

GRACE REVISITED

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INTRODUCTION

God pre-designed the Plan of Grace before the foundation of the World – Jesus Christ executed the Plan – the Holy Spirit reveals the plan through Bible Doctrine to mankind.

The word Grace and its eternal meaning were forever exalted by the incarnation of Jesus Christ in hypostatic union. The one and only true Messiah (Jesus Christ) is God's Grace personified to the world - Jesus Christ is the personification of Grace; the personification of Love; the personification of Truth; Jesus Christ is the personification of God in the flesh. Jesus, the Christ is the humanity of the eternal being - God. Failure to understand the humanity of Christ and the Deity of Christ in hypostatic union is perhaps the most controversial doctrine in Christianity, second only to the doctrine of Grace.

THE IMPERATIVE ASPECTS OF GRACE {John 1:14, 17}
REQUIRE A LIFE LONG STUDY AND ETERNITY.

The principle revelation of grace in the New Testament centers on the person and work of Christ. Grace is God's actions through Christ to benefit mankind (Titus 2:11; 1Timothy 1:14; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 2 Peter 1:2). Grace is the function of God's justice which provides blessing, protection, discipline and support for believers. The Cross is a manifestation of God's justice. The incarnation of Christ testifies of God's incomprehensible love. Here are two points to really think about: (A) the justice of God could not prevent Christ from going to the Cross. Therefore, (B) the justice of God cannot prevent the unbeliever from the lake of fire. Ontologically, if A is true (and it is) then B is also true.

Can logic put God in a manger? Can you really understand that the God of the universe somehow became a human baby? Then, as a man, He became our Savior. During His lifetime and on our Cross, He victoriously battled the dragon. Then, He conquered death by His resurrection. Christ loved us with

everlasting love; with everlasting kindness. This is Grace – God’s Grace. If you are a believer you are clothed in more than fine linen – you are clothed in Grace.

Grace. Oh Grace. Why are you Grace? I am Grace because God so loved!

I am Grace because I am that I Am. God loved us enough to die for us. God loves us enough to keep us as His cherished possession forever. God is an awesome God. Our Savior is an awesome Savior – the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Amen.

GRACE IN KOINE (common) GREEK

Grace is the word *charis* in Greek. It is used 155 times in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul used it 101 times and is the greatest expositor of grace in the Bible. Paul was so compelled and captivated by the Grace of Christ that he continuously expressed his deep appreciation and affection for his Savior throughout his Epistles. Paul was truly humbled by his awesome Savior on the road to Damascus. Paul, more than any other writer in the Bible understood the Grace of God. Paul presented Christ as the personification of grace and truth (1 Corinthians 15:8-10).

The word grace in scripture is also used to express joy, peace, pleasure and happiness (see Luke 4:22 and Ephesians 4:29). Goodwill and loving kindness are expressed in passages such as Luke 1:30; 2:52. Undeserved favor from God is expressed in Acts 11:23; Romans 11:6; 2 Corinthians 4:15; 6:1; 9:14; and 2 Thessalonians 1:12.

The principle benefit of God’s Grace is “*saving grace*” as in 2 Corinthians 8:9 and 1 Peter 1:10, 13. Christ is the personification of Grace, but Christ never used the word Grace himself. Why? Because Christ **is Grace!** (John 1:17-18; Romans 10: 4-10).

The New Testament also uses several words which are closely related to *charis*. For example: *charisma* which means a grace-gift such as in 1 Peter 4:10. *Christ is charis and charisma*. 1 Peter 4:10 is the only time *charisma* is used by other than Paul in the New Testament. *Charisma* expresses the “*gift*” of salvation in Romans 6:23 as contrasted with all have sinned in

Romans 3:23. In my study of the Greek words for grace I noticed in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance and Strong's Complete Dictionary of Bible Words that the verb *charitoo* which means to *bestow favor upon* is used only twice, once in Luke 1:28 when the Arch-Angel Gabriel greeted Mary with the annunciation, and a second time in Ephesians 1:6 where every believer is said to be highly favored or "*accepted in the beloved.*" All believers are considered "*begraced*" or "*covered*" {*charitoo*} by God which means that Mary's favor with God is identical to the favor given to all believers. This favor is bestowed without merit because of Christ. Therefore, worship of Mary is not warranted by Scripture. Mary *had no more favor, merited or unmerited, than any other believer.* Mary was chosen by God (unmerited favor) for God's purpose and the believer is chosen for God's purposes by unmerited favor. Mary was honored not for who and what she is but, because of who and what God is.

