

# Words of Grace Seasoned With Salt

*BIBLE STUDIES, PERSONAL OPINIONS ABOUT CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS*

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## Strange Doctrines

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Hebrews 13:9 says: ***Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.***

This is a warning about *strange doctrines*. Strange doctrines are doctrines that don't sound right when you hear them. Strange doctrines throw up a red flag in your mind when you hear them. Strange doctrines make you feel spiritually uneasy when you hear them. Strange doctrines don't make scriptural sense when you hear them.

**Strange doctrines are false doctrines dressed up to sound like sound doctrine.** Many people saved and lost are tossed to and fro by strange doctrines, because they don't know what sound doctrine looks and sounds like. If they did they would not fall for these strange doctrines that creep in the church door.

**You learn to spot strange doctrines by being rooted and grounded in sound doctrine.** Bank tellers are not trained to spot counterfeit money by studying counterfeit money. They are trained to spot counterfeit money by becoming educated in the look and feel of real money. Once you know what real money looks and feels like, you can easily spot counterfeit money. Once you know what sound doctrine looks like and sounds like, you can spot strange doctrines when you hear and read them.

### Sound Doctrine versus Strange Doctrine

There are certain features about sound doctrine that set it apart from false and strange doctrine. There are many outstanding facts and features about sound doctrine that every Christian should know and if they did they could easily spot false and strange doctrines when they hear them.

### **Sound Doctrine Is Based Upon The Right Gospel**

In Galatians 1:6-9 Paul wrote this about the gospel he preached:

***I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 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.***

***As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.***

According to these verses we should test and try the doctrines a man teaches by the gospel he preaches. God blesses the man who preaches the same gospel that Paul preached and curses the man who doesn't. Therefore, gospel that Paul preached is the standard to judge doctrine and other gospels by. If a man preaches the gospel that Paul preached there is a good chance that his doctrine will be sound, because sound doctrine is based upon the right gospel and the right gospel is the one Paul preached.

The foundation upon which all true doctrines are built upon today is the gospel Paul preached. So, if a man preaches that gospel he is building upon the right foundation. But if a man preaches another gospel than the one Paul preached, beware of his doctrine. Beware of any doctrine taught by any man who does not preach the gospel of grace preached by Paul. He is building on a false foundation and if the foundation is false so is the doctrine built upon it.

What is the message of Paul's gospel? When Paul preached the gospel he preached:

Salvation by the cross: See 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Salvation by grace: See Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 4:5, Titus 3:5.

Salvation as a present possession and not a future reward: See 2 Timothy 1:9, Ephesians 1:7, and Romans 5:11.

Salvation that's secure: He preached the eternal security of the believer; that those who are saved by grace through faith without works are KEPT saved the same way.

If a man preaches these truths more than likely his doctrine will be sound. But, if a man does not preach all of these things; if he adds to them or subtracts from them, his doctrine will not be sound; it will be false and strange.

**The gospel a man preaches is the barometer by which to measure his ministry, message, motive and doctrine by.** Not his looks, personality, charm, following, talents, eloquence, likability or results. The gospel he preaches is the barometer to judge him by. 99% of the time those who preach strange doctrines do not preach the right gospel. If the gospel is wrong there is no way the doctrine can be right.

### **Sound Doctrine Promotes Godly Behavior**

1 Timothy 6:3-4 says: ***If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing.***

Sound doctrine is godly doctrine. It's all about godliness. Godliness is godly living. The purpose in teaching sound doctrine is not only to keep you from error, but to promote godliness in your personal life. Sound doctrine should change your conduct as well as your faith. Your personal life, habits, conversation, conduct,

should be radically changed for the better by the doctrine you believe. If it's sound it will change it for the better.

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

The grace of God is a doctrine that not only brings salvation according to verse 11, but it teaches us how to live after we are saved in verse 12. It teaches us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. The doctrines of grace teach us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. The doctrines of grace promote godly behavior. They teach us to renounce every sin in our life. They teach us to live spiritual and godly lives free from reproach. They teach us not to say or do anything that would cause someone to stumble or fall. They do not excuse sin, but condemn every form of sin.

**Another way to determine if a doctrine is sound or strange is by the life style it promotes.** Doctrines that excuse sin, justify sin, give license to sin is not sound or true; they are those strange doctrines God warned us about. There was a preacher here in the south who taught many strange doctrines that excused sin in the name of grace. He taught people for years that God is not interested in the way you behave, just in what you believe. Many gullible Christians were deceived by this lie and some of them fell into sin, even deep sin. Some of his followers have a flippant attitude about sin as if it is no big deal. Jude warned us about men who use the grace of God to excuse sin. In Jude 1:4 said: ***For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Just because a man preaches about grace does not mean he is doctrinally right; for there are men who have turned the grace of God into lasciviousness. They preach a perverted grace. They use the grace of God as a license to sin. Some of them will even tell you that because we live under grace God will not chastise you for sin and it's even a waste of time to confess your sins to God. But what did Paul the true grace preacher say about this? He wrote; Romans 6:14-15:

***For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.***

And just in case someone would say that the more we sin the more grace will abound he also said in Romans 6:1-2:

***What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?***

Under grace God has not only delivered us from the penalty of sin which is hell, but he delivered us from the power of sin in our lives. And in view of this Paul said in Romans 6:6: ***Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.***

In Romans 6:12 he said: ***Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.***

In view of these verses, when I hear people and preachers in the church say their life is no different today than what it was before they were saved, I have to question their salvation. The sound doctrines of grace changes people's lives for the better, but strange doctrine do not.

