

Just A Minute with Scripture

The Gospel of Christ

The Galatians were taught by Paul during his first apostolic journey. They responded in faith to Scripture and 'ran well' (*Gal.5:7*) in this grace doctrine, the gospel of Christ. However, legalists turned them aside from the Truth and they went back under the law: *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel."* (*Galatians 1:6*)

Many Christians today do not clearly see Paul's unique doctrine of grace, forming the Church the Body of Christ. He fully reveals this Mystery or dispensation of grace in his epistles, *Romans-Philemon*. Misinformed and blinded saints don't understand the distinction between Israel's earthly Kingdom program and the Body of Christ, believing they're spiritual Israel. They claim many of Israel's doctrines, prophecies, and promises from the Old Testament and Gospels. When they do this, Satan is able to use this false teaching to turn them aside. Saints should be careful to know how God is dealing with man over time, realizing the context, rightly dividing the Word. (*II Tim. 2:15*) Otherwise they will be put under the Nation Israel's teachings (the Law), just like the Galatians, mixing doctrines that were written to the Jews, with Paul's instructions specifically for/to the Body of Christ.

Paul warned the Galatians to *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."* (*Gal. 5:1*) He then had to re-form Christ in their inner man. (*Galatians 4:19*)

Reflect: Where are you in your understanding? Can you discern between what God instructed His Nation and Paul's teaching to the Body of Christ? Read and meditate on *Romans 9-11* to make this doctrine your own and clarify how God set Israel aside for a time to form the Body during this present dispensation of grace. Call if we can help you.

Women's Conference

Saturday, March 16, 2024

Topic: Attributes of God

Mark your calendar and join us for a good time of study and fellowship!

Location: Fellowship Bible Church, Orlando, Florida

Call/Text Sue at
(804)690-6789

Feel free to call if you have questions with any articles.

Are You Bound For Heaven?

God greatly loves each person and desires them to be justified and grow: *"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."* (*I Tim. 2:4*)

Simply believe: Christ died for your sins, He was buried, and rose again. (*I Cor. 15:3-4*) God made it simple: Believe that He died for you! It is by faith alone. **The blood of Christ paid it all!**

Study Tools With Practical Study Ideas: Ephesians 2



Read *Ephesians 2* and then apply the study help below, taken from the book "Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools."

Ask yourself questions: As you progress through a passage, think, meditate, and pray about what it is teaching and how to apply it. Use the 'Who, what, when, where, why, and how approach' to analyze a verse.

a) Verse 3: "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."

An example of questions to think on and answer: Do I recall my behavior and thinking before I was saved? Did I realize I was walking as a child of wrath? Could I still be walk-

ing this way, serving Satan, though I am saved, "fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind?" How can I yield to God when I realize I am fulfilling the lusts of my flesh? To Do: Read *Romans 6-8* to help you understand your sanctified walk in grace.

b) Verses 4-6: "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 hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

Questions to consider and ponder: How does God's love help the unsaved? What does 'quickened' mean? When is a person raised up to sit with Christ in heaven?

"...the gospel which was preached of me is not after man." Galatians 1:11

Questions & Answers With Deborah

Why does my whole day go amiss when one bad thing happens?

Sometimes a saint can allow a challenge of life to derail them. What's happening? You may be exalting this one issue in your mind, becoming anxious, over-focusing on it. However, it does not need to define your day, nor how you think. Allow the Spirit to lead and "set your affections (issues you care about) on things above." (Col. 3:2)

When your daily life is disrupted by a problem, its momentum can spiral you into fear and anxiety. You want the challenges gone so you can get back into a balance or to a good place.

Consider that you may keep an invisible, protective bubble of expectations, shielding yourself from bad things, as a 'god protecting your own world.' The goal would be to control problems in life. God's design is for us to trust Him, not to keep things perfect or controlled in life. This can be a form of legalism. Think on this! (Continued)

Has Legalism Affected You? Be Aware!

Years ago I thought that once a saint was justified, he would no longer live under the law: 'Of course not, he's saved, and a rightly divider.' Well, this was clearly, faulty thinking. *Galatians* is a witness that saints can function under the Law, and "...another gospel. Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." (Gal. 1:6b-7) Others pulled them aside with a perversion; here it was legalism. We can conclude and be aware that any of us can function under the law.

So then, do you put others under the law? What does this even mean? It's having a standard of behavior (what's acceptable and unacceptable) and holding others responsible to live it. You have a positive response if they obey and inflict a penalty when they live outside the rules. Some things are blatantly legalistic and others are much more subtle. This is NOT grace.

A rightly dividing saint can put fellow Church members under the law: 'If they help clean up after the service, I will invite them out to eat, and if not, I will shun them, not extending an invitation for lunch.' A husband and wife may put each other under a performance system, though they know Pauline Truth. Husband: 'If she cleans the house and has the kids fed and in bed, then I will be in a good mood when I get home; if not, I will ignore her or point out ways she does not measure up.' Wife: 'If he notices and comments on my new outfit and haircut, I'll be affectionate. If not, I'll give him the silent treatment.' Note: We may not even be aware that we are doing this to others. Can you see this in yourself?

Consider: Be self-aware! Until you learn to apply what Paul teaches in *Romans 6, 7, and 8*, legalism will be your default. "Stand fast in the liberty..." (Gal. 5:1) Now, do others place you under their expectations? (This issue of legalism is continued on page 4.)



