the subject, "I," across to the object, "Christ."
15. In the case of a transitive verb, the merit of the action is found in the object of one's faith, not the one who believes.

**Acts 4:12** - There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved. (NASB)

16. Unfortunately, many unbelievers exchange the truth of Christ for the Dark Side's lie. The current trend is to magnify man rather than God and subscribe to anthropocentric academic speculation rather than the truth found in Bible doctrine.

**Romans 1:25** - For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (NASB)

17. Such people reject the love of God expressed by His provision of Jesus as Savior. Propitiation confirms that God approved the Lord's substitutionary sacrifice as efficacious for removing sin as an issue.

18. Reconciliation means that the barrier that separates God from man is removed by the work of Christ allowing anyone who believes in Him to be delivered from the lake of fire and imputed eternal life.
19. Ratification means “to confirm ... by giving consent, approval, and sanction to what has been done or arranged for by another; to confirm the truth or correctness of a statement.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Oxford English Dictionary*, s.v. “ratify.”