

General Topics :: Grace

Grace, on: 2006/8/25 10:32

Grace

What is 'Grace!

I lived my life for twenty years (more) under the Law

I condemned myself through sin

Then I discovered Grace through Our Lord Jesus Christ

He became Grace by laying down his life

Because of my pride, I was unwilling to accept it

I would shrink back under the covering of darkness

In the Law or under it is self-condemnation

Under it is sin

He who walks in light (Grace) cannot sin

But I did sin! So sorry fellas, back you go to Stage two

I would reason like this (nothing wrong with reason, trying to work things out) I'm in the Light but I'm still sinning therefore I need the power not to sin. God's got to give me the power it's no good these great apostles or evangelists going on about not sinning all very well for them.

But I failed to realise. Sin can only operate where there is guilt. Sin can only operate where it is people living 'under the Law. From sin comes bondage (sin as a way of life)

If I truly accept the gift of grace I don't have to sin. It's not that I accept grace and then somehow look around for the strength to stop sinning (and condemning myself: the law means condemning yourself not only for specific sin but in general. Remember when you condemn yourself you slip back into the darkness). Grace means you don't have to sin. It's not necessary. It's not required.

Hang on! Who said it's necessary or required? Yes, under the law, once you are condemned you sin again. It never ends. Grace means it's no longer necessary.

But I still sin! Yes don't we all. But it means you don't accept Grace because if you did you wouldn't think that you still HAVE to sin. You don't HAVE to sin. You can stop it by realising (get this) you don't need it!

But it's part of me! No it's not. Sin is not you. It's the energy of the Devil running in you. Was Christ's sacrifice on the Cross for nothing then? The Cross can set you free or it can fall on you and bury you. It was too heavy for Christ to carry He stumbled several times.

I turned my back on Grace because I was used to condemning myself under the law. I lived under an iron unflexible law for twenty years (cult worship). Even I walked into Grace I would still step back into the darkness again. Grace means you accept that Christ died for you and set you free. It doesn't mean reading books. It means accepting a simple fact, Christ died so that you could be free. If you accept that simple fact (simple but not simple at all) you can be free. Like a mantle or a cloak dropping off. So simple I couldn't see it and would shrink back into the darkness, unable to comprehend the Light Of Life.

No, no Bible verses here. Not Necessary. You can read the Bible anytime. 'And the Light shone into the darkness (I John 1) and the darkness comprehended it not'.

You must understand I'm talking here about me. Not you. If it applies to you, that's great. Me in sin. Me in bondage. Me that was needing help.

If I truly understand and live in Grace I can forgive people. I don't have the desire to exact vengeance or hurt them or punish them (teach them a lesson). Christ didn't teach anyone a lesson. He laid down his life like a lamb.

'But I can't become a doormat'. Christ did. Christ became the bridge from darkness to light. From Law to Grace. From bondage to liberty.

But I need to sin. I have to sin. It's part of me. Ok. so carry on sinning then. But once you realise (and I'm still getting my teeth around this, it's huge) that you don't have to sin (not required) you can free yourself and walk in liberty. If you walk in sin, you are no longer under liberty. You're going back to stage two (The Law, Condemnation). Oh by the way. Stage One is the stage of being dead to God, asleep in your sins, no awareness at all. Destination of soul number one: hell. Guaranteed. That's not you. You wouldn't be reading this. Stage Two: awakened to your condition (sin) and under the condemnation of the Law. Stage three: grace.

The point I'm making is 'We don't have to sin'. If we do, it's a conscious decision we make to do so. But it's not necessary if the Lord is offering us Grace. I have seen myself walk away from Grace, preferring to live in darkness under the Law and sin, unforgiving spirit, vengeful attitude, pride, cold like a stone, despising myself for the way I am, condemning myself

If. Then I go back to Grace again, because it's no good living that way. Like going back to a house you used to live in. Not necessary. No longer required.

