

**WORDS OF GRACE SEASONED WITH SALT**  
***Bible Studies, Personal Opinions About Current And Future Events***  
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**False Assumptions Of Grace**  
**By Pastor Art Watkins**

Many theories and doctrines people believe today are in fact false, but they believe them to be true because of their wide acceptance and their longevity. People assume that if a large group of people believe a theory or doctrine is true, then it must be true. They assume that if a theory or doctrine has been taught for many years, then it must be true. They reason; how can it be false if so many people have believed it for so many years?

When it comes to Bible doctrine it is not safe to believe anything is true just because many people believe it's true or because it has been preached for many years. For many years many people believed the earth was flat. They claimed it was a "scientific fact" and very few questioned it. The majority of "scholars" and people believed it was a fact for many years. They actually taught that if you sailed too far out into the horizon you would fall off the earth. But, they were wrong. The same is true in the religious world. If a doctrine or theory has been accepted as fact by the "scholars" and by the majority of church members for many years, most people assume it must be true, especially if the man teaching it has letters behind his name like DD, PHD. (American's worship scholarship)

In this article, is a list of some of the doctrines and theories people assume to be true about grace, but are not. There are a large number of false assumptions that people have about grace. They assume things to be true of grace that are not true. They assume things not to be true of grace that are true. We will consider some of the major false assumption people have about grace

**Grace And Works**

If we are saved and secure by faith alone without works, what role if any does works have under grace? Does salvation and security by faith alone in Christ eliminate the need for works under grace? Many people assume that if salvation is not of works, that works have no place under grace. They attach works to those under the law and assume grace is freedom from work. And if you preach works under grace they say, you are putting people under the law or preaching salvation by works. But, what saith the scriptures? What does Paul the apostle of grace say about works under grace?

**We are not saved by works, but we are  
saved to work**

In Ephesians 2:8-9 he wrote: ***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.***

Most people stop reading at the end of verse 9 and as far as they are concerned these verses are the final word about works under grace. But, they ignore the next verse which says:

***Verse 10: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.***

The same Paul, who said we are not saved by works, also says we are saved to work. The same Paul, who said in verse 9 that salvation is not of works, also says we were created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Works are bad in verse 9, but they are good in verse 10. There are works God ordained us to do and created us for before the foundation of the world. This means salvation by grace does not exempt us from works under grace. Works are bad, when it comes to getting saved, but works are good after you are saved. God does not want you to work to get saved, but he expects you to go to work for him after you are saved.

Because we place such a heavy emphasis on the fact that we are not saved by works, many believers falsely assume that all works are bad. When works are preached in many churches they assume you are preaching works for salvation, so they reject any preaching about works. Consequently, we have a whole generation of believers who sit around doing nothing with their lives after they get saved. The word work is a dirty word to them. They think everything is free under grace and that God does everything for them. To them salvation is just a fire escape out of hell or a never ending trip to Disney Land. But, Paul says: we are *created in Christ Jesus unto good works*.

Paul describes the Christian life in terms of action and motion. We are told to walk in love, walk in light, walk worthy and to walk circumspectly. You can't sit down and walk at the same time. Walking requires motion. In other verses he says, we should run to win a prize. In another verse he says, we are racers. In another verse, we are wrestlers. In another verse, we are fighters. The only time he says we sit is when it comes to being saved. But, after we are saved our life should be in constant motion, working, moving, running, racing, fighting, wrestling and abounding in the work of the Lord.

The question we should ask ourselves is; what is the work God ordained me to do and created me for? In the same book where he says we are saved to work, he shows us the works we were saved to do.

In Ephesians 4:11-12 he wrote: ***And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.***

The work we are ordained to do in Ephesians 2:10 is found in Ephesians 4:12. It's called the work of the ministry. The work of the ministry is edifying the body of Christ which is the church. The job of edifying the church is not limited to Pastors and teachers. It's the job of all saints. No one is exempt. Everyone has a job to do in the church and no one is excused from work.

No matter if you are saved or not, you work for somebody. When you got saved you simply changed jobs. When you were lost, you worked for the devil and now that you are saved, you go to work for God. It's a full time job and God does not excuse anyone from work.