GRACE AND MERCY

Distinction should be made between grace and mercy: mercy implies pity, whereas grace includes the idea of favor towards sinners without merit. By contrasting mercy and grace we find it interesting that the opposite of mercy is misery and the opposite of grace is guilt. We are all guilty of sin (Romans 3:23). While we were still lost in sin Christ died – this is grace (Romans 5:8). God's love and mercy preceded His Grace (Luke 1:78-79; Romans 5:8, 15-21; Ephesians 2:4, 8, 9). God's Love, Mercy and Grace always precede Judgment. Please note: God always comes to man because God designed man's soul to respond to God.

The more you understand the *fall* of the human race (Romans chapter five) the more you will appreciate the crucified and risen Messiah – Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:22). The more you learn about *reconciliation* which God the Father planned in eternity past the more you will appreciate our heavenly Father (Ephesians 2:10; 3:11, 21; 2 Timothy 1:9, 1 Peter 5:10). The more you understand the mechanics of God's plan the more at peace you will become, inside, regardless of the circumstances of life on the outside. The more you learn God's Word the more intimate you will become with God.

***GOD'S GRACE PLAN FOR UNBELIEVERS IS FAITH = SALVATION
(John 3:15-18, 36; Acts 16:31; Romans 3:23, 26-28; 5:8-12, 6:23; 10:9-13,
17; 12-21)***

GOD'S GRACE PLAN FOR BELIEVERS IS

Faith, Prayer/Confession (1 John 1:9), Bible Study, Application, Sacrifice, And The Peaceful Fruits Of The Spirit Which Equal Inner-Happiness Resulting In A Proper Mental Attitude – (Mark 16:15; John 20:21; Romans chapter 6; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Hebrews 4:14-16; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 4:12; 5:14-16; Romans 5:1; chapter 8; 10:17; 12:1-21; 13:1-14; 14:7-9, 17, 18; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; 2:4-16; 3:9-16; 6:19-20; 7:17, 23; 10:13; 11:23-32; 15:3-4, 58; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 2:20; 13:14; 15:13; Ephesians 1:4-14, 17-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-21; 4:1-16, 30; 5:1-2; 6:11-20; Philippians 1:6, 29; 2:1-11; 3:6, 16, 20, 21; 4:1-13, 19; Colossians 1:5-6, 9-23; 2:7, 9, 14, 14; 3:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:12-13; 3:11-13; 4:1-18; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 5:14; 2 Peter 1:2).

Grace Orientation is an imperative for believers and unbelievers.

*You cannot truly understand the price of your personal salvation until you have seen **Christ on your Cross**. You cannot execute the Christian life until you habitually execute (1 John 1:9). Grace Orientation is (1 John 1:9) for the believer. Grace orientation for the **un**believer is not naming sins it is faith in Christ (Acts 16:31; John 1:12; 3:36; Romans 5:8). The inhale of Bible Doctrine and confession of sin on a daily basis keeps the believer grace oriented. The believer walking in fellowship with God, walks in fields of Grace, hand in hand with the creator of the universe. So, study, learn, and grow in wisdom and faith (2 Timothy 2:15, 19, 21, 22; 3:14-17).*

Romans 5:15: *“For if by the one man’s offense (Adam) many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.*

Romans 5:17: *For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more who received abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one Jesus Christ.” See also Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Thessalonians 2:16; Hebrews 13:9.*

Without the leadership of the Holy Spirit utilizing metabolized Bible doctrine in the believer’s soul, the believer is like a wave of the sea tossed to and fro (Ephesians 4:14). With God the Holy Spirit in control of our thinking we are more than conquerors through Christ (Romans 8:37). Through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit we are able to execute God’s plan (2 Corinthians 5:20). Like the Angels in the spirit, we are God’s

messengers in the flesh. We are the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13). We are left here on earth after receiving Christ to fulfill God's Plan. Christ died for us so we could live for Him {Romans 12:1}.

