

North Christian Church -

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10/25/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works -

Part 12

Rev 3:17

'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

Humility

"I want to, but I know that I am unable." This is what true humility looks like in its rawest form. "The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith" (Lk 17:5)!

Mt 26:42

He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

"Your will be done"

This is the sign of a truly humble heart that has been given faith. It is evidenced when two hearts agree/confess the same thing. Since God is immutable (never changes), it is man whose faith is reconciled to God. (ref: Mt 26:42; 6:10)

Eph 6:5-6 NIV

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

"Your will be done"

The Word tells us that we believers are predestined, "called for this purpose" (1Pe 2:21), to orient to the Sovereign God of the universe. We are born DISoriented, therefore, we must seek orientation.

Authority-Orientation

Orientation to the Sovereign God of the Universe implies authority-orientation. The very relationship demands a Master-slave paradigm - it's an intrinsic fact.

Divine Purpose in Suffering and Obedience

We take heart in the fact that Suffering has a greater purpose than what's on the

surface, and in fact, there are good eternal ramifications we contribute to, all by obedience to His will. Gal 6:9

Divine Purpose in Suffering and Obedience

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. Gal 6:9

1Pe 2:24

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

"Grace and Works"

Grace is foundational to authority-orientation since authority-orientation is a good work of faith!

"Grace and Works"

Receiving God's grace is a 'respect for authority issue'. Authority-orientation, itself, is a grace gift! Obedience results in receiving more grace. This is a key element of the doctrine of "grace upon grace" that commences with salvation (Jn 1:16; Mt 13:12, etc.).

Sovereignty

Sovereignty comes down to "who has the rights". Unless God has given you rights, you have none. For example, no man has ever been given the right to put God on trial, or challenge His authority. This is why we say something is "unrighteous" (un-right) - it's because the perpetrator does not have the right to do what they are doing!

UNrighteousness (not right)

The last thing we need to do is encourage the flesh in others, especially regarding salvation. A dead man that thinks he can do something good is gravely mistaken. They are truly deceived. "Life", itself, has been counterfeited! The Bible describes unbelievers as "unrighteous" because their works are not right - they are not alive, they are dead!

Born Un-right (in unrighteousness)

The Bible describes an unbeliever as being "dead in their sins" (Eph 2:1).

Two Gospel Perversions

People talk about "adding to salvation" (faith + works = salvation), pointing to legalism. But, how often does anyone talk about the other Gospel perversion, "subtracting from salvation" (faith - [God's] works = salvation), pointing to religions that actually SUBTRACT some of God's grace in saving man? (Deu 4:2)

The "other" Gospel Perversion

If a person isn't willing to submit/surrender to the Lord at salvation, and doesn't want to give up his self life, to avoid keeping His commands, well...where is this person's heart at?

The "other" Gospel Perversion

This theology, "subtracting from salvation", supposes that God actually does LESS than He does when He saves a person.

Perversion Means Unrighteousness

Anytime we misappropriate Holy Scripture, it is no longer holy. In fact, we have taken something perfect and perverted it. Since God's Word is perfect, the perversion is not. Any derivative of such a perversion is also no longer righteous.

Gospel Perversions

God will NEVER pervert His own Word! There's only ONE way that verbal plenary scripture "fits", and that is HIS way. Any rearrangement of scripture immediately leaves the effort up to man, hence it is a "work" of man. This work often begins with subtracting from the Gospel and completes with the consummation of a perverted theology.

Two Gospel Perversions

The only difference between the "adding to salvation" perversion and the "subtracting from salvation" one is the timing of the flesh's own "works". The prior injects human works at the point of salvation, the latter injects them later. Both perversions are UNrighteous because man NEVER has the right to supplant God's grace in any good work, before or after salvation.

God's grace, when received in humility at salvation, CHANGES people, and it does not allow people to stay in the slavery of sin, under its domain and power. To say God's grace doesn't change people is an attack on the Spirit. Tit 2:11-14, Jude 3-4

Two Gospel Perversions

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"for good works"

When God saves a person, He "creates" them "in Christ Jesus" for the purpose of "good works" (Eph 2:10). Believers are "born again" (Jn 3:3), created as "new creatures" (2Co 5:17) that are forevermore inclined to abide in righteousness (having eternal life, itself).

The Flesh Merely "on hold"

By subtracting from God's plan for salvation, Satan has managed to propagate a perverted gospel, where "believers" are saved from the penalty of sin, but nothing practical. It supposes that man later decides, for himself (as if he has the right), on the issue of the sovereignty of sin. If this were true, God didn't really "save" them from sin, itself.

Faith & Obedience

When someone obeys the Gospel, they are granted the obedience that accompanies the gospel, and therefore produce good fruit for the Lord by walking in His steps. Joh 3:36, Rom 1:5, 16:25-27, 2Co 9:13

Faith & Obedience

Paul says that unbelievers are called to the obedience that comes from faith.

Obedience accompanies true saving faith because surrender to Jesus as Lord, not just Savior, is involved.