

Username And Password

With the coming of the internet, cutting edge technology has never been more accessible to the human finger tips. With every keystroke, the "sky is the limit" as to what humanity can dream of and introduce into the World Wide Web. With every new generation of computer, gadget or gismo, comes the reminder that the words spoken by the Lord when the people of Shinar built their tower to the heavens have never been more true. "And the Lord said, 'Behold they are one people . . . this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them,'" Genesis 11:6.

As I was reading through the book of Romans recently, a very "internet" type illustration jumped off the page. If you are not a computer user, keep reading, as this will not be too foreign to you. The subject being discussed was the relationship between faith and grace. The problem for many people is understanding what saves us. Is salvation to be found in faith that man has, or is it grace that God gives? Paul shows very powerfully how they both work together, and in what way. He said, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God," Romans 5:1,2.

Now the word that hit me was a computer word we use. It is the word "access."

Compare briefly the World Wide Web with the grace of God. See that in this verse grace has its greatest meaning, it is **the** "grace." It is "we have been justified." It is "we have peace with God." It is **salvation!** Grace is the place where blessings are poured out on the Christian that are both undeserved and unmerited. A person does nothing, nor can do anything to deserve or earn such a blessing. It is a gift bestowed upon an individual, that should he spend his whole life to explore or seek to understand, he would fail to fully appreciate the extent of divine kindness to be found in it.

A feeble but pointed illustration of our salvation, "this grace," is the World Wide Web. It is immense. It is something that is meant to be a blessing, the extent of which, a man might never in his lifetime fully explore or fully understand. It is to be used responsibly as it can be abused. But for our discussion it, like grace, is something that must be accessed.

How does one **access** the web? If you have a computer and want to connect to the web you must have a "username" and a "password." A username and password can be a blessing, IF you remember what they are! Forget just one part, type them in wrong, etc., and, "No web for you!" Now to the application! Just as the World Wide Web is a feeble comparison to the grace of God, consider comparing a username and password with Jesus Christ and our faith.

In the passage above Paul said, "Through Him," whom he identified in the previous verse as being our Lord Jesus Christ! Christ is our username through which we have access into this grace. His innocent shed blood is the means by

which grace, (mercy providing forgiveness and hope of heaven,) is made possible. But just as access to the Web cannot be done with just a username, salvation cannot be accessed by the sacrifice of Christ alone!

No one can get online without a password. Man's "password" into grace is **faith**, a committed heart, obeying the will of God in every way through obedience; including repentance, confession, baptism and a life committed to living for Christ. Faith is not what saves you any more than a password is the web. But as web access is impossible without a password, neither is salvation possible without faith. As with no password, no web access, so it is with no faith, no salvation access!

Once the username and password are put in, one then has access to the World Wide Web. But how are the blessings of the web then enjoyed? Proper keystroke sequences that the web expects are necessary that it may provide its wealth of blessing. You have to type in a command in order to "surf" the web!

Similarly, with the username of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the password of our "faith," we gain access into the grace of God. Once in grace, faith is increased by hearing and applying the Word of God, (Romans 10:17). Also, the Christian continues to explore the wealth of blessings meant to be provided in a beyond this "world-wide" life.

One final thought, perhaps another article would be good to show how your internet web browser might be compared to the church!

—Scott