

YOU WERE NOT WHAT GOD INTENDED YOU TO BE

ROMANS 3:24-26

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: To come short of God's glory (Romans 3:23) means you lacked His image and character. Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, p. 479. However, a believer has God's image, His character, and His righteousness.

BUT WITH GRACE you can be! Grace is God's unearned favor, God's power, God's gift to the undeserving. God's grace gives faith resulting in salvation. (**Romans 3:24, 28, fn 3:28, Romans 5:20, 21, Titus 2:11, I Timothy 1:12-14, Ephesians 2:4-9, fn 2:8, 9**) *Why does God use grace instead of your human effort to save you?*

BUT WITH REDEMPTION God "bought you back." God created you and owned you, but you became lost in the slavery of sin. Christ redeemed you by paying the ransom price with His blood, making you His own again. (**Romans 3:24, fn 3:24, Ephesians 1:4-8, fn 1:7, Colossians 1:12-14, fn 1:12-14**) *How does redemption make you what God intended you to be?*

BUT WITH SACRIFICE your sins are atoned for. As you examine your life against the righteousness of God and His commandments, you fall short and feel guilty and condemned; but God has provided atonement for you by standing in your deserved place of death and bearing your sin, which has been exchanged for His righteousness. It is the blood of Jesus that has made atonement for your sin. By accepting by faith what Christ has done for you, you are what God intended you to be! (**Romans 3:25-28, fn 3:25[1st], fn 3:25[2nd], I John 2:1, 2, fn 2:1, 2, fn 2:2, Hebrews 9:11-14, 21, 22, fn 9:12-14, fn 9:22, II Corinthians 5:21, fn 5:21**) *Why is Christ's death on the cross the most important event in your life and the history of mankind?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.