

WHEN GRACE IS NOT GRACE

By Curtis Pugh

You can read this entire article at:

<http://72.219.6.125:81/PughsCorner/WhenGraceIsNotGrace-Pugh.html>

Most religious folk think that there are certain things that you must do to qualify for God's grace. In other words, they say, God saves by grace but in order to get God to be gracious to you you must be do this or that or the other thing. The popular idea is that there is some religious exercise or work that a sinner must do in order to please God and get Him to dispense saving grace.

At least four things are wrong with that approach. First of all, if there is anything a person must do in order to obtain God's grace then grace is not grace. We know that because God's Word says, "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work," (Romans 11:6). The context of this verse has to do with God's election (choice) of whom He will save, but the principle extends to all matters of grace. What the verse says is that grace and works cannot be mixed. Either a thing is a matter of grace or a matter of works. Obtaining salvation is either a matter of works or a matter of grace. It cannot be a matter of both works and grace. If you have done something in order to be saved, you have changed grace into works. You have earned God's favor. Grace means unearned favor.

The second thing wrong with the idea that a sinner can do something to qualify for grace is this: there is absolutely nothing that a lost person can do to please God. Proof: "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God," (Romans 8:7-8). Lost sinners are so bad off because of their fleshly minds – their corrupt sinful minds – that they cannot do anything pleasing to God. Selfishness and greed enter into their motives and are unacceptable to God. Plain words from God's Word, these: and true ones.

The third and fourth things wrong with this approach is that no one naturally understands his lost condition and no one seeks after God. "There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God," (Romans 3:11). The Holy Spirit must first regenerate the sinner before he or she can understand his or her hopeless and helpless condition. Only in a regenerate condition will a sinner seek after God. That is why the Lord Jesus told Nicodemus "...Ye must be born again," (John 3:7). Being born spiritually has absolutely nothing to do with a human act of the will. It is "...not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God," (John 1:13). Remember: "...Ye must be born again."



Today is January 21, 2024

Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church

*"Where the Truths of God's Word Have Been Taught
for Sixty-Two Years" Since October 21, 1961*

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Our Prayer List

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thess. 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms.

"A Message from Pastor Johnson"

*"Feed the flock of God which is among you,
taking the oversight thereof..." 1st Peter 5:2*

"all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." 2 Timothy 3:13

In the last days, (*and I do not doubt that we are in the last days*), the world shall wax worse and worse. People who claim that the world is a good place and claim that things could get better have been deceived. God has ordained evil times, and those evil times are here today. The Tribulation Period is closing in and as they do the world becomes more and more evil. People are deceived by deceivers and as the days pass the seducers will wax worse and worse. It will not stop, the end to it is when Jesus Christ returns to sit on King Davids earthly throne. The deceivers will also get deceived by the other deceivers and they too shall be deceived. A seducer is defined as a wizard who is also defined as one who is a master in fairy tales. This is the world we now live in; it is a time where people are living in a lie, the lie of Satan. As Christians we must remain faithful to God and His doctrine, we cannot allow ourselves to be unfaithful. We know in the end that only a few will remain faithful until the end because said there shall be a falling away. *"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" 2 Thessalonians 2:3* Before the Anti-Christ shall come there shall be a falling away first, that falling away will be by deception, or being deceived by the deceivers. People, that includes many Christians and churches shall turn away from the Truth and follow doctrine of deception. *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 2 Timothy 4:3 – 4* The time of the falling away is here, it is happening today, and it is spreading through social media like fire. Many Christians and even churches have fallen into the deception and have no idea that they have fallen for the lies of Satan. What about those remaining faithful to God, the churches, and the true doctrine? We shall suffer loss, God said, *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12* I do not believe that word "shall" is a "maybe" but rather a promise from God who cannot lie. Both the churches and the membership will suffer persecution because we "live godly in Christ Jesus".

A Message from Pastor Johnson, Continued

God's people have always suffered at the hands of the great deceiver Satan ever since the fall. Look at Able, he suffered and was murdered because of his righteousness. Millions died martyr's deaths because they refused to surrender to the lies of Satan. And here in the 21st Century we too shall suffer at the hands of Satan just as Jesus Christ did. Churches have suffered since Jesus began the first church at Jerusalem during His earthly ministry. Almost all His Apostles died horrible deaths as martyrs. And this persecution continued through time and here we are today still suffering through the deception of Satan. Christian we are not safe, God has not promised us safety but instead His promise for us is persecution. Just as Judas betrayed the Lord Jesus and those believers with Him, other Christians, whether true of imitation Christians can and will betray those *"that will live godly in Christ Jesus"*, and living godly is living in the Truth of God's word. Beloved, do not be deceived, the persecution will get worse and worse because God said it would. We all need to be in much prayer, not only for our own but for all Christians and churches.

"When we eat an apple" By John Newton

Acts 17:11 "Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Brethren, remember your exalted privilege—you have the Bible in your hands, and are not bound to follow books or preachers any farther than what they teach agrees with the Oracles of Truth. We have great reason to be thankful for the instructions and writings of spiritual men—but they are all fallible, even as ourselves. One is our master, even Christ—what He says, we are to receive implicitly. We do not owe implicit subjection to the best of our fellow-creatures. The Bereans were commended because they would not implicitly believe even the Apostle Paul—but searched the Scriptures to see whether the things which he taught were true. May the Lord give us a spirit of humility and discernment in all things. When we eat an apple—we usually first cut out the blemishes, then eat what is good, and lastly throw the core away. Such a rule I would observe in reading human authors—the best may be defective, and the wisest may be mistaken. We are not only permitted, but enjoined, to call no man master!

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."