There is a verse of scripture that sums up the work our lives should be dedicated to. We are all called to do the work of the ministry, but this one verse sums up the work of the ministry. This one verse gives us a clear picture of the work we should spend our lives doing now that we are saved. In 1 Timothy 2:4 says: ***God will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.***

This verse that defines the will of God, also describes the work we were ordained to do before the foundation of the world. God will have all men to be saved; that's the job of evangelism. God will have all saved men to come into knowledge of the truth; that's the job of edification.

Sinners are evangelized by hearing and believing the gospel. They hear it, when we preach it. The only way we can possibly evangelize the people around us is by preaching the gospel to them. There is no other way. (See Romans 10:12-17)

The saints come into the knowledge of the truth by hearing and believing the word of God. They hear it from the Pastors, Teachers and Saints God placed in the local church. That is why every believer ought to be a member of a Bible believing church with Bible believing Preachers, Teachers and Saints. The work of the ministry is evangelism and edification and the life of every saint of God should be spent evangelizing the lost and edifying the saints. This is the work God ordained **YOU** to do before the foundation of the world in Ephesians 2:10.

#### **Other commands to work under grace**

Titus 2:7: ***In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works.***

Titus 2:14: ***Who (Christ) 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.***

In Titus 3:5 Paul said we are not saved by works of righteousness, but three verses later says, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works.

When it comes to salvation, grace and works don't mix according to Romans 11:6. But, when it comes to works after salvation, God expects his people to go to work for him. This is what James meant when he wrote: ***faith without works is dead*** in James 2:17. This what the Lord meant when he said in Matthew 5:16; ***Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***

This verse says that believers ought to be busy doing some type of good work that men can **SEE** which will cause them to glorify their Father in heaven. How about you? Are you doing some type of work that men can see with their eyes that causes them to praise and honor God? Are you doing something that would convince us that you are trying to evangelize the lost and edify the saints? This is the work God ordained for you to do before the foundation of the world.

**Our works as Christians will be judged; the good rewarded, the bad penalized.**

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 says: ***Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.***

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 says: ***Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.***

These verses show us the works we do in this life as Christians will be judged. The good will be rewarded and the bad penalized. The fact God will judge our works, shows us we are not exempt from work just because we live under grace as many assume. God expects and commands Christians to work under grace and he has promised to reward the good works we do in this life. The good works he will reward are those of 1 Timothy 2:4; evangelizing the lost and edifying the saints. If you dedicate your life and time to these two goals, God will see to it that you will be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ. But, if you want to spend your life in the pursuit of fun, wealth, prosperity, possessions, recreation, pleasure and ease, go ahead, but you will walk away from the Judgment seat of Christ empty handed and suffer the loss of rewards and blessings you could have had, if you have dedicated your life to the works of 1 Timothy 2:4.

### **The works we do reveal who we really are**

In the book of Titus, Paul has much to say about works. The word “work” appears 8 times in this short epistle. In Titus 1:15-16 he says our works betray us; that is, they reveal who we really are.

***Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.***

Paul warns about people who profess to know God with their mouth, but in works they deny the God they profess to know. Their works contradict what their mouth says. The works we do reveal who we really are. Our works are the true barometer of our faith and salvation. Calling yourself a Christian does not prove you are one; it's the works you do in this life that tells us if you are a real Christian or not.

In Acts 26:20: Paul told his converts: ***that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.***

The word *meet* means fitting or becoming. The works we do should be fitting or becoming of what we profess with our mouth. If we profess to be a Christian with our mouths, then our works should back it up. The works we do in this life is the true evidence of our salvation. If you were put on trial for being a Christian would your works convict you or acquit you? Would they prove you are a genuine Christian or just a pretender?

What does God say about works under grace? He says, we were created in Christ Jesus unto good works. He says, there are works he ordained us to do before the foundation of the world. He said, every saint of God has a duty and obligation to do the work of the ministry. The work of the ministry is evangelism and edification and our lives should be dedicated to those two causes till the second coming of Christ. He says, our works reveal who we really are and that God will judge both our good and bad works at the judgment seat of Christ.

### **Grace And Law**

If you listen to many Christians today you get the idea that all laws have been abolished and there are no laws binding on believers under grace. This is the assumption of the majority of Christians today. One reason they reach this false assumption is by reading verses such as Ephesians 2:15 which says; ***Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.***

It would appear from this verse that there are no laws under grace because it says, it's abolished. This verse convinces many people to believe that there are no laws under grace.

