

A wooden cross stands on a rocky peak, set against a backdrop of blue mountains and a sky with white clouds. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the cross as the central subject.

RETURNING TO
Grace

MARKKU SARENTO

Markku Sarento

Returning to
Grace

RETURNING TO GRACE

© 2018 Markku & Johanna Sarento
Homepage: www.markku-johanna.com

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Published by BoD™—Books on Demand,
Helsinki, Finland.

Printed by Books on Demand GmbH,
Norderstedt, Germany.

ISBN 978-952-498-460-7

Contents

Foreword	7
1. Gospel for Goats	11
2. Another Surprise	24
3. The Augustinian Flaw	27
4. Derailed Western Theology	34
5. Hidden Treasure	38
6. Immovable Rock	42
7. Choice of Love	47
8. Two Apostles	50
9. New Covenant	54
10. Saving Relationship	60
11. Judgment Day	65
12. A Night to Remember	73

Foreword

It is true. One single sermon can really change your whole life. That is exactly what happened to me about three years ago. I was preaching.

Quite unexpectedly, God gave me a whole new vision on the Gospel of Jesus, the very truth I had already confessed for over thirty years as a Christian. It was as if my eyes were opened for the first time in decades.

Is it possible to be a Christian and not to see the gospel? Read this and find out for yourself.

Soon after that day, my dear wife Johanna and I knew the time had come to write our first book. *Children of God* is a testimony of God's love and faithfulness as He looked after our family in Canada back in the 1990s. It is a call to child-like reliance on Jesus.

Returning to Grace maintains the same basic approach, focusing on the atonement in Christ. Johanna's input has again been most invaluable in this second work.

I have written this little book with a resolute conviction of the truth God has revealed, and yet with the full awareness of the restrictions of human comprehension. As with every teaching we read or hear, we should ask God to confirm that which is really of Him, for it is His wisdom we must rely on.

Striving to be as concise and easy to read as possible, *Returning to Grace* is by no means trying to present itself as a proper, full-fledged doctrinal tree, with all its branches and leaves fully grown. Rather, my prayer is that it would prove to be a good seed, capable of producing a good and favorable crop in your life, through the testimony and work of the Holy Spirit.

I wish you the blessing and love of our Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Markku Sarento
January 2018

*I praise you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things
from the wise and learned,
and revealed them to little children.*

*Yes, Father, for this is what
you were pleased to do.*

Luke 10:21



Markku Sarento is an itinerant evangelist and a Lutheran minister who has worked with many churches and denominations. His wife Johanna has a call for prophetic prayer ministry. As a couple, they love to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus and teach about reliance on God.

Markku and Johanna live in Finland, and they have three children who are grown up and married. For more info please take a look at www.markku-johanna.com/en.

Jesus Christ died on the cross and atoned for us all. Through His sacrifice we have been forgiven. There is no Christian truth more important than that.

Then how is it possible that most Christians do not seem to believe this anymore? Could that be one of the reasons why Christianity looks so powerless in the western world? Is there something blurring the original gospel?

Returning to Grace provides surprising answers to some of the most essential questions neglected for centuries. Written for everyone, this approachable little book says a lot more than you would expect.



9 789524 984607

ISBN 978-952-498-460-7