

# Mr. Law Versus Mr. Grace

By Pastor Art Watkins

**John 1:17: For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

In this article we will take an imaginary trip with Mr. Law that came by Moses and Mr. Grace that came by Jesus Christ. Mr. Law and Mr. Grace took a long trip together and during their journey they came upon 5 major problems. Each problem concerned the salvation and security of Christians. Each man offered his own solution to each problem, but Mr. Grace's solution was always better than Mr. Law's solution.

**First they were both confronted with the oldest problem in the world, the problem of sin**

Sin is what damns men to hell so what can Mr. Law and Mr. Grace do about this major problem? Can they forgive sin? Can they take it away? For if they do not find a solution to the problem of sin, the whole world will perish in hell.

Mr. Grace said, Mr. Law you came before me so I ask you, what can you do about this problem of sin? Do you have a solution to the problem of sin? We must find a solution otherwise there is no hope for any man because all men are sinners and the wages of sin is death and damnation.

Mr. Law said I will tell you what I can do about sin: I can define sin for sin is a transgression of my commandments. I can expose sin. I can condemn sin. I can prove all men are guilty of sin. I can judge and convict and even execute sinners.

Mr. Grace says, I know that, but what can you do to take sin away? Mr. Law says, I can provide an animal sacrifice for sin that will cover mans sins for a season until another sacrifice is offered for him. Mr. Grace says, but can you take away his sins forever? Mr. Law says no I can't. **For *it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.***

Mr. Law says I can do a lot about sin but I cannot take it away forever. My sacrifices are inadequate.

Mr. Law then asks Mr. Grace, what can you do about sin? Can you take it away forever? Grace says, yes I can. Mr. Law says how can you possibly take away sin forever? That seems impossible. Mr. Grace says it is possible. Mr. Law says, how? Mr. Grace says, I have provided a perfect sacrifice for sin who does more than merely cover men's sin but takes it away forever. Mr. Law says, who is this sacrifice? Mr. Grace says, God's perfect Son, Jesus Christ. The Son of God allowed God the Father to charge him with every sin committed by every man. He allowed his father to put him on trial for their sins as if he committed them himself. He allowed his father to condemn him for all of their sins. He then allowed his father to pour out his wrath and anger and hatred against their sins by executing him in their place. Three days later God raised him from the dead and he declared that the sacrifice of his Son fully satisfied all of his just demands against their sins. And now he makes the offer to any man who puts their full trust in his Son that he will take away their sins forever and never impute them to them again. Mr. Law said I am amazed and Mr. Grace said, you are right for grace is amazing.

### **Second they came upon the problem of eternal life**

How can a mortal man gain eternal life? How do men become immortal? If a man dies shall he live again? How can sinful man live forever with God in the kingdom of God? Is there life beyond the grave?

Mr. Grace asked Mr. Law, can you give a man eternal life? Can mortal man gain immortality under your laws? If a man keeps your commandments can he gain eternal life? If a man dies can you provide life to him on the other side of the grave? What is your solution to the problem of eternal life?

Mr. Law said, if a man keeps my commandments I will promise him a long life in this world. For example: I have told children that if they keep my commandment to honor and obey their parents that it will be well with them, and they will live long on the earth.

I told Israel that if they keep all my statutes and my commandments, which I command them, that their days will be prolonged on the earth.

I have told the wicked that if he will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Mr. Grace says, I know all that, but can a man gain eternal, never ending life by keeping your commandments? Mr. Law shakes his head and says no, **for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.** Mr. Law admits that no one has ever or will ever gain eternal life by keeping his laws and commandments.

Mr. Law then asks Mr. Grace, can you give a man eternal life? Mr. Grace says, yes I can. Mr. Law says, how is that possible? Mr. Grace says, when a man believes on Christ the Spirit of Christ comes to dwell in the man and the life of Christ is imparted to the man and then Mr. Grace quotes 1 John 5 to Mr. Law: **And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.**

Mr. Grace explains to Mr. Law that anyone who has Christ dwelling in them has life; his life which is eternal life. Mr. Law then concedes to Mr. Grace; you can give a man eternal life but I can't.

### **Third, they came upon the problem of justification**

How can an unjust man be just with God? How can a guilty man be cleared from the guilt of his sin? Not just forgiven, but cleared from its guilt? How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean *that is* born of a woman?

Mr. Grace asks Mr. Law, can you justify sinners? Can you clear a sinner from the guilt of his sins? Mr. Law says, I can shut every mouth that all the world may become guilty before God. I can prove beyond a doubt that there is none righteous, no, not one: That there is none that understandeth, that there is none that seeketh after God. That all men are all gone out of the way, that they are together become unprofitable; that there is none that

doeth good, no, not one. I can show that every man is guilty of every sin my laws condemn.

Mr. Grace says, I know this, but can you justify the sinners that you condemn? Can you clear him from all his guilt? Can you pronounce him righteous? Mr. Law says, no I can't for by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in God's sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Mr. Law then asks Mr. Grace, can you justify the sinners I condemn? Can you clear them from the guilt of their sins? My Grace says, yes I can. Mr. Law asks, how is that possible? How can you possibly pronounce a guilty man justified? Mr. Grace says, by same man who takes away their sins and gives them eternal life for by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses. Mr. Grace says, Mr. Law Christ justifies all men from all the sins that you could not justify. All you can do with sinners is condemn them, but only Christ can justify them. Mr. Law says, how can he justify a guilty sinner and remain just at the same time? Does he just overlook their sins and pronounce them justified? Grace says no, for that is not lawful and God would be unrighteous if he did. Instead God found every man guilty of every sin that your laws condemn and sentenced them to die for their sins, but then God came down to earth in the form of a man and paid the penalty for the sins of all men. Now that the penalty has been paid, God can legally justify the sinner, and pronounce him cleared from his guilt and remain just when he does it. God judged him, condemned him, but then stepped down and paid for his crimes himself. And now a man can walk out of God's courtroom justified and free from eternal condemnation.

