

# North Christian Church -

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10/11/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works -

### Part 6

#### **Grace**

Man needs to be reconciled to the perfect, Holy God. God does not need to be reconciled to man. Yet, today's so-called "grace gospel" supposes that God is on His knees begging man to "let Him save them". Truth: man ought to be on his knees with a contrite heart, begging God to save him.

#### **"You did not choose Me but I chose you"**

This statement from Jesus (Jn 15:16), in accordance with His Father's election of believers, stands as the antithesis to and indictment of today's so-called "grace gospel". God chooses who He wants in His family, we do not put God on trial and choose if He can be a part of "ours". (Eph 1:3-6)

#### **Anti-Grace**

God is not our puppet. He did not give us the Bible so that we might try to make Him one (though some do). God is not an attorney (like Satan) trying to "argue His case", He is judge and jury. We may propose to "choose" Him all we want, but if He doesn't choose us, we aren't saved.

#### **Grace**

If God is the One who grants repentance, belief, and faith that saves, how can man possibly choose to be saved? He cannot. It is by grace alone that God saves man. He is looking for a contrite heart. This is the immensity and fullness of true grace.

#### **Jesus' Grace Gospel**

The true Gospel places the onus on humility. False gospels often place the onus on man's ability to repent/believe/have saving faith, but these, as scripture says, are GIFTS from God!!! "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (Jn 6:44).

#### **Anti-Grace**

Anti-authority is anti-grace, you see. Anti-authority likes to put God on trial (or any

one of His delegates). It assumes the posture of judge and jury. Nowhere is this more fundamentally damaging than with the Gospel! False gospels put man in charge.

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### **"draws"**

from helko - Strong's Concordance: drag, draw, pull, persuade, unsheathe; in context, refers to God's design for salvation by grace - even the initial "coming to Jesus" (Jn 6:44) is a gracious provision from our sovereign God (ala Eph 2:8-9).

### **God's grace in salvation**

Let's give God ALL the credit here. It's all to "the praise of the glory of His grace", Eph 1:6. It's all HIS DOING.

### **Salvation Is God's Choice...**

...not Man's. God chooses to save those who He desires. Man does not say to God, "I believe, therefore, you must save me!" God is not submissive to man's free will. God sees the heart of man and chooses to save the humble, for He loves a contrite heart. (Psa 51:17; Isa 57:15; 66:2; Jer 44:10; Jn 14:23; Eph 2:8-9; Jas 4:6; 1Pe 5:5)

### **Psa 51:17**

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.*

### **1Pe 5:5**

*You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.*

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### **Efficacious Grace**

God loves a contrite heart and so gives grace to the humble. EVERY component of salvation is completed by the efficacious grace of God. That leaves man in the "starter state" of humility or arrogance regarding sin and the need for a savior.

### **Efficacious Grace Rejected**

The Pharisees are a great example of people refusing to believe the Holy Spirit of God! The Holy Spirit will press into a person regarding the sin issue. If a person responds humbly, the Spirit will impress upon them their need for the Savior.

Contrarily, if a person responds arrogantly, they blaspheme the Spirit (call Him a liar). (Mt 12:30-37; Heb 10:29)

### **Efficacious Grace Received**

When God chooses to save someone (actually, it's already completed from God's perspective, I speak as a man), His Spirit baptizes them into union with His Son. He makes the believer a "new creature", totally changed, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, whose ministry expands tremendously for that person. (ref: Ro 8:9-11; 1Co 3:16; 2Ti 1:14)

### **Efficacious Grace**

Instead of asking the wrong question, "Will a believer produce fruit?", ask the right question, which is, "Why wouldn't they, especially since Jesus, Himself, said they would???"

### **Efficacious Grace**

"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive" (1Co 15:22) - "alive" is not merely a judicial reality, it is a whole-person reality - a person is "made new"! "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life" (Jn 5:24).

### **"passed out of"**

from metabaino - Strong's Concordance: to change my place (abode), leave, depart, remove, pass over; in context (Jn 5:24), refers to a complete change from the dominion of sin (sin is lord) to the dominion of righteousness (Christ is Lord). This speaks to God's saving work.

### **Grace and Works**

It's impossible to understand "works" in the Bible if your concept of grace is limited. A limited viewpoint means a limited perspective, which can only lead to confusion. This confusion is NOT from God (1Co 14:33), nor is any pain involved in extracting it the "surgeon's" fault.

### **Grace and Works**

For example, if your version of "grace" leaves out something as fundamental as repentance, you are forced to assume it is a "work of man" if someone else assumes it to be a part of the Gospel. This is to say that God's grace somehow doesn't cover repentance.

### **Grace and Works**

Anytime God's grace is reduced in scope and effect, it actually perverts the Gospel of Jesus Christ, manufacturing a different "gospel". This false gospel may proclaim "grace" because it is more accommodating, but it's a deceptive trap.

### **Grace and Works**

The only way man is ever able to produce any good works is by the grace of God. When Jesus and His disciples said, "Repent!", it was a call to God's grace. Man's job has always been to accept this as God's will. When this happens, God grants it, by grace (Ac 11:18; 2Ti 2:25; 2Pe 3:9).

**2Ti 2:25**

*with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,*

**2Pe 3:9**

*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

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**Grace and Works**

Good works are the result of being saved; being saved is never the result of works. Since it's impossible to be saved without repentance, repentance must be a grace gift from God, not a work of man. And this is absolutely true.

**Grace and Works**

If your version of "grace" doesn't include all facets of God's plan for salvation, then your Gospel is surely suspect. By grace, God reveals fallen man's darkness/sin to the unbeliever, for that man cannot see out of darkness. Only the Light from God can illumine/quicken man's perspective, by grace. This is the beginning of God's plan for salvation.