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Soteriology

Grace

— **GRACE** —

I. GRACE DEFINED

As noted in previous studies, grace is the unmerited favor of God shown to the sinner. **God's Riches At Christ's Expense.**

In the matter of salvation, Grace is the undeserved kindness God shows to the sinner in declaring him just.

II. LAW AND GRACE CONTRASTED

LAW	GRACE
<p>Prohibits man's approach to God — <i>Exodus 19:12,13.</i></p> <p>Condemns the sinner.</p> <p>Says, "Do, and live."</p> <p>Says, "Try."</p> <p>Curses the sinner.</p> <p>Slays the sinner.</p> <p>Shuts every mouth.</p> <p>Condemns the best of men.</p> <p>Says, "Pay what you owe."</p> <p>"The wages of sin is death."</p> <p>"The soul that sinneth, it shall die."</p> <p>Reveals man's sin.</p> <p>Gives knowledge of sin.</p> <p>Given by Moses.</p> <p>Demands obedience.</p> <p>Written on stone.</p> <p>Done away with in Christ.</p> <p>Puts man under bondage</p> <p>Engenders fear.</p> <p>The sheep dies for the shepherd.</p>	<p>Invites man to approach God — <i>Matthew 11:28; Hebrews 4:16.</i></p> <p>Redeems the sinner</p> <p>Says, "Done!"</p> <p>Says, "It is finished" — <i>John 19:30c.</i></p> <p>Blesses the believer.</p> <p>Saves the sinner.</p> <p>Opens every mouth in praise.</p> <p>Saves the worst of men.</p> <p>Says, "It is paid in full!"</p> <p>"The gift of God is eternal life."</p> <p>Believe and live.</p> <p>Atones for man's sin.</p> <p>Provides redemption from sin.</p> <p>Comes through Christ.</p> <p>Gives power to obey.</p> <p>Written on hearts.</p> <p>Abides forever.</p> <p>Sets a soul at liberty</p> <p>Brings peace and confidence.</p> <p>Shepherd dies for the sheep.</p>

"A better thing the Gospel brings: It bids me fly, and gives me wings!"

III. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE LAW

How should a Christian live in relation to the Law? This is a troubling question for many. The Bible declares that a Christian is delivered from the law — **Romans 7:6** “But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”; A Christian is dead to the law — **Romans 7:4** “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”; a Christian is redeemed from the curse of the law — **Galatians 3:19** “Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.”; and is not under law, but under grace — **Romans 6:14,15** “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.”

Yet the Word of God also declares that a Christian should live a holy life. The question is, HOW? In reference to the Law? By legal observance?

Note the following:

A. HOLY LIVING IS THE PRODUCT OF GRACE:

See: Titus 2:11,12. **11** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

If a Christian lives a holy life simply because he is seeking favor with God, something is wrong. The work of God's saving grace in the heart of a believer produces holy living — it is a matter of want to, not have to.

The Law cannot justify; neither can it sanctify. The Law shows us that we are unholy but it cannot make us holy. The KEY to living the Christian life is found at Mount Calvary, not at Mount Sinai — Romans 6; Galatians 2:20 **20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me..

According to Colossians 2:6 Holy living is produced by two things: Colossians 2:6 **6** As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

- **Salvation (Positional Sanctification)** — “As ye have therefore received Christ...” [How? by faith!]
- **Sanctification (Practical Sanctification)** — “... so [in the same way, by faith] walk ye in Him.”

B. CHRISTIANS ARE UNDER A NEW LAW:

The law for the Christian is the “Law of Christ” — also called the “Law of Love” — see: John 15:10,12; Galatians 5:14; 6:2; James 1:25; I John 3:22,23.

DeHaan gives a fitting illustration:

“Imagine a man employing a servant. To avoid any trouble or [a] misunderstanding, certain rules and conditions must be agreed upon.

The employer hands to his prospective employee a manual in which the relationships of employer and servant are set out ... Failure to abide by the rules will break the contract, and the employee will either go on strike, or the boss will fire him... The servant is under law. Now let us suppose this employee is a young lady, and in the course of events the boss, a bachelor, falls in love with his servant. Finally they decide to marry, and they become husband and wife. She quits her job (not her work) and they move into their new home.

