

## By Grace Through Faith

*“Grace’ includes all God has done on our behalf and ‘faith’ includes all man is to do in response to God’s grace so that man can receive the offer of salvation in Christ.” Pg. 311*

**Rom 5:1** Therefore being justified **by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: **2** By Whom also we have access **by faith into** this **grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- There is a process by which mankind must adhere to in order to obtain God’s salvation. And once we have received His grace through obedient faith, it is our responsibility, at that point, to share the message of the gospel with others. But what has happened to the churches of Christ? Have we, generally speaking, grown soft? Do we not preach the word of God as it truly is the only word by which the world can be saved? Why is it then that some among the brotherhood state *“oh but you don’t want to offend anyone, especially those who visit with us, you don’t want to speak negatively against any of the (what they term as ‘other’) denominations”* ? First of all, we are not just “another” denomination but obviously, we do need to preach the truth in love...

**Eph 4:13** Till we all come in the unity of **the** faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect (*Gk.5046- complete*) man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: **14** That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with **every wind of doctrine**, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; **15** But **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

**1Jn 3:18** My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in **deed** and in **truth**.

- Let’s not just **say** we love the souls of others! Let’s **do** something toward saving them! We need to remember, there are warnings set forth in the Bible that exist for **everyone** to heed. And if we’re not proclaiming truth because we are **afraid** we might **offend** someone (?) then what we are saying is that we really don’t love them enough in the first place. Would we just sit idly by while a child is nearing the edge of a cliff and say *“oh isn’t the sky such a pretty blue today”* or *“oh isn’t this grass so green”*? Those statements may in fact be true but they have nothing to do with what’s going on with the child who is nearing the precipice. The world is nearing the edge of no return and we, of all people, know the words that might possibly turn them around. And ultimately, if they ever **do** bow to the saving grace of God our loving **Savior**, they will thank you for being so bold.

**Php 1:20** According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that **in nothing I shall be ashamed**, but *that* with all **boldness**, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death. **21** For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

*“There was a time among churches of Christ when there was a **spoken understanding** that members of denominations were lost since they were not members of the church described in the New Testament. With time, we moved into a period of **unspoken understanding**. Everyone knew what shape denominations were in; it was understood. But we shied away from verbalizing it, “lest we offend.” Tragically, the generation that grew up with such silence ushered in a new period that entailed **unspoken misunderstanding**. They had*

not been taught (Deut 6:7). They mistook the silence of their parents for indifference and approval.”

Deu 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

“We are now reaping the consequences of these failings. We have now moved into a period of outright **spoken misunderstanding**. Brethren are openly declaring their conviction that the church of Christ is simply one denomination among many and those who are in denominations are saved Christians. They maintain that teachings like ‘sinfulness of instrumental music’ and ‘baptism **unto** remission of sins’ are trivial in comparison with the need to ‘fellowship’ and ‘unite’ with those in the denominations.” Pgs. 286, 287

Joh 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me **through their word**; 21 That **they all may be one**; as Thou, Father, *art* in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be **one in Us**; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.

“Jesus’ prayer was spoken on behalf of the church-not the world. The unity of which Jesus spoke was unity among New Testament Christians- those who obey the gospel plan of salvation. ...a denomination is not a New Testament church of Christ.” Pg. 306

Joh 17:9 I pray for them (*His disciples*): I pray **not for the world**, but for them which Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine.

Joh 17:16 They are **not of the world, even as I am not of the world**.

“Rather, they (*denominations*) have embraced the words of mere men. They have been misled into entering a counterfeit church and turning to ‘a different gospel!’ (Gal 1:6-9)” Pg. 307

- How ironic and typical of those who use this very verse concerning Jesus’ prayer for unity when trying to unite the New Testament church with the denominations. When a progressive uses such passages to prove their own point they are attempting to turn such into a lie to support their own agenda for change. Change is good as long as it has to do with sinful behavior being exchanged for righteousness. But when a person wishes to change the word of God to satisfy his own desire to “save the world at all cost”, it will end up costing him his own soul and the souls of those who believe the lie. And God will give all who desire to do such the right to follow after such a delusion!

2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- “Oh but you are being so legalistic”! First, legalism (*Webster*) is defined as “strict or too strict adherence to the law”. So how strict is “too strict” when it comes to adhering to the word of God? Should we follow some parts and ignore others or overemphasize one area but hardly even mention another? Aren’t we always to, at the very least, **attempt** to have a strict adherence to His word. But since no person, besides Jesus, can ever adhere to its truth 100%, 24/7, this could be one of those words (*legalistic*) that a person, who wishes to change the word of God, will use in order to shame a weak believer into observance of false doctrine. They overemphasize grace while minimizing truth as

though it doesn't matter *as long as there's unity*. "Can't we all just get along?" We can as long as we adhere to the word of God and not the words of men.