Get your teeth around that. It's a big one. Sin. No longer required. Thankyou but no thankyou. I'm moving on. It doesn't mean we have no sin it means we stop justifying it and making excuses for it. And we stop thinking we have no control over it because we are the ones who can choose where we live in darkness or light. We may have sin but we choose not to do it. You can say it's not a matter of choice but once you experience Grace it is.

Why did I write about this? I was condemning myself again. I found myself angry, resentful, pride. Unable to respond, unable to forgive. Then in the morning God dropped this huge granite block of Grace on the table in front of me and said 'Here. Get your teeth around this'. I cried. Wouldn't you? I'm still coming to terms with it. it may take some time!

Re: Grace - posted by mamaluk, on: 2006/8/25 10:48

Remember that great hymn "Grace greater than our sins(sin)"? Marvelous grace!

Thanks Carl, it's so heartily written, and what a great testimony, only that when you said, "No, no Bible verses here. *Not Necessary*. You can read the Bible anytime"

I have time, I have time, please allow me to impose some verses from Romans, hope you don't mind, for me, I need always embracing His Words, lest I forget the Word embedded with grace. Without the Bible, I find myself on sinking ground.

Romans 6

For he that is dead is **freed from sin**.

Being then made **free from sin**, ye became the servants of righteousness.

For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

But now being made **free from sin**, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me **free from the law of sin** and death.

Christ's Blood cleanses us, while His Cross **free us from the power of sin**, what grace, what grace!

How assuring these words are to me. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

thanks again Carl
mamaluk

Re: Your comments, on: 2006/8/25 10:59

Yes I agree, it's lovely to read His Word. The point I am making is, in the context or spirit of what I was writing, not to have (in a theological sense or pre-conceived idea) to be quoting the Bible every second minute yet not living by it. I loved your words and the verses you submitted!

Re: - posted by mamaluk, on: 2006/8/25 11:12

understood :) i'm only thankful and excited to wake up this morning to be reminded of Grace by your post

Re:, on: 2006/8/25 12:03

The word "Grace" is as the word "Abba". We can't humanly explain the fullness of the import of either word. Revelation of The Lord Jesus Christ is what is needed that we might have a glimpse.

Respectfully,

Orm

Re: - posted by mamaluk, on: 2006/8/25 12:31

"Grace is as the word Abba." ahh, good alignment.

Gracious Father, how endearing indeed !

For those of us who's in the bond of the SON of David, lets'echo

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely (Wow!!) goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Re:, on: 2006/8/25 13:13

Quote:

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I desperately want one of them....what's the price?

Re: - posted by mamaluk, on: 2006/8/25 13:48

Certainly, PRICELESS for us....while entirely tooooooooooo costly to the Father.

Re:, on: 2006/8/25 14:13

Grace is indeed free, to all. The sensitive will see it and rejoice. Those who receive it must learn to live IN it and BY it. Only the weak survive having SEEN it to EMBRACE it and that by revelation.

"Who for the JOY set before Him, endured the cross."...there will be pain.

As, by the means, the Father sent me, so send I you.... Here is my Joy---Here is the vision-- Here is my Grace.

In Him,

Orm

Re: - posted by mamaluk, on: 2006/8/25 14:47

Thanks Orm,while our Lord is so gracecious to me, how can I not carry His same grace to others.
I need to re-edit my prior post, lest I cause others to stumble.

Praise Him !

Re:, on: 2006/8/26 6:06

Quote:

mamaluk wrote:

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Praise Him !

Stumble?? Perhaps a little stumbling over truth might bring needed rectification to some.

"For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are **partakers of grace with me**". Philip. 1:7 (NASB-U)

Grace, Peace, Abba. Cannot the mystery of Christ Jesus, given to us, be seen in these words? Does not intimacy with the Father, solve the mystery?

