

AMAZING GRACE (Mark 2:13-17)

April 28, 2024

TEXT—Mark 2:13-17

MAIN IDEA—Jesus Christ is the Lord of Grace and the Friend of Sinners.

MEMORY VERSE—[1 Tim. 1:15-16]

THE CALL OF GRACE (MARK 2:13-14)—Once again the LORD Jesus ministered throughout Galilee fishing for men. While passing by a tax collector he called this man to follow him as His disciple. Through this act Jesus reveals himself as the Lord of Grace.

*The Word of God is our life source that builds and strengthens our lives as believers in Christ.

Ps 119:9-16

The significance of Levi's job as a tax collector was no small thing, for tax collectors were hated in Jewish culture. Tax collectors, though often Jewish, were seen as traitors for collecting taxes on behalf of the Roman government. These men were known for dishonesty and extortion since they charged fellow Jews multiple different taxes for Rome and made their living off of whatever they charged beyond Rome's basic taxes.

Unconditional election means Jesus Christ calls sinners, whom the Father has chosen to share in His salvation, out of spiritual death into spiritual life by a free gift of His sovereign grace. God's choice of those He will save is not conditioned on anything good in the person or any past or future good that the person has done or will do, but on God's love alone.

Jn. 6:37-40; Eph. 2:8-10

Lk. 9:23-25; Jn. 10:27-30

Have you heard this call from Christ to follow Him? Are you a Christ follower?

THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE (Mark 2:15-17)—Matthew hosted a dinner with all of his associates to honor Christ his LORD and to share his new found faith. Through this event Jesus surprisingly showed Himself to be the gracious Friend of sinners. **Lk. 5:29**

1 Pet. 3:15-16

V15 says Jesus and his disciples were reclining at the table with many tax collectors and sinners dining with them. This meeting would've been equivalent to notorious criminals, thugs, & gangsters hanging out with Jesus.

Jn. 10:14-16

1 Cor. 1:21-31

V16-17--The scribes grumbled against Jesus to his disciples complaining that he ate with tax collectors and sinners. To do so was to defile oneself (in their eyes). Yet Jesus gives a profound statement regarding our need for salvation and his mission to save sinners.

Expositor's Bible Commentary re Mark 2:17--*Jesus' call is to salvation; and, in order to share in it, there must be a recognition of need. A self-righteous man is incapable of recognizing that need, but a sinner can.*

Lk. 18:9-14

Jas. 4:6

COMMUNION—HIS MERCY IS MORE