God has designed a wonderful plan for believers through His Son Jesus Christ (Romans 8:38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Galatians 2:16; 3:26; Ephesians 2:6-13; Philippians 4:19; Colossians 2:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; 1 Timothy 1:14, 15; 2 Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 9:28!

GRACE OR RELIGION

Attempting to earn one's way to heaven or impress God by righteous acts of kindness and generosity are totally contrary to God and His wonderful Grace. Why? Because man-made righteousness attempts to help Christ's work on Calvary or replace it all together. This is nothing more than religion. Religion and Christianity are *mutually exclusive*. Christianity is a relationship to God through Christ who accomplished all the work necessary to propitiate God the Father. Salvation by merit is religion. Religion is ritual or performance without reality! Therefore, merit and grace are mutually exclusive. Thinking you can earn God's praise is not only contrary to Scripture it is anti-grace; it is blasphemous; and it is arrogant. Religious people either fail to accept or recognize the plan of God; the Grace of God and the sacrifice of Christ. Salvation and forgiveness by *works originates in Satan the founder of working religion*. Working for salvation is counterfeit; it is man-made; and it is anti-Christ.

*“For by **grace** you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Christianity is distinct from all other religions because the necessary reconciliation of man to God is performed by God the Son – not man.

ANTI-GRACE

In order to understand God's Grace it is important that we understand what God's Grace is **not**. Therefore, we will be looking at *anti-grace*. When it comes to God's Grace there is no in between – no area of gray.

Unfortunately, most believers are not even aware of the marvelous grace wherein they stand *complete* in Christ. “*For God so loved the world (man, and here is the result of that love) that God gave His only begotten Son, that (so that) whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).*

Romans chapter five is one of the most power packed chapters on the doctrine of justification by grace through faith found anywhere in the Word of God. In this fantastic chapter we learn that God reconciled men to Himself – God made peace with man (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

God reconciling man to Himself is contrary to all other religions known to man because all other religions involve man reconciling man to God which is impossible - *according to God* (Romans 3:23-25 5:1; 8-12; 15-21; 6:23. God’s Grace was made possible toward man because of the Cross of Christ. He was crucified for you personally and for all those who will trust his death and resurrection. This is Grace! God loves us with perfect love manifested by the sacrifice of Christ. Please pause for a moment and read Romans chapter five in its entirety.

Now please turn to 2 Corinthians chapter five. I call your attention in particular to verses 14-21. This is the *good news* of the Gospel. Therefore, as *ambassadors [verse 20]*, believers are to go to the world and tell the people {see also Hebrews 12:1-2). As God brings the world to us in our daily functions we can share the good news that Christ died. Go and tell the world there is hope; there is an answer; there is salvation in Christ.

The Grace of God is manifested through the Son of God; demonstrated on the Cross; assured by the Resurrection; procured by faith in the Son of God; secured by God Himself.

“Even so, then, at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then it is no more of works; otherwise grace is no more grace, but if it be of works, then it is no more grace; otherwise work is no more work” (Romans 11:5-6). Paul is simply stating that works and grace are mutually exclusive.

Romans 8:32 perfectly defines Grace: “*God spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He {God} not with Him also **freely** give us all things)?” *Grace is given through Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians**

1:4). Grace is all that God is *free* to do for mankind because of the Cross of Christ. The Grace {lovingkindness} of God provided salvation (saved us) from God's own wrath (Job 19:29-30; Isaiah 13:9; John 3:15-18; 3:36; Romans 2:5-6; 6:23; 10:13; 12:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; Revelation 6:9-17; 16:1; 19:15). We escape the wrath of God by faith {believing} in the Cross-work of Christ. God's greatest gift to mankind is His Son, Jesus Christ (John 3:15-18, 36; Romans 3:22-28; 5:1; 5:8-21; 8:1).

In God's relationship with man God is always the giver – man, the receiver! Furthermore, everything God does is for the benefit of mankind. Truly, the Grace of God is: God Gave God (John 3:15-18).