Re: - posted by mamaluk, on: 2006/8/26 10:22

perfect quote from phil 1:7

i know, but the words i deleted in my earlier post carried a bad tone, that's what i meant when i said that i didnt want to cause anyone to stumble, for its really most appropriate to admonish or exhort ourselves with Scripture rather than our own words sometimes, especially the words that carry ungodly or misleading tone, the words i had to delete earlier

again, love to see this word GRACE early in the day, being reminded of such free and priceless grace,

Praise FATHER!

Re: Grace - posted by rookie (), on: 2006/8/26 10:30

Brother Carl wrote:

Quote:
-----The point I'm making is 'We don't have to sin'. If we do, it's a conscious decision we make to do so. But it's not necessary if the Lord is offering us Grace. I have seen myself walk away from Grace, preferring to live in darkness under the Law and sin, unforgiving spirit, vengeful attitude, pride, cold like a stone,

Would you share some testimonies of how Jesus delivered you from one of the situations above?

In Christ
Jeff

Re: Your request Jeff for Testimonies about how God delivered me, on: 2006/8/29 18:32

Dear Jeff
And everyone!

Actually I stuffed up. I said God delivered me but then as soon as I wrote the article Grace closed its doors. The point I am making is not getting rid of sin, but our attitude to it. That's where Grace opens its doors again. It's not the sin since we are all born under it. I thought the Lord had to press some magic button but in actual fact (or sprinkle me with some heavenly powder or slip something in my cup of tea) it's Grace that gives us the right perspective on things. This may sound like a cop-out, but sin can only operate where there is guilt. The Grace from the Lord can remove that guilt. He 'despised the shame, endured the Cross, and sat at the right hand of God'. Bondage can only operate under guilt. There is no condemnation of those who are in Christ Jesus. As long as when you sin you are doing so unwillingly, knowing it's wrong, praying for help, we can be delivered. Eventually (this is my theory) the desire to sin leaves us, like backing the wrong horse. If you were an evil spirit, would you keep trying on someone who keeps refusing? There's no joy in that.

Re: Grace, on: 2006/9/25 18:43

Grace is not mercy though mercy is contained within grace.

Strong's gives us a working definition of Grace.
The Divine influence on the heart and it's reflection out into life.

Couple this with what Paul said of grace in
Titus 2:11,12 For the grace of God has appeared to all men TEACHING US that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live Godly and soberly.

Grace is DIVINE POWER injected into the believers life.

God bless, John

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2006/9/26 4:06

Brother John wrote;

Quote:

-----Grace is not mercy though mercy is contained within grace.

Amen

In Christ

Jeff

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2006/9/26 4:23

The psalmist writes:

Psa. 119:175 Let my soul live, and it shall praise You;
And let Your judgments help me.

Psa. 119:156 Great are Your tender mercies, O LORD;
Revive me according to Your judgments.

Psa. 119:108 Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD,
And teach me Your judgments.

Psa. 119:102 I have not departed from Your judgments,
For You Yourself have taught me.

Psa. 119:75 I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right,
And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

Psa. 119:20 My soul breaks with longing
For Your judgments at all times.

What has the Lord taught the psalmist?

What is the result of God's work in the psalmist?

Finally, is this an example of the law or of grace?

In Christ

Jeff

Re:, on: 2006/9/26 5:40

That God's judgments are true.

He longs for God's judgments at all times.

I will say both.

What do you say?

God bless, John

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2006/9/27 0:57

I believe these Scriptures speak of a personal relationship between the psalmist and God. If one reads Psalm 119 you will see many more aspects of what it means to have a relationship with God.

If God does not speak what can man do? If God does not correct how can man know what grieves God. I believe this to be grace. The law condemns, but grace has its impact on the ways of man.

I brought this idea up to speak to the idea of guilt. Many times we attribute condemnation from Satan. Yet, I have not heard of many attribute the work of the Holy Spirit speaking to the hearts of men.

James 4:5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

In this section of Scripture James is identifying the source for which the congregation is stumbling.

How are we to know our heart as God sees it unless the Spirit reveals it to us?

In Christ
Jeff