**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.**

These two verses agree with Ephesians 2:15. It says twice we are not under the law and it's because it is abolished in Eph. 2:15. It seems from these verses in Romans and Ephesians that there are no laws under grace for one verse says, it's abolished and the other says, we are not under the law.

But compare these verses with:

Romans 13:8-10 says: ***Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.***

It seems to be a contradiction in these verses. In Ephesians Paul says, the law is abolished, but in Romans 13 he says, we should keep it and obey it. Did Paul contradict himself?

In Romans 6:14-15 he said: ***for ye are not under the law, but under grace*** two times, but compare this with 1 Corinthians 9:20-21 where he said: ***And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.***

We know Paul did not lie, but how do you explain this seeming contradiction? In Romans 6, he says we are not under the law, but in 1 Corinthians 9 he says we are.

See again:

In Romans 7:22 he wrote; ***For I delight in the law of God after the inward man.*** In verse 25 he wrote: ***I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God.***

Paul rebuked the Galatians for serving the law in Gal. 4:9-10, but in these verses, he delighted in the law of God and served it himself. Why did Paul delight in the law when he said it was abolished? Why did he serve the law if he said, we are not under it? How do we answer these seeming contradictions?

The answer is; The law Paul said we should keep in Romans 13, which he served and obeyed in Romans 7, is called the Law of God, whereas the law that was abolished in Ephesians 2 and the law we are not under in Romans 6 is the Law of Moses.

The Law that was abolished in Ephesians 2:14-16 were the laws and ordinances God gave to Moses on Sinai concerning such things as: animal sacrifices, feast days, holy days, Sabbath days, dietary laws, temple worship and the priesthood. The Law of God

is the moral commandments of God that have been in force from the beginning and will never be abolished. They are the 9 moral laws of the 10 commandments. The law concerning the Sabbath day was a sign between Israel and God, (Exd. 31:14-17) but the other 9 are binding on all men in all ages.

The law of God is the law Paul said was holy, just, good and spiritual in Romans 7:12, 14.

It is the law he said we are under in 1 Corinthians 9:20-21, Galatians 6:2.

It's the law he served and delighted in according to Romans 7:22, 25.

It's the law that Christ said would never be destroyed and the one he kept and fulfilled in Matthew 5:17-18.

It's the law God commanded us to keep in Romans 13:8-10.

It's the law written in the hearts of men in Romans 2:14-16.

No one will ever be free from the law of God. No one will ever be free from the commandments that say;

\*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

\*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:

\*Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

\*Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Eph. 6:1-5)

\*Thou shalt not kill.

\*Thou shalt not commit adultery.

\*Thou shalt not steal.

\*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

\*Thou shalt not covet

These Laws were in force long before God gave the Law to Moses on Sinai. In the first book of the Bible God said in Genesis 26:5 concerning Abraham; ***Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.***

This was said to Abraham 100's of years before Moses went up on Mt. Sinai to receive his Law. The Law of God has from the beginning of the world been in force and will always be in force. No one has ever or will ever be free from the moral law of God contained in the 9 commandments. It is the duty of all God's creatures to obey this law. The creature is subject to his creator and we are all bound and obligated to keep his law.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 says: ***Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.***

Arthur W. Pink said this about the Law of God:

*Has human nature so improved, is man so much better than he was three thousand years ago, that he no longer stands in need of the Divine law? If the covenant people of old were required to have such statutes are the Gentiles of today any less self-sufficient? Are men now so little prone to idolatry that they need not the divine command; thou shalt have no other gods before me? Has the enmity of the carnal mind been so refined that it is no longer timely to say; thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain? Are the children of the 21 century A.D. so devoted to their parents that it is unnecessary to say to them; honour thy father and mother? Is human life now held in such reverence that it is idle to say thou shalt not kill? Has the marriage relationship come to be so sacredly regarded that thou shalt not commit adultery is an insult? And is there now so much honesty in the world that it is a waste of breath to remind men that God says thou shalt not steal? Rather is it not true that in the light of present conditions these commandments need to be thundered forth from every pulpit in the land?*

Don't ever assume that just because we are under grace that there are no laws under grace. The moral laws of God were not abolished when the Laws of Sinai were. The Law of God has and will always be binding on all men of all ages. So there is law under grace. It's the law of God.

\*Under grace the law serves as a guide to holy living because it defines sin. Sin is a transgression of the law of God according to 1 John 3:4. By keeping the law of God we keep ourselves from sin.