GRACE IS FAITH PLUS NOTHING ON MAN'S PART

Philosophy insists on the power and virtue of man by reason; religion promises favor by the God's on virtuous acts. However, Christianity is: God gave God to save man – this is Grace {Romans 5:8}.

It is heresy to add anything to faith in the Cross of Christ for salvation.

The most dangerous mis-application of scripture surrounds the gospel of salvation. Pastors, elders and believers alike are telling unbelievers (adults and especially children) that they can “*invite Jesus into their heart and be saved.*” **Nothing could be further from the truth!**

Salvation is not based on what **you** do. **SALVATION IS BASED ON THE CROSS!** Salvation is received by faith alone in Christ alone apart from any meritorious action on your part (Acts 16:31a).

When reading or in study of God's word a few guidelines are necessary before drawing conclusions and interpreting scripture. Let's look at a few very important considerations:

1). to whom the scripture is written; the intent of the author; and the knowledge of the recipients at that point in time (history).

- 2). the culture and historical setting especially as compared to our knowledge and culture today.
- 3). what is the **context** of the verse (s) in question;
- 4). Grammatical usage of the original language.
- 5). avoid reading into Scripture our own interpretation based on our privileged information or understanding (bias), in other words we must remain objective in our pursuit of truth.

Two thousand years ago it was the custom of the Jews when someone came knocking, to feed them – friend or stranger. In those days transportation was by foot, camel or donkey. Travelers would be dirty and hungry after their journey. A cloth and oil were kept at the entrance to the house awaiting guests so they could clean the dust from their feet and hands. The fellowship of food and wine was a custom of the Jews and was always extended to guests. This custom is maintained to this day in many countries. In Revelation 3:20 our Lord is knocking on the heart door referring to **fellowship *not*** salvation. Notice His statement that He will come in and dine.” Remember too, the seven churches were all in various stages of apostasy and Christ here in Revelation is calling these churches to repentance.

HERESY DEFINED

The word *heresy* literally means “*choosing ones own ideas regarding truth; stating a known truth in error, deliberately or not.*”

The Epistle’s of Galatians and 2 Thessalonians were written by the Greatest Apostle of all, Paul, to the churches in these two cities because already false teachers were twisting the gospel from grace to works; from Christ to man - committing *heresy*. Also, in Rome, the Roman Churches were being invaded by false doctrine in Romans 16:17. Paul warned the Roman believers to avoid false doctrine.

The best defense against untruth is Truth. Truth, in itself, is not debatable. Truth is absolute and it must be!

Truth is **not** what each of us perceives it to be. Without absolute truth, there can only be truth as we each see it - God forbid! Man without the light of Christ cannot see Truth (John 1:1-14). The Gospel is the light of Christ which lights the world of darkness but, men love darkness rather than light (John 1: 1-5; 9-14).

Truth in the eye of the beholder is not truth it is untruth – heresy.

Without absolute Truth, there is no standard of truth. Truth without absoluteness inevitably becomes untruth because everyone would be able to make their own truth.

*If we make our own truth we will self destruct because each person would make himself a dictator god. The world cannot exist without absolutes. We exist, therefore, there are absolutes! Absolutes have personal names – **Father** (God), **Son** (Word) and **Holy Spirit** (Truth).*

Pilate stated the greatest question ever voiced: “*what is truth?*” Pilate was unaware that Truth was starring him in the face. *Truth as stated emphatically in Scripture is Christ.*

Our mission in these studies is to “***define truth in a world of untruth.***” Simple stated – *God is Truth!* **Truth is a person – Jesus Christ!**

A person of wisdom has learned to analyze, utilize, and not compromise Truth, effectively and consistently, and multiply Truth to a lost and dying world.

“The flesh became untruth so Truth became flesh in Jesus Christ. C. S. Craig.

Sin (the production of), Satan (the production of), and the world (the production of), is untruth! Untruth is evil! Evil is anything untruth. Evil is anything anti-god!

People perish because they prefer the untruth’s of a false reality (the untruth world system) instead of God’s truth – which is true reality.

