

North Christian Church -

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9/29/16 - The "Difficult" Passages - Grace and Works

The Gospel

The good news about God's plan to save us FROM SIN. We are not "saved from Hell", strictly speaking, as that is not the key problem statement. We are not born "in Hell", we are born "in sin". If we don't accept God's grace, we will "die in our sins" (Jn 8:24).

Misdirection

Satan has done a masterful job of sowing misdirection, even from pulpits, resulting in folks "asking the wrong questions!" The question we ought to be asking folks is "WHAT do you believe?", not "DO you believe?" The focus of contemporary Christianity is WRONG!!!

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Jesus and Grace

The Bible does not record Jesus, in His incarnation, as using the word "grace". Does this mean we ought to suppose the Creator of the Universe doesn't understand grace? As the Spirit's been teaching us, we ought never hang our hats on word-studies in the Bible.

Learning Grace

Ask yourselves, who did Jesus' disciples learn grace from, including Paul? Answer: JESUS!!! To suggest that Jesus somehow didn't teach grace is to suggest that His own disciples invented it on their own.

The Holy Spirit

Jesus promised His Spirit to His own. That is grace. His Spirit teaches and reminds His disciples of Jesus' words. That is grace. The "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal 5:22-23) includes peace (v27). That is grace. The Spirit and Jesus share the same objectives.

True Grace

Jesus didn't just teach grace, He embodied it. He is the representative work of grace in the flesh. He is our prototype "end goal" concerning our own maturity towards grace (Jn 1:14; Ro 8:29a).