

# North Christian Church -

## Pastor Ed Collins

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11/22/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works -  
Part 23

### **Deacon Johnson**

*"I'd rather be pummeled by hard lessons, by grace, than have my feelings stroked. I'd rather walk out of here a little sore than artificially uplifted. God knows what I need."*

### **Tammy Collins**

*"I was thinking about our conversation regarding how God the Holy Spirit has you teach the tough lessons as I was reading Heb 12:11-12 on the subject. Our God is pouring out His magnificent grace on us!"*

### **Rev 3:18**

*I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.*

### **When Sheep Minister To the Shepherd**

Text: "Rom 8:18 - praying for your heart today"

### **The Value of the Minister**

Sometimes you're just so weary that God provides another person to reach into the jar of medicine (e.g.: eye salve - Rev 3:18) and apply it for you. (e.g.: Mt 4:11; Php 2:25-30; Gal 6:6-10)

### **Mt 4:11**

*Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.*

### **James 4:7**

*Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

### **The Value of the Minister**

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If you're going to follow the Lord's command of the Great Commission, and be a

good soldier of Christ paying attention to the little things, you will become tired at times, but don't grow weary (despair)! It's wonderful in God's eyes, and He will provide for you. Gal 6:9-10

### **Yes YOU**

BE OPEN to what the Spirit is convicting you of, each and every day. BE SENSITIVE to His leadings. That takes a certain humility in your daily relationship with Him.

### **Ministering Spiritual Nourishment**

Man doesn't live on bread alone. How powerful is an emaciated man, even if, when totally healthy, is a force to be reckoned with??? The distracted man is the starving man.

### **Definition of Temptation:**

ANYTHING that takes one of God's children away from His will for them (good, bad, or ugly). For example, if you become a slave to the blessing, rather than the One who blesses, consider yourself as having fallen. However, do not despair (Lam 3:22-23; Pro 24:16).

### **Lam 3:22-23**

*The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,  
For His compassions never fail.*

*They are new every morning;*

*Great is Your faithfulness.*

While grace isn't a license to sin, it is most definitely an opportunity to stand back up!

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### **1 Thess 4:13**

*But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.*

### **Wisdom**

There's a big difference between walking in darkness and walking in the Light. In darkness (as an unbeliever), you are blind; whereas, in the Light, you can see, even though you may trip/stumble from time to time (fall to temptation).

### **Wisdom**

Notice that believers "walk" (Eph 5:15) - not always "wisely", but nonetheless, they

have been made ABLE to walk. Walking in the light is IMPOSSIBLE for an unbeliever (1Jn 1:5-7). Paul could have NEVER written Eph 5 to unbelievers and expected it to settle into their souls with any real meaning.

### **A "Professional" Christian**

Professionals care about the little things; in fact that's what makes them good professionals, in any field. That's part of what makes a "good soldier" for Christ (2Ti 2:3-4).

### **A "Professional" Christian**

God's desire is that we become increasingly professional, as representatives of His Son.

#### **Pro 4:23-24 [Message]**

*Keep vigilant watch over your heart;  
that's where life starts.*

*Don't talk out of both sides of your mouth;  
avoid careless banter, white lies, and gossip.*

#### **Pro 4:25-27 [Message]**

*Keep your eyes straight ahead;  
ignore all sideshow distractions.*

*Watch your step,  
and the road will stretch out smooth before you.*

*Look neither right nor left;  
leave evil in the dust.*

#### **Deu 8:3**

*"He humbled [ana (Hebrew) - to oppress, humiliate] you and let you be hungry...that He might make you understand." God uses whatever means necessary to impress His will/purpose upon man's heart, whether it is accommodating to man's sensibilities, or not - this is TRUE GRACE!*

#### **Grace**

God will humble us if we aren't already humbled. This is grace that is designed to produce something (humility) that opens us up to even more grace, and so on. (ala Mt 13:12; Jas 4:6)

#### **Grace Isn't Always "nice"**

Man has pigeonholed grace into a one-sided thing, where it is defined as all things that accommodate man's predisposition about God's benevolence towards His creatures. These are the inventions of man's flesh.

#### **Let's be thankful!**

What a wonderful Father we have above. Even though we can't see the end results as we go through the tough lessons, look how far He has taken us.