Galatians 1:15b-16: *“But when it pleased God, who...called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.”*

Called By His Grace

Being ‘called by His grace’ seems to relay God sending a message to man by His Word, inviting a faith response. Paul was called (*Gal. 1:15-16*) by God. It was an unmerited offer of His grace gospel to be justified (saved) and given the free gift of eternal life. Paul’s response was immediate: *“And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”* (*Acts 9:6a*) He was also called to function in an office, the Apostle of the Gentiles: *“...the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”* (*Acts 13:2b*)

All individuals in every nation are called by the gospel to believe what Christ did on the cross: *“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation (fully satisfying sacrifice) through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.”* (*Rom. 3:25*) As we believe, we are saved from wrath (justified) and *“called to be saints.”* We have the privilege and empowerment to walk as *“sons”* (adult believers) of God the Father. (*Romans 8:14-17*)

Saints are then *“the called of Jesus Christ,”* having a wonderful position and relationship ‘in the Lord Jesus Christ:’ *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”* (*Rom. 6:3*) Therefore, we were placed into the Body of Christ: *“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another,”* (*Romans 12:5*)

“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” (*I Cor. 1:9*) The specific purpose or goal is to walk in this sanctified, holy position. We are each unique, individual members of His Body, with an opportunity for interactive fellowship by the Spirit according to His Word, in ministry, members one of another. **What will you do with this great privilege and opportunity? You have great choices!**

Questions & Answers

With Deborah

We live in a sin-cursed world; expect that nothing will be perfect. Actually, we’re to expect problems and know we can’t maintain our bubble. Trust God and ‘go with the flow of life.’ Don’t fight it; trust God. Apply the doctrine, even in difficulties. Rely on God’s power and wisdom: *“But we have the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead.”* (*II Corinthians 1:9*)

Choose to step away from trying to keep your own law (bubble). Don’t allow circumstances or feelings to determine your day. Focus above and on sound doctrine. Pray without ceasing, walking by faith as a living sacrifice, thankful in the midst of difficulties as God’s servant and ambassador: *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.”* (*II Corinthians 4:7*)

2. Can you share a few helpful resources? These are a variety of ministries. You can support them with your prayers, yet financial help is always welcome.

a) Fellowship Bible Church in Orlando: Fred Bekemeyer pastors this ministry with Hal Bekemeyer and Joel Hayes. Drop by for a visit. Joel orchestrates the Grace Life Podcast. Check out all their resources and teachings as their website: fellowshipbiblechurchorlando.com

b) Mid Acts Pauline Bible Conferences and Functions on Facebook: Sharon McEntee’s unique ministry provides access to many resources, Churches, Conferences, Bible studies, etc., listing opportunities for learning/fellowship in the USA and around the world. She has compiled a directory: <http://easybeliever.com/meetups.html>

c) Princeton Waters works with Richard Church through Gracebeyondborders.com GBBI: Princeton lives in Nigeria and rejoices to hold forth the Word, rightly divided to others. He experiences great persecution where he pastors a Church. This past October several conferences were held in N. Nigeria in Jos, but also in the South, Lagos, holding forth the Word rightly divided. Contact/Support Info: Private message Princeton Waters on Facebook or through Grace Beyond Borders.

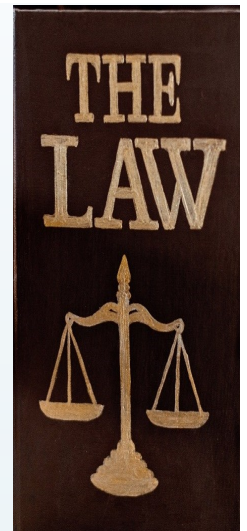
Stepping Out From Under the Law

Do others place you under the law, that is, hold you to 'their' standard of behavior and then deal out subtle consequences? Most of us do this as we all have the same flesh, which, even when we're saved, never changes. Yet our privilege is to live Christ. Take responsibility to be aware and yield to sound doctrine. We don't 'have to' be a victim. Let God work in you to be who you are in Christ. Our Father has justified us by His grace, and by this grace has also sanctified us to live a holy life. If we allow Satan and the course of this world to rule us, we become victimized by his doctrine. It is the Lord *"Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father."* (Gal. 1:4) Step out from under his ways and the law, so grace can reign.

Let us reflect: No one can actually put us under their law without our consent, just like no one can make us mad. We are responsible for how we respond, but more, what we choose to think about in our mind: things of this world or sound doctrine. (Rom. 6:6) We can get angry and bitter at someone for putting us under their law, but respond in love. Recall that it is also our default to function with ourselves and others in legalism until we have a renewed mind in how to apply grace. (Rom. 12:2) Simply make a different choice (Rom. 6) to respond in grace and don't allow Satan to lead anymore. (Ephesians 2:2)

Some might say, 'Easier said than done. How?' When you notice someone putting you under their expectations, stop and yield. Pray to allow the Spirit to stir sound doctrine in your inner man. Reflect on how grace and love can work to clarify choices and set a boundary. Kindly, but assertively, set boundaries as you become aware of legalism and choose to respond patiently with others in love. Allow this grace system of functioning to rule. *"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."* (Rom. 5:21) Be self-aware of your thinking. Remind yourself that you're under God's grace and free. Access His wisdom and power (sound doctrine in you) to walk by faith.

Examples: 1) Your boss tells you he will pick you up for a work conference and to be ready at 7 A.M. (Expectation) Since you have a conflicting responsibility, before responding you stop to think and pray. Then, allow the doctrine to work. Express your apologies and set parameters (Boundaries) as to how you can still join him, meeting up at the conference. **2)** Your friend becomes verbally abusive, yelling to over-power you to do what he desires. (Expectations) You pause for reflection and pray. Then in kindness, yet firmly, express that you feel intimidated when he yells, telling him that raising his voice is not okay. You ask him to communicate in a more respectful way. (Boundary) Can these help you?



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