



Gospel of Grace

Most people who embrace Christianity as their belief system and attend a church have never heard the true Gospel. You might be in shock to read that, but it's true. They probably heard enough to receive salvation (the born again experience) and are very sincere Christ followers, but they are like terrene chickens instead of soaring eagles. Before you know it, wrong believing will bring wrong results and wrong results will cause wrong living.

They might have a very sincere heart towards God, but it's not according to knowledge. In other words, they might have great intentions to follow the one true God with all their hearts, but they have the wrong mindset, wrong doctrine, and relate to God in a way that is causing them more frustration and heavy burdens than it is the fruits of the spirit and the promises of God in their life. They might have a smiley face on the outside and their Bible under their arm, but on the inside their heart is screaming for someone to take away such a heavy burden caused by self-righteousness and self-sacrifice.

Firstly, the word *gospel* comes from the Greek word *euaggelion* and it means, “too-good-to-be-true news.” In other words, it is awesome news with no catch. The Apostle Paul used this word interchangeably with the word *grace*. The word *grace* means, “The unmerited favor of God.” In other words, you receive something really good, you don't deserve.

Acts 20:24

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.”

Grace is the Gospel! It is not a Gospel, but the only Gospel in the New Testament.

The Gospel of Grace is the awesome news of God's **unmerited favor, undeserved love, unearned blessing** by revealing the lovely person of Christ and His perfect work at the cross.

An evangelist made an interesting comment about the Gospel:

- “When I picture Jesus Christ dying on the cross, I see the free gift of God's grace in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.” – **Billy Graham**

The Gospel is the message that will catapult you from death to victory, from sickness to wholeness, from poverty and needs to prosperity and fulfillment. It is the ridiculously good news that brings salvation to every area of your life. It is the power of God that will cause you to reign in life effortlessly. It reveals the shining face of the Lord unto you and announces His eternal and complete forgiveness of your past, present and future sins. It proclaims that you are in perfect

union with Christ by faith, and, as a result, your nearness to God has already been completed and perfected.

The Gospel contains no threats but only that which edifies and consoles. It imparts hope and creates faith in you. It stills every voice of accusation. It does not set in requirements of something that you must do or provide collateral for. It does not require anything good that you must furnish. It does not require you to have a good heart, a good disposition, improvement of your condition, godliness, or love for God or your neighbor. Rather, it compels your heart with God's unconditional love and empowers you towards all good works. In other words, it demands nothing but imparts all that is good.

Most importantly, it is the message that says you are the righteousness of God in Christ independent of your performance, good works, and holiness.

A well-known pastor made another interesting comment about the Gospel:

- “If you remove Christ out of Christianity, Christianity is dead. If you remove Grace out of the Gospel, the Gospel is gone.” – **Charles Spurgeon**

On the other hand, there is the terrible news about God's merited favor, deserved love, and earned blessing. The Bible calls this message the Law. Contrary to the Gospel of Grace, the Law are the Ten Commandments of God; however, it is not limited to just the Ten Commandments; it is any righteous standard that produces a challenge in you to try to fulfill.

The Law message will always point to every area in your life that misses the mark, and disqualifies you to receive the goodness of God. It points out your sins and instills a sense that God is angry and displeased with you. Once it disqualifies you, it demands from you collateral. It commands your performance to try to get in right standing with God. It places the burden of salvation on your shoulders. It is the ministry of condemnation that produces sin consciousness by anguishing the heart. It accuses you, frightens you, and promotes your self-effort. It imparts despair and fear. It is the ministry of death that releases the curse of Deuteronomy 28 if you fail to live up to its requirements. It unleashes the punishment and wrath you deserve. It does not save you but rather it is the power of death that kills your spirit, soul, and ultimately the body.

Romans 4:14

For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect.

If God's favor, love and blessing came on you based on you, then why need Christ? The good news is Grace qualified all of us for the favor of God independent of your holy living, faithfulness, and goodness because God justifies the ungodly. The only thing that is required of you is to believe that Jesus paid it all at the cross. God's grace is gratuitous, His love is unrestricted, and while your sin reaches far, His Grace reaches farther! This message is what revolutionized a dead world right after the crucifixion and ascension of Christ, and it's time to revolutionize this one (...again). Believe in Christ Jesus – the true Gospel, the Gospel of Grace.

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