\*Under grace the law of God is a tool of evangelism for the law is a schoolmaster to bring men to Christ that they might be justified by faith according to Galatians 3:24. It exposes sin and condemns the sinner and until he sees he is condemned by the law he will never be saved by grace.

\*Under grace the law of God serves as a boundary to keep us in the will of God. It shows us how far we can go and when we have gone too far morally and spiritually. As long as we stay within the limits of the law we can maintain our morals and spirituality.

### **Grace Under Grace**

If you ask people today to define grace most will say, it's the unearned and undeserved favor and blessing of God bestowed upon sinners. Is this statement true or false? It's both. It's true today, but not under the law. All men have been saved by grace, but the way that men receive the grace and favor of God is different. There is a difference between Old and New Testament grace. We should never assume that under the law that grace was the free unearned favor and blessing of God.

Under Old Testament law, grace was not received the same way it is under the New Testament. Old Testament Grace was obtained by *faith and works*.

Psalms 84:11 says: ***For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.***

According to this verse, under the Law, God bestowed grace, glory, and favor upon those who *walked uprightly*. Grace was conditional upon the walk and behavior of the person God gave it to. If the person walked uprightly God was gracious unto him. If the person did not walk uprightly God withheld His grace from him.

Exodus 20:5-6 says: ***I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.***

Notice the way a man received the mercy and grace of God under the Law. He was required to love God and keep his commandments. If he met these conditions God was gracious and merciful to him.

A good example of Old Testament Grace is the salvation of Noah. Noah was saved from the flood by grace for Genesis 6:8 says; ***Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*** But, why did Noah find grace in the eyes of the Lord when the rest of the world perished? The next verse tells us why. Genesis 6:9 says: ***These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.***

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord because he walked uprightly, was a just man, perfect in his generations, and walked with God and loved God and kept his commandments. Even though he did not live under the Old Testament Law, the grace by which he was saved is typical of all those saved under the Law of the Old Testament.

In Ephesians 2:8-9 Paul defines grace today. He wrote: ***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.***

The grace that saves today is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. Men have always been saved by grace, but the grace hasn't always been the gift of God. Grace is God bestowing favor, blessing and salvation upon someone, but the grace hasn't always been unmerited or unearned as it is today.

The Gentiles in Ephesus are good examples of New Testament Grace. They were saved by grace according to Ephesians 2:8, but what kind of people were they when God saved them? Were they like Noah? No! They were just the opposite. Here is what Paul says about them in Ephesians 2:1-2:

***And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by***

***nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And according to Acts 19 they also worshipped idols.***

These are the kind of people God offers his grace to today. They did not earn, deserve, or merit the grace of God. They did not love God or keep the commandments and walk uprightly like Noah. God bestowed grace upon them freely and unconditionally in spite of their condition. There is no comparison between them and Noah. If they resembled anyone it was those God destroyed with the flood in Noah's day. Today, God is bestowing grace, favor and salvation upon men that in times past He destroyed.

Saving grace today is unmerited, unearned and undeserved, but what people need to understand is that it has not always been this way. It is a mistake to assume the grace in the Old Testament is the same as the grace of Ephesians 2:8-9. Ephesians 2:8-9 has not always been true. Don't read Ephesians 2:8-9 back under the law and don't read Psalms 84:11 and Exodus. 20:5-6 forward under grace.

Why is Ephesians 2:8-9 true today, but not true in time past? Why is grace the free unmerited favor of God bestowed upon undeserving sinners today? Because the cross abolished the Law of Moses. Ephesians 2:13-16 explains Ephesians 2:8-9. The reason he says we are not saved by works in Ephesians 2:8-9 is because the Law of Moses was abolished by the death of Christ in Ephesians 2:13-16. It says that: ***Christ abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances.***

And when God abolished the law he took the works out of salvation and made faith the only requirement to get saved.

That is why Paul said in Ephesians 2:9 that salvation is **not of works**.

That is why he said in Galatians 2:16: **For by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.**

That is why he said in Galatians 3:11: **But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.**

When Paul said salvation is not of works he means all works including all the works that churches and preachers and priests impose on men to be saved today.

Salvation by grace is not of works for when God abolished the Law he took the works out of salvation and made faith the only requirement to get saved.

All men have been saved by grace, but the grace has not always been the gift of God, not of works, as it is today and will be forever more. There are many churches today who preach grace, but the grace they preach is Old Testament grace. They teach men that they must earn the grace and favor of God today by keeping his commandments.