Satan is always at work against the true Gospel. He does his work through men who are saved and unsaved (Mathew 13:22; 24:24; Mark 4:19; 7:22;

John 8:44; Acts 5:3; 13:10; Romans 3:13; 2 Corinthians 4:2; 11:13; Ephesians 4:22; Colossians 2:8).

SATANIC DECEPTION CAUSED THE FALL OF MAN

Since Satan's fall creation has been under the attack of King Deceit – SATAN. When Christ finally defeats Satan the world will be destroyed and created anew without deceit and corruption. Satan will be no more. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

SHARING CHRIST

Not everyone who makes an incorrect doctrinal statement is a heretic. Please read Acts 18:24-28). If you are going to share the Gospel you must exercise extreme care in what you say. Let God's Word do the talking. Use Scripture – read Scripture – know where to find the right Scripture. Remember, the Holy Spirit uses God's Word to convict, call and save the unbeliever. Always have the Bible with you; open it and use it systematically. Get with your Pastor and determine the best verses for explaining salvation to the unbeliever. Memorize these verses and read them to the unbeliever. There is something about God's Word when read that convicts and enlightens and that something is God the Holy Spirit. If you do not have the bible with you when an unexpected event occurs to witness then, make sure you have memorized the verses necessary to explain their need to be saved from God's wrath and how to receive Christ.

I repeat: If the Holy Spirit has brought this opportunity to you to witness for the Lord then, let the Holy Spirit do the convicting. How does the Holy Spirit convict the unbeliever? The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to call, and convict the world {1 Corinthians 2:10-16. Keep the true Gospel true – Christ died- believe on the lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved (John 3:15-18, 36; 5:8). The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God so ***you must learn the Word of God to witness effectively.***

Adding anything to faith for salvation counterfeits the Gospel and turns Grace into an ego trip of man also known as the heresy of works. Adding anything to faith in the Cross of Christ is a double-cross (snare) straight from Satan. Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone!

Again! Here's how to be saved: *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved,"* (Acts 16:31a). Here is why: *"But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). **Christ died for us! That is why and how we are saved.** "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1). "For, while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for us."*

Please, carefully read the following verses: John 8:24; Romans 1:16; 5:6, 8; Galatians 2:16; 3:13, 36; 4:19; 6:11; 8:1, 10; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 4, 30; 3:11; 4:15; 15:1-4. There is no other way to be Saved (Acts 4:12) – Christ is the only way to Heaven – He is the only mediator (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 12:24). There is no other foundation on which to take your stand (1 Corinthians 3:11). We are washed, sanctified and justified by the Holy Spirit in the name of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:11).

The gospel is simple – use these Scripture references to explain how to be saved – let the Holy Spirit convict and execute a person's faith and salvation. Do not attempt to do God's work in salvation – God is perfectly capable. If people do not understand God's Grace Plan of salvation then leave it to God to open their eyes. Continue to pray that they may see the light of the glorious gospel. If the child (for instance) is not old enough to understand the cross then the child is not old enough to be accountable. Salvation is about the Cross and faith in Christ's death for our sins. *You do not need to water down the gospel for children – God the Holy Spirit is perfectly capable of convicting and saving our children when the time is right {1 Corinthians 2:10-12}.*

Christ paid the sin penalty (debt) which is death. *"The wages of sin is death!"* Christ paid! Tell it like it is - Christ died in our place for our trespasses against God the Father (Roman 3:23; 6:23)! See also Isaiah 53:4-6. For additional scripture reading please compare: Mark 16:16; Acts 16:31-34; Romans 3:22, 26; Galatians 2:16; 3:22. Just remember, all sin is against God.

The salvation of mankind (the lost species) was and is the most supernatural event in human history. Why? Because only God could save man and to do

so God had to become incarnate. Why? Because all men became *sin natured* when the first man Adam disobeyed God. From the fall until this day there has never been one single human being righteous enough to save himself (except Jesus Christ) let alone the entire human race. Please turn to the following scripture references and read them carefully and thoughtfully: Isaiah 53 which describes the vicarious sacrifice of Christ who became our servant and our redeemer; Romans 6:23; 9:11; 11:5,6; 1 Peter 2:24, 25; 3:18.