### **Sound Doctrine Produces Good Works**

The same Paul who said we are not saved by works but by grace also wrote:

Titus 2:7: ***In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,***

Titus 2:14: ***Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.***

Titus 3:8: ***This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.***

Titus 3:14: ***And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.***

According to these verses sound doctrine teaches us that we are not saved by works, but we are saved to work. Sound doctrine teaches us that good works are the fruit of salvation. Sound doctrine expects and demands the believer to go to work after he is saved. Sound doctrine puts Christians to work. It gives us a job to do. Sound doctrine is not just for learning, it's for working. God has a job and a ministry for every Christian to do and sound doctrine will show you what it is, how to do it and why you ought to do it. One of the outstanding traits of sound doctrine is that it will keep you busy serving the Lord. And the way we serve the Lord is by evangelizing the lost and edifying the saints according to 1 Timothy 2:4.

Strange doctrines appeal to the flesh today because they give the believer nothing to do after they are saved. They teach that faith in Christ is all that God requires of us. They teach that everything under grace is free and nothing is earned by works. They teach that God is not interested in what you do, just in what you believe.

But God requires more than faith out of us, he requires works. When you got saved you not only inherited a mansion in the sweet by and by, but God gave you a job to do in the nasty now and now. Ephesians 2:8-10 says: ***For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.***

According to verse 9, we are not saved by works, but according to verse 10 we are saved to work. There are works God ordained for us to do before the foundation of

the world and the main two are evangelizing the lost which is done in the world and edifying the saints which is done through the local church. (See Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 2:4)

Keep this in mind also: Many blessings and promises under grace are earned by works. And at the judgment seat of Christ God is going to judge our works. (See 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:9-10, 2 Timothy 4:1)

Beware of any doctrine that gives the believer nothing to do under grace. Beware of any doctrine that preaches grace to the total exclusion of works. This "no work" doctrine will quench your zeal and make you a do nothing dead head and God knows we don't need any more of them in the church.

## **Sound Doctrine Glorifies Christ**

In John 16:13-14 Jesus said this about the ministry of the Spirit of God:

***Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, (he came in Acts 2) he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.***

One way to tell if a doctrine is true or not, is by whether or not it glorifies Christ. Every doctrine glorifies someone and if it is sound doctrine it will glorify Christ. Sound doctrine is inspired by the Spirit of God and the main ministry of the Spirit of God is to glorify Christ. Therefore, any doctrine inspired by the Spirit of God will exalt and glorify the Son Of God. It says: He (The Spirit) shall glorify me.

The main purpose in teaching sound doctrine is to glorify Christ. Every doctrine that is true, will in some way glorify Christ. For example the doctrine of:

Spirit Baptism glorifies the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

Justification glorifies the Cross of Christ.

Reconciliation glorifies the Blood of Christ.

The Church glorifies the headship of Christ.

The New Covenant glorifies the sacrifice and priesthood of Christ.

Grace glorifies the love of Christ.

If doctrine is true and sound, it should honor, glorify, praise and exalt Jesus Christ. It will cause you to focus your attention on Christ. It will motivate you to love him and want to please him. If it doesn't, it is not sound doctrine.

Beware of any doctrine that leaves out Christ. Beware of any doctrine that Christ is not the main focus. Beware of any doctrine where the messenger is glorified more than the message. Beware of any doctrine where the name a sinful man is used more than Christ's name. Beware of any doctrine where the one who teaches it, gets more attention than Christ.

One way you can separate sound doctrine from strange doctrine is by noting the one who gets the glory. Any doctrine that shifts your praise from Christ to a man or to a church is a strange and false doctrine.

## **Sound Doctrine Does Not Alter The Word Of God** **To Prove Itself**

Proverbs 30:5-6 says: ***Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.***

Deuteronomy 4:2 says: ***Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.***

These verses warn us about adding to and subtracting from the word of God. A red flag should go up immediately in your mind when you hear a man change words in the Bible to prove his doctrine. If a doctrine is true, it will stand on it's on without adding to or subtracting from the word of God. If you have to change words in the Bible to prove your doctrine, then you better change your doctrine because it's false. Any man who adds or subtracts words from the Bible to prove his doctrine is preaching a lie.

Strange doctrines are false and because they are false, men are forced to add and subtract from the word of God to prove them. Any time you hear a man changing the word of God to prove his doctrine you will be wise to reject it for it is one of those strange doctrines God warned us about.

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