These people need to move away from the Law of Moses into the grace of God, where they will find grace as the free gift of God.

In salvation by grace, God did the work, you do the believing. God made the sacrifice, believe on the sacrifice and God will save you and keep you saved. If salvation is not of works, isn't it foolish for men to try and gain salvation by works? Why would a man seek to gain something by works when God offers it to him free?

### **Grace And Rewards**

Many Christians assume that everything is free under grace and that all Christians will receive the same rewards and crowns in the resurrection, regardless of their service to him in this life.

One writer says: "*Grace is a free gift system ... A SYSTEM OF UNCONDITIONAL BLESSING.... Under grace, blessings are fully given as a free gift....Grace is not against good works! It simply DOES NOT BLESS ON THE BASIS OF GOOD WORKS*".'

Another preacher says; "*That being in Christ and identified with Christ automatically entitles you to every blessing and promise under grace as a free gift.*"

What these two men teach is that under grace God gives us *all things freely* and all blessings under grace are *unconditional and free*. That under grace God does not bless or reward us according to our works or service to him. People love this teaching.

I am quoting these two men because this is typical of what many preachers and Christians believe about grace. They assume that if we are under grace, God must give us all things freely and unconditionally, otherwise they assume it is not grace. When they hear the word grace they think FREE. Why? The mistake that many of the brethren make is assuming that because salvation is free, *everything* is free. That is a leap in logic, but that is how they think. But it's not true. In the Pauline epistles, there are a number of promises, blessings and rewards that have conditions attached to them and if you don't meet the conditions, you will not receive them. They are earned by faithful service to the Lord.

### **A REWARD THAT IS CONDITIONAL**

In 1 Corinthians 3:13-14 Paul writing about the judgment seat of Christ said; ***Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.***

A reward is promised in these verses, but like all rewards it has a condition attached to it. Verse 14 says; *IF any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

God will try every man's work at the judgment seat of Christ and IF a man's works make it through the fire, he will receive a reward. This reward is not free, for it is conditional upon our work and service to him in this life. The apostle of the gentiles who preached the gospel and doctrines of grace till the day he died, plainly says that rewards given out at the judgment seat of Christ are conditional upon our works and service to the Lord in this life.

### **A HARVEST THAT IS CONDITIONAL**

In 2 Corinthians 9:6 Paul writing concerning giving said; ***But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.***

In writing about giving under grace, Paul compares it with the law of sowing and reaping. What a man sows, the same he will reap. When it comes to giving all Christians under grace will not reap the same harvest of blessings. Those who give sparingly will reap sparingly. Those who give bountifully will reap bountifully. The point is; bountiful blessings are conditional upon bountiful giving. Only those who give bountifully (in relation to their income) will reap bountifully.

### **AN ACCEPTANCE THAT IS CONDITIONAL**

In Colossians 1:22-23 Paul wrote that Christ would: ***present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: IF ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel.***

If these verses mean what they say, being presented holy and unblameable and unprovable in God's sight when Christ comes again is a conditional promise. The condition is in verse 23 which says; *IF ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel.*

### **AN INHERITANCE THAT IS CONDITIONAL**

In Colossians 3:23-24 Paul wrote; ***And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.***

The inheritance in this verse is called a reward. Rewards are earned by works. In this verse the reward of the inheritance will be given to those who serve the Lord Christ. It is not free, for it is conditional upon service. If you fail to serve the Lord Christ, you will not receive the reward of the inheritance.

### **A REIGN THAT IS CONDITIONAL**

In 2 Timothy 3:12 Paul wrote; ***All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.***

In 2 Tim.2:11-12 he said; ***For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.***

Those who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution, but *IF we suffer, we shall also reign with him.* Reigning with Christ is conditional upon suffering with Christ. The suffering that God will reward is the suffering you endure for Christ's sake in this world. Read carefully 2 Timothy 1:8, 2:9, 3:11, 4:14-17.

No amount of scripture juggling can get around this fact: to reign with Christ you must suffer for Christ. Living with Christ in verse 11 is free, but reigning with Christ in verse 12 isn't.

Contrary to what many believers assume, God does indeed bless on the basis of works and service under grace. These are just some examples of blessings and promises that

are all earned by works and service. Any man who says that ALL blessings and promises are free and unconditional under grace is preaching a false grace.