Distinction should be made between *heresy, ignorance* and *apostasy*.

Heresy - can exist with true faith and is usually a snare of Satan surrounding the Deity of Christ and/or redemption by grace through faith. Satan's most successful counterfeit of the gospel has always been adding works to grace; adding a merit system to the cross; adding ritual without reality to make us feel right with God. ***We are not right with God by what we do but, by what Christ did on the cross. It is God Himself who makes us right with God through Christ.*** Works are the result of faith not the means of salvation.

Most denominations have become captive to the snares of Satan regarding *works* for salvation and *perfection* to stay saved. Both result in arrogant believers. WORKS VERSUSES GRACE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SATAN'S STRATEGY. (See our study regarding positional truth - "Eternal Security.")

Ignorance - though not an excuse is usually *neglect* of Bible study; *improper instruction*; or *no instruction* at all. (Acts 19:1-6).

Apostasy - on the other hand is the deliberate rejection or rebellion of revealed truth. Apostasy is perfectly described in 2 Timothy 4:3-4: "*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*" For additional scripture regarding heresies and apostasy especially in these last days turn to 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 3-17; 4:3,4; 2 Peter 2:1-19; Jude 4, 8, 11-13, 16. Apparently apostasy in the body of Christ will not be remedied until the judgment seat of Christ. (Isaiah 1:5-6; 5:5-7; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12; 2 Peter 2:17-21; Jude 11-15; Revelation 3:14-16).

MORAL FALL

The moral fall of the entire race of human beings since Adam is provable by three unchanging facts: (1). Death is universal to all men (Hebrews 9:27-28). (2). God's judgment of Adam's sin passed to all men for **all** have sinned (Romans 5:18, 19; 6:23). (3). Our moral state as human beings is witnessed in daily life (TV, newspapers, etc., and described in Scripture. Please read and focus on the following scripture: (Genesis 6:5; Psalms 14:1-3; Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 18:11; Mark 7:20-23; John 3:3-7; Romans 1:21; 2:1-29; 3:9-19; 7:24; 8:7; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 3:14; 4:4; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-12; 4:18-22; Colossians 1:21; Hebrews 3:13; James 4:4).

Christ and Adam are contrasted in scripture please compare Genesis 2:7 with 1 Corinthians 15: 21, 45-47. John 1:4; 5:21; 10:10; 12:24; 1 John 5:12. The first representative man (Adam) is from the earth and is flesh; the second representative man (Christ) is from Heaven and is a spirit (a life giving spirit), as you read in 1 Corinthians 15:47 and he {Christ} replaced the first man (Adam). In Adam we began dying! In Christ we all live! See Romans 5:8; 12-21. Christ conquered death therefore, if we are in Christ death has no sting {Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians 15:55). Please read also John chapters 5, 6 & 10.

PROPITIATION

After three days God resurrected Christ from the dead because the penalty for sin (Romans 6:23) had been paid (death of a righteous man – Christ). The resurrection, ascension and current occupancy of Christ at the right hand of the Father (session) proves that God was propitiated (totally satisfied by the perfect life and death of His Son (Romans 3:25; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:13). In Adam all men are condemned; in Christ (faith in Christ alone) all men are saved.

Please consider the following three points: ***First*** - the laws of Moses (ten commandments) were specifically for the survival of the Jews as a national entity. They were not the means of salvation for the Jews or the Gentiles. Our Constitution and The Declaration of Independence will not save us. They are designed to give us freedom and protect us from ourselves. They do not make us justified before God. We cannot keep the commandments

and we do not perfectly obey our own laws of liberty - it is humanly impossible.

Secondly, the systems of law and grace are at conflict the one with the other just as our flesh is in constant conflict with our soul and spirit (only believers have a human spirit).

Law (works) and Grace are mutually exclusive!

Thirdly, the law is, in itself, holy just and good because it is designed by God to preserve the human race from self destructing and at the same time point us to God. Think about it - the law proves to us our inability to keep it and with no where to turn, we should turn to Christ for salvation. If we think we are keeping the law we make God a liar. Please read Romans chapters 3-5. Chapters three, four and five defend grace and refute works. As a matter of fact if all denominations taught Romans on a consistent basis, we could possibly eliminate denominationalism as we know it today. Romans, written by the Apostle Paul is the greatest of all the Books ever written regarding the depravity of man and the Grace of God; regarding man's helpless position in sin; regarding man's nature of sin and to sin; regarding justification through Jesus Christ. Give me only two books of the Bible and I'll take John and Romans without a second thought.