*"In so doing, they create an atmosphere wherein the average human being slacks off, evades personal responsibility, does not pursue self-discipline in order to be pure and clean before God- and feels justified in his condition."* Pg. 309

- Grace and faith by themselves **do not save!** Even together much more is required if salvation is to be obtained.
1. What about "godly sorrow" (2 Cor 7:10)?
  2. Repentance (Acts 11:18)
  3. Works (James 2:24)
  4. Faith (Rom 5:1)
  5. God's mercy (Titus 3:5)
  6. and His grace (Titus 3:7)
  7. Baptism (1 Pet 3:21)

Comparing baptism to the flood of Noah's day...

1Pe 3:21 The like figure whereunto *even* **baptism doth also** (*additionally along with godly sorrow, repentance, works, faith, God's mercy and His grace*) **now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) **by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:**

Baptism is our responsibility since Jesus already did His part in dying only to be raised again. This is just a short list of the many, many passages that when put together we can understand where those who teach otherwise are "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Tim 4:2).

Heb 11:4 **By faith Abel offered** (*did his part*) unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, **by which he obtained witness that he was righteous**, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

*"Anytime the New Testament speaks of being saved 'by faith,' it is referring to a faith that includes whatever actions God specifies as necessary."* Pgs. 311, 312

- I have faith that my car will get me to work this week. Will the car just get me there without a driver? The car **can** get me there but other factors are **also** necessary for it to do what is needed: fuel, maintenance, someone to drive it, etc.

Jas 2:22 Seest thou how **faith** wrought **with his works**, and **by works** was **faith made perfect** (*Gk.5048- complete*)?

- My car gets me to work because I maintain and drive it there.

Jas 2:24 Ye see then how that **by works** a man is justified, and **not by faith only**.

Jas 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead** also.

- A car without fuel, a battery or a driver is useless, it's dead.

*“Conditions do not nullify the grace of God. God’s grace and Christ’s blood constitute the **grounds** of our salvation (*that’s the car*), but the acts of obedience (like baptism) constitute the **conditions** of our salvation (*maintenance, fuel and driver*).”*

Pg. 313

- Our salvation is contingent upon our obedience. But then along comes mankind with his big philosophical ideas as though he has a better way for mankind.

*“But as usual, man’s complex theories are ridiculous in view of the simple, straightforward statements of scripture.”*

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**2Co 11:2** For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one Husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. **3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the (*what, complexity? No!*) **simplicity** that is in Christ. **4** For if he that cometh preacheth **another** Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive **another** spirit, which ye have not received, or **another** gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with. **5** For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles. **6** But though *I be* rude in speech, yet not in knowledge; but we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.

*“We must be willing to expend the time and trouble to carefully, prayerfully, and diligently analyze and examine God’s word.”*

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**Act 17:11** These (*Bereans*) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with **all readiness of mind**, and **searched the scriptures** daily, **whether those things were so**.

- If we don’t search the scriptures **daily** we could end up being led away from the truth.

**2Jn 1:9** Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

**Rev 22:18** For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: **19** And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

*“These passages make it clear that God has defined the parameters of moral, spiritual, and religious truth for humanity. He expects us to confine ourselves in our thinking and practice to His instructions.” (Just as a child needs to know his own limits- when he knows them he is better able to know how to please his parents.)*

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*“There is simply no such thing as ‘my interpretation’ and ‘your interpretation’. There is only **God’s** interpretation.”*

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**2Pe 1:20** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. **21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Mat 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. 21 Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **doeth** the will of My Father which is in heaven.

“...while God’s grace makes it possible for a person to be saved, nevertheless, in order for one to be saved initially and to **stay** saved, one must obey God’s commands; and man’s obedience does not nullify God’s grace.” Pg. 313

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- There will always be those who feel they’ve discovered something “*new and improved*” when it comes to worship, salvation or any other **Biblical** teaching. They are countless in number and faithful brethren have had to deal with such since the very beginning when the church was first established.

Ecc 1:9 The thing that hath been, it *is that* which shall be; and that which is done *is that* which shall be done: and *there is* no new *thing* under the sun.

- The “**faith only**” and “**grace only**” doctrines are among numerous false teachings that we need to be aware of because the plan to salvation is so simple to understand.

#### #1. Have you heard?

Eph 1:13 In Whom ye also *trusted*, **after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation:** in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

#### #2. Do you believe?

1Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received** the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it not as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that **believe**.

#### #3. Have you repented?

Mar 2:17 ...**They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

#### #4. Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God, Who alone can save you?

Act 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

#### #5. Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

#### #6. If you’ve done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 “...we also should walk in newness of life.”

#### #7. Are you growing?

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

**Rom 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. **3** For I say, through the **grace** given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of **faith**.

- We stand ready and able to help you in your quest to “*know the truth*” that will “*make you free*” (*Jn 8:32*) and be added to the Lord’s church, His bride.

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