### ***The Dangers Of False Assumptions About Rewards Under Grace***

The false assumption that everything is free under grace and rewards are not conditional upon our service to the Lord in this life, promotes a life of apathy, carelessness, laziness, fruitlessness and carnality. It also steals blessings and rewards from the believer. If a believer is led to believe everything is free under grace he will fail to do the works necessary to gain the rewards, crowns, and blessings mentioned afore. If everything is free under grace as some teach, this means that carnal backslidden Christians who never served God will have the same rewards and crowns as the apostles and prophets and the martyrs who gave their life in service for the Lord. It would mean a man like Demas who forsook Paul will have as many rewards and crowns in the resurrection as Paul.

Be not deceived; Demas will not be rewarded as Paul will at the judgment seat of Christ.

### **Grace And Loss**

Many people have a false assumption that a believer cannot lose any blessing or promise under grace. If all blessings and promises are free and unconditional then, it only stands to reason that you could not lose any blessing or promise under grace. That is what many Christians and preachers assume. They assume that grace secures everything like salvation. But what does Paul the Apostle of grace say about the issue? Did he teach men that everything is secure and you cannot lose anything under grace? According to the scriptures there are many blessings, rewards and promises that are not free and have conditions attached to them. If they are conditional upon works and service, then they are not secure like salvation. This is why the apostles in their epistles warn us that we can suffer the loss of blessings and rewards under grace. God rewards faithful service to him and he penalizes a lack of service.

### **LOSS OF REWARDS**

In 1 Corinthians 3:13-14 Paul writing about the judgment seat of Christ said; ***Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.***

A reward is promised in these verses, but like all rewards it has a condition attached to it. Verse 14 says; *IF any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

But, this is not the end of the story because he goes on to say in 1 Corinthians 3:15: ***If any man's work shall be burned, HE SHALL SUFFER LOSS; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.***

The fact a man can suffer loss at the judgment seat of Christ shows us two things: Everything isn't free under grace and everything isn't secure under grace. God will reward good works at the judgment seat of Christ and he will penalize bad works too.

### **LOSS OF INHERITANCE**

In Colossians 3:23-24 Paul wrote; ***And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.***

The inheritance in this verse is called a reward. Rewards are earned by works. The reward of the inheritance will be given to those who serve the Lord Christ. It is not free, for it is conditional upon our service to the Lord in this life. But, this is not all Paul says about this reward. In the next verse he says: **But he that doeth wrong SHALL RECEIVE FOR THE WRONG WHICH HE HATH DONE: and there is no respect of persons.** Doing wrong in verse 25 is the opposite of doing right. Doing right in the context is serving the Lord Christ in verse 24. Those who do right by serving the Lord gain something. Those who do wrong by failing to serve the Lord lose something. The ones who serve the Lord will receive the reward of the inheritance. The ones who fail to serve the Lord will suffer the loss of the reward of the inheritance.

This inheritance is a reward and as a reward it is earned by works and service. If you fail to do the work or service required to receive it, you will be denied this reward. (Col.2:18)

Here is a sobering thought; those who win the reward of the inheritance will enjoy it forever. It is an eternal reward. But, those who suffer the loss of this reward will suffer that loss eternally. It will be an eternal loss.

### **LOSS OF A REIGN**

In 2 Timothy 3:12 Paul wrote; ***All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.***

In 2 Tim.2:11-12 he said; ***For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him.***

Those who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution, but *IF we suffer, we shall also reign with him.* Reigning with Christ is conditional upon suffering with Christ. The suffering that God will reward is the suffering you endure for Christ's sake in this world.

But, I quoted half on verse 12, for the last half says: ***If we deny him, HE ALSO WILL DENY US.***

When it comes to suffering in the last days many Christians will deny the Lord as Peter did to save their own neck. Those who do so will be denied the privilege of reigning throughout eternity with Christ. They will live with Christ because they died with Christ. Eternal life is free and guaranteed, but *reigning with Christ is conditional upon suffering.* If you deny the Lord to avoid suffering, he will deny you a reign.

Contrary to what many believers assume, God does bless and reward on the basis of works and our service to him in this life. There are many blessings and promises that are not free under grace. They are earned by works and service. And contrary to what many people assume many blessings and promises can be lost under grace. Writing about the reward in 1 Corinthians 3 Paul said: ***If any man's work shall be burned, HE SHALL SUFFER LOSS.*** Believers under grace can suffer loss and this is an eternal loss. If you lose this reward you cannot regain it. You will not have another chance to go back and win it. Salvation is free and secure, but many blessings and promises are not.