The law can neither save or justify a person (unbeliever) nor sanctify a believer (Galatians 2:16; 3:2-3, 11-12). The believer is dead to the law and {redeemed} because he is under grace {Romans 6:14; 7:4; Galatians 2:19; 4:4-7; 1 Timothy 1:8-9). The believer is placed under the law of Christ (1 Corinthians 9:21; Galatians 6:2; 2 John 5) and we are to be delighted to be under Christ. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in each believer means that we have the imputed righteousness of Christ (God's own perfect righteousness) because we have received Christ. Please compare 2 Timothy 3:16-17 with Romans 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 9:8-9; and Ephesians 6:1-3.

MERITORIOUS THINKING IS HUMAN

Salvation is not earned by those who are good, or self-righteous, or religious, nor is it achieved because we hope God, in the end, will find a way to extend His mercy in some special way. Salvation is not predicated on public confession or baptism. To allow any of these merits to intrude on salvation by faith alone in Christ alone is to add to God's grace where only God reigns

superior and sufficient. It is the nature of man to add his part to salvation and in some cases some men may never understand the grace of God in salvation.

SALVATION FIRST - THEN LORDSHIP

Trusting the Cross-work of Christ who died for you, in your place, through faith is the only way anyone can be saved from the wrath of God. Faith in Christ's efficacious work on Calvary (for you) satisfied God the Father completely. It is only because the Cross of Christ propitiated the Father that forgiveness is made possible. Faith in Christ results in forgiveness whereby we are saved from God's wrath. God offers the perfect gift of His only Son on Calvary – believe and receive. **Lordship is learned.** You cannot make a declaration to God and expect God to honor it. God honors His Son not man's declarations. Do not try to replace Christ as Savior – only Christ is worthy to be our Saviour. After receiving Christ the Holy Spirit teaches you to honor Christ as Lord through the teaching instruction of Bible Doctrine by your right Pastor/teacher. It is critical to the Christian life that each new believer finds a BIBLE TEACHING CHURCH. Emphasis in the local church should be on *teaching*. There is far too much preaching.

Jesus Christ can only become the Lord of your life by experience and the inculcation and application of God's Word over a period of time. We learn from the Bible what a tremendous sacrifice Christ made for us and we learn to appreciate Him as our Savior and Lord.

Understand this: you cannot obey God if you do not know God's Word. You cannot love God if you do not know God's Word. Learning God's Word is learning God - *it is God's way of becoming Lord in the believer's life*. After salvation the Holy Spirit begins a work in us that never ends. We can be victorious through Christ by the Holy Spirit; the inculcation of Bible Doctrine; and Praying without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Praying without ceasing is simply this: always being conscious of God and thinking with Bible Doctrine in mind. It includes making our supplications known to God and confession. See Romans 8:26; 1 Corinthians 4:15; Colossians 1:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; James 5:16; 1 John 1:8-10; Revelation 5:8; 8:4.

NO HELP WANTED

God does not need your help to provide your salvation; to keep you saved; or to live the Christian life. Can you imagine – God can get along without you? Just remember, faith and obedience are *non-meritorious mandates*.

Dedicating or rededicating your life to Christ is not necessary because of 1 John 1:9. Repentance is confession of sins. Neither salvation nor living the Christian life is possible by what you do; it is what Christ did on Calvary and it is what the Holy Spirit does for you after salvation – **this is God's Grace**. You do not rededicate your life! You continuously utilize 1 John 1:9 and God restores you to fellowship. Forgiveness of sin by God is only possible by naming your sins to God (not a Priest). Why? because Jesus Christ is our High Priest (Hebrews Chapters 7 & 8). We are to pray directly to the Father through the Son by the Holy Spirit.