The very moment she becomes the wife, she ceases to be a servant. She is no longer under rules, regulations, and laws. She is not handed an employee’s manual to tell her what is expected as a wife. She is in love with her husband, and now she does as much, and even far more, to please her husband as when he was her boss.

She is no longer under law; she does not punch a clock; she has no set of rules to observe; she is free to spend all her time pleasing her husband. No demands are made upon her, for she already anticipates her husband's wishes. She is no more a servant, no more under laws, rules and regulations. But this does not make her careless and say, 'now that I am not any more under law I can do as I please.' Ah, no! She is under the law of love." (1)

IV. LIBERTY AND LEGALISM

Over recent years the word "legalism" has come to be used in a derogatory way against many pastors and Baptist churches who take a clear stand for holy living and, in particular, for setting forth standards in Christian conduct and service.

A. LEGALISM — The True and the False:

1. What Legalism Is.

As already noted, legalism is the addition of law keeping (works) to the Gospel of grace. True legalism "frustrates" the grace of God — i.e., the two do not mix — Galatians 2:21. Any teaching which adds to the Gospel is another gospel — [Galatians 1:6-9](#). [6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not](#)

another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Examples of this are seen in:

- a. Baptismal Regeneration = FAITH + BAPTISM
- b. Catholicism = FAITH + SACRAMENTS
- c. Pentecostalism = FAITH + HOLY GHOST 'BAPTISM'
- d. Seventh-Day Adventism = FAITH + SABBATH KEEPING
- e. Holiness Groups = FAITH + HOLDING OUT FAITHFUL
etc.

2. What Legalism Is Not.

a. It Is Not Holy Living.

See: I Peter 1:13-16; II Peter 1:1-9; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1.

b. It Is Not Asking Women To Wear Modest, Feminine Apparel.

See: I Timothy 2:9; I Peter 3:2-5; Deuteronomy 22:5; Isaiah 47:2,3.

c. It Is Not Asking Men To Be Masculine In Appearance.

See: I Corinthians 11:14.

d. It Is Not Preaching Against Movie Theaters And TV.

See: Psalm 101:3.

Bible-believing Baptists are often accused of being modern-day Pharisees because of their stand for truth in areas of ecclesiastical and personal separation. However, there is a great difference between a real Bible-believer and a Pharisee. The Pharisees loved tradition over truth (Matthew 15:1-9), and were in fact Bible-rejecters (John 8:47). They were self-righteous (Luke 18:9-14) hypocrites (Matthew 23:3,13,14). They were zealous, but only in their man-made religion — Matthew 23:14,15,23; Philippians 3:6. (2)

B. LIBERTY — The True and the False:

The word “liberty” means freedom. The child of God enjoys the blessing of – Christian liberty — [Galatians 5:1 5 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.](#)

1. What Christian Liberty Is.

True liberty comes from the Word of God — John 8:32 — and gives the believer:

a. Freedom To Obey The Commands Of Christ.

See: Psalm 119:44,45.

True freedom only exists when boundaries are well defined.

b. Freedom From The Dominion Of Sin.

See: Romans 6:11-14.

Only a 'free man' has the liberty to choose to yield to God. Freedom from sin does not mean "sinless perfection" or the eradication of the old nature. It is not a case of, "I would sin but cannot;" but rather, "I can sin but will not."

c. Freedom To Serve The Lord. See:

Romans 6:22.

2. What Christian Liberty Is Not.

a. It Is Not Freedom To Sin — Romans 6:1,2.

Liberty does not mean LICENSE — I Peter 2:16; II Peter 2:19.

b. It Is Not Freedom To Do As One Pleases.

See: Galatians 5:13.

c. It Is Not Freedom From Responsibility.

The Christian is responsible for:

- i. What he KNOWS — scholarship.
- ii. What he HAS — stewardship.
- iii. What he DOES — service.