## **IT'S UP TO YOU**

There are blessings and rewards that can be won or lost under grace. It all depends upon the choices you make in this life. If you choose to spend your life in the pursuit of fun, wealth, prosperity, popularity, pleasure, recreation, ease, entertainment, go ahead, but don't expect to receive the reward of 1 Corinthians 3:14, or the inheritance of Colossians 3:24, or the privilege of reigning with Christ of 2 Timothy 2:12 and many other blessings.

## **Grace And Chastisement**

In this article thus far, we have examined the false assumptions people have about grace today. Many falsely assume, because salvation is free, everything is free under grace. They assume, because salvation is secure, everything is secure. They assume, because salvation is not by works, we are somehow exempt from works under grace. They assume, because we are under grace, there are no laws under grace. And they also falsely assume, because all sins are forgiven under grace, we are free from chastisement. Many people assume that God does not chastise believers under grace, because he has forgiven all their sins. But, what saith the scriptures?

\*Chastisement is for correction. In Proverbs 3:12 it says, ***For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth.*** Hebrews 12:6 says, ***For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth.***

The purpose of chastisement is correction. Some Christians are so hard headed and blinded by their sins and bad habits; they can't see that what they are doing is wrong. And many times the only way God can make them see what they are doing is wrong is to chastise them. He has to *"apply the board of education to the seat of learning."*

\*The flesh is not saved and is subject to temporal condemnation and chastisement. Concerning the Christian committing fornication at Corinth, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 5:5, ***To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*** His spirit was saved, but his flesh was destroyed.

\*God chastens believers he has forgiven under grace. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 says; ***Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, HIM SHALL GOD DESTROY; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.***

According to these verses, what will God do to the man that defiles the temple of God? Paul the apostle of grace said; ***him shall God destroy.*** Think about it: the same man who said in Colossians 2:13 that God forgives all trespasses says here in 1 Corinthians 3:17 God will destroy you if you defile the temple of God. See 1 Corinthians 5:5

1 Corinthians 5:4-5 says; ***In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the DESTRUCTION OF THE FLESH, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.***

What happened to this man who was committing fornication? He was delivered unto Satan for the destruction of his flesh. Was he a saved man? Yes. Was he under grace? Yes. Were all his trespasses forgiven? Yes. Did that keep him from being put to death for his sin? **NO!**

1 Corinthians 11:29-30 says; ***For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh DAMNATION to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are WEAK and SICKLY among you, and many SLEEP***".

Were the Corinthians in the body of Christ? Yes. Were they under grace? Yes. Were all their trespasses forgiven? Yes. Did they sin against God? Yes. What did God do to these saints under grace? He punished some with **weakness**. He punished some with **sickness**. He punished some with **death**. The apostle of grace says God will make you **weak** because of sin. God will make you **sick** because of sin. And God may even **kill** you because of sin.

1 Corinthians 11:31-34 says; ***For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, WE ARE CHASTENED OF THE LORD, that we should not be condemned with the world***".

According to Paul, what happens to believers under grace if they do not judge themselves when they sin? God judges them. What happens when God judges us for sin? It says, **WE ARE CHASTENED OF THE LORD.**

These verses plainly show us that God **chastens saints** he has forgiven. God **destroys believers** he has forgiven. God **kills believers** he has forgiven. God makes saints **weak** and **sick** that he has forgiven.

\*Christ did not die to save us from temporal condemnation and chastisement. He died to save us from eternal condemnation and punishment. Compare 1 Corinthians 11:29 with Romans 8:1. The condemnation in Corinthians is temporal, but in Romans it is eternal.

\*We can escape chastisement if we judge and confess our sins. ***For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged***

Hebrews 12:5-8: ***And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:***

***6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.***

***7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?***

***8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.***

***9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?***

**10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.**

**11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**

These verses tell us:

\*Chastisement is a sign of sonship for God chastises every son he receives - verse 6

\*God chastises us to correct us – verse 9

\*God chastises us for he loves us – verse 6

\*Chastisement profits us – 10

\*The fruit of chastisement is righteousness – verse 11

\*God chastises all of his sons without exception - verse 7

\*If God does not chastise you, then you are not a son of God – verse 8

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