FORTY GRACE GIFTS

The instant you are saved by faith, the Holy Spirit gives you forty grace gifts and of course new ability to understand bible teaching. He gives you personal gifts for serving in the body of Christ as a believer and a special perception on life and God's own glory which shall be revealed in us. (2 Peter 1:1-8. See our study entitled "Forty Grace Gifts.")

WHAT IS MORAL EQUITY?

Moral equity is man's system for salvation. However, there is no such thing as moral equity for salvation! You cannot earn God's *interest* in your good works. God has unequivocally stated the terms of salvation in John 3:15-18 & 36. Salvation depends on God who provided it through Christ. You receive forgiveness for your sins by personal faith in the finished work (sacrifice) of Jesus Christ on Calvary in your place. He died for you! Believe it and be saved! God does not and cannot lie or misrepresent the truth. Satan has the expertise for deception. God's declaration of salvation in Scripture puts His integrity to the test both now and forever. Therefore, salvation by faith is certain to all who believe in the Cross of Christ (John 5:38, 39; 20:31; Romans chapter 5; 8:38, 39).

TYPICAL SENTIMENTS OF UNBELIEVERS (THE WORLD)

“I know Jesus died on the Cross and if I’m good enough I’ll go to heaven when I die.”

“Jesus knows I am sincere about trying to be good and treat people right so I can go to heaven.”

“I’m as good as the next person so I’ll go to heaven before most people.”

“God knows I care and I’m sincere.”

“He knows I love Him.”

“I tried to do right and I know He understands me.”

“God will be gracious and I will be with Him in Heaven when I die.”

“God doesn’t send good people to hell.”

“God is Love so I know He doesn’t send good people to hell.”

Making your own Christianity is not acceptable to God. Finding your own comfort zone of faith will not make hell comforting.

The Bible is available everywhere in America. There are Bible believing, Bible teaching churches throughout our great country – find one; attend one. Get saved while you still can through faith only in Christ only (John 3:15-18).

EMOTIONAL FAITH

If you doubt your salvation because you have not been good enough you are correct to doubt your salvation because you can’t be good enough!

It is not necessarily God that you doubt - it is your own part in your salvation. Subconsciously you are relying on Christ plus *yourself* to save

you. In other words your thinking is 50/50 or 99/1 – either way, both assumptions are incorrect – totally inaccurate. You are saying in effect, “*I believe Christ died for me so if I am good enough I know He will save me.*” If this is the way you were raised to believe, you may have often wondered – *am I being good enough; does God understand that most of the time I am doing my best? Or, if I am not always good, then how much good is good enough?*” Many of us were raised to believe in this manner and this is a tuff one to overcome. Many people spend their life standing on this *seemingly* accurate belief: “*it seems so right it can’t be wrong.*” But, it is!

The only cure for uncertainty is certainty! We are all sin-cursed souls, dead in trespasses and sin (Romans 3:20-28). You must let go of self-thinking and parent thinking and take hold of *Cross thinking*. If you rely on how you feel about your salvation, then, your emotions are dictating to your soul and that just does not cut it. You cannot be objective if emotion dictates to your soul. Salvation is not based on how you feel (emotion) it is and must be based on the Biblical and historical fact that Christ died for you. God promises salvation through His Son (John 3:16). Believe it! How you feel from moment to moment does not save you or keep you saved. Today you feel saved because you are in a good mood. Yesterday you weren’t saved because things went lousy. I repeat: “you are not saved because you feel saved!” You are saved because you have trusted a God who cannot lie { 1 John 5:9-13}. God gave Christ His only begotten Son on the Cross and all you have to do is believe God’s quote in John 3:15-18 & 36. As soon as you see this simple truth, salvation is yours by simple faith. Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for you – believe and be saved once and for all time and eternity (1 John 5:9-13; Hebrews 6:11; 10:22).

“And now we commend you to God and to the ‘word of His grace,’ which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).

The Grace of God is His Gifts of Grace, Truth and Eternal Life found only in Jesus Christ who died and rose again so that we can be reconciled to God the Father, forever. Praise the Lord of the Cross and resurrection. Praise the Word of God; praise the Holy Spirit. Amen and Amen. Even so, come quickly Lord, come.

Happy Studying!