### **Forth, they came upon the problem of righteousness**

How can an unrighteous man become righteous enough to stand before a holy God? How can a sinner become righteous enough to enter into the kingdom of God. How can an unrighteous man inherit the kingdom of God?

Mr. Grace asks Mr. Law, can you make a sinner righteous? You have proven there is there is none righteous no not one but can you make them righteous so they can enter into the kingdom of God? Mr. Law says, if a man keeps my commandments I will count him righteous. I told Israel in Deuteronomy 6:25 that it shall be your righteousness, if you observe to do all these commandments before the LORD your God, as he hath commanded you.

I also warned them in Ezekiel 18:24: But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, *and* doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked *man doeth*....All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

Mr. Grace says to Mr. Law then what you are saying is that under your laws a man was counted righteous IF he kept the law? Mr. Law says, that's correct. Grace says, was it the righteousness of God? Mr. Law says, no it was the righteousness of the man who kept the law. Mr. Grace says, if a man turned away from the law what happened to his righteousness? Mr. Law said, he lost it. So Mr. Law what you are saying is that righteousness under you was conditional upon a man's obedience to the law and it could be lost if he turned from the law and it was not the righteousness of God but the man's righteousness. Mr. Law said, yes.

Mr. Law then says to Mr. Grace, do you have something better? Mr. Grace says, yes 100% better. Mr. Law says how is that possible? Mr. Grace said, the problem of righteousness is solved by the same man who solved the problem of sin and eternal life and justification, It's Jesus Christ again. Mr. Law says, how does he do it? Mr. Grace says, here is how: **For God hath made him (Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Corinthians 5:21.** Mr. Grace says to Mr. Law that at the cross God made Christ to be sin for us. Mr. Law says, what does that mean? Mr. Grace said, it means God imputed our sins to Christ on the cross who in turn died for them and by dying for them he paid the full penalty for them. And it's because he paid for them in full, we are given eternal life, we are justified from all sin, we are forgiven of all sins but that is not all, we are also made the righteousness of God in him too. Mr. Law says, what does that mean? It means that as God imputed the sins of all men to Christ's account, he now imputes the righteousness of God to men's account. Mr. Law says, you mean to tell me that an unrighteous man can have the spotless righteousness of God placed to his account? Mr. Grace says yes, and it's an eternal righteousness that cannot be lost like the righteousness of your law.

Mr. Grace says to Mr. Law, let me tell you about a man who you know for he was one of your strongest supporters in time past; his name is Paul. Mr. Law says, yes I know Paul well and he was counted righteous under my

law. Mr. Grace says, do you know what he did with the righteousness he achieved under the law? Let me tell you in his own words.

**Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: Philipians 3:8-9.**

Mr. Grace said to Mr. Law, Paul swapped the righteousness you gave him for the righteousness I gave him which is the eternal righteousness of God himself. Mr. Grace also said to Mr. Law, if the righteousness Paul had under the law could give him eternal life and justify him why did he count it dung to win Christ?

### **Five, they came upon the problem of perfection**

If God is perfectly holy in every way, how can imperfect men dwell with a perfect God? Job saw this problem when he wrote in **Job 15:14: What *is* man, that he should be clean? and *he which is* born of a woman, that he should be righteous? Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. How much more abominable and filthy *is* man, which drinketh iniquity like water?**

Mr. Grace asks Mr. Law, what is your solution to this problem? How can a man who is filthy and abominable dwell with a God who is perfect? Mr. Law says, I can give him commandments to keep and if he keeps them all and never breaks them, then he will be perfect. Mr. Grace says, has any man ever kept your laws perfectly? Mr. Law says no; they are all guilty of breaking all of them. As a matter of fact if they break one they are guilty of all. Mr. Grace says, if this is true, was any man made perfect by keeping your laws? Mr. Law says not even one, for the law made nothing perfect.

Mr. Law says Mr. Grace, do you have the solution to this problem? Mr. Grace says, yes I do and the person who solves this problem is the same one who solved all the other problems we have ran into on our journey; Jesus Christ. Mr. Law says, how is he the solution? Mr. Grace says, here is how and he quotes Hebrews 10:12: **But this man, (Jesus) after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.**

Mr. Grace says, men who put their full faith and trust in Christ's sacrificial death for sin, are perfected forever by his sacrifice. Mr. Law says, how

does his sacrifice perfect them? Mr. Grace says, it forgives their sins, blots them out, so that they are remembered no more. And when sin is removed perfection takes its place, for sin is what corrupts us.

Mr. Grace says there is another reason there is perfection under grace; when sinners believe the gospel they are baptized into Christ by the Spirit and when they are baptized into him they become identified with him so that what is true of him becomes true of them. If he is perfect then so are they.

Mr. Grace says there is another reason there is perfection under grace; Christ's perfect obedience to the law is put to the account of all those who are in Christ and the law cannot condemn a man who keeps the law perfectly.

Mr. Law then turns to Mr. Grace and says, it appears to me that Jesus Christ solves every problem we have run into in our journey. Mr. Law also says, why would anyone today turn to me to solve these problems? I can't solve a one, but Mr. Grace you have all the solutions and it's all in the same person, Jesus Christ. And so the best thing I can do is to go into permanent retirement. Mr. Grace says, as a matter of fact you went into retirement in 33AD when Christ abolished you at the cross. Mr. Grace says, the problem today is that men keep digging you up again thinking they can be saved and gain eternal life by keeping your commandments when they could have them free in Christ under grace.

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