

Joyner Briceño Ministries

Grace or Nothing

Suppose you fall asleep and the Lord appeared in your dreams. You then ask Him to give you a quality of life. He then responds to you, "My grace is sufficient." In other words, it's either Grace or nothing at all. What I mean by that is; the way to live a blessed, successful, fulfilled, and prosperous life is through and upon God's grace only. Even for mature believers in the Word of God, this is a real difficult concept to comprehend like the Apostle Paul himself.

You see, in this life we just don't expect things to come to us without a cost, without our diligence, and self-effort. Everything in this world has a catch to it. "Get 1 pair of boots for free when you buy 2 pairs at regular price." That's just the way things work around here – through the world system of merit. As believers in Christ, we must learn to adapt to live wisely in this world.

Contrast to the things of this world, the way believers in Christ receive the Lord's salvation and continue to receive every goodness of God is through His **unmerited favor**. In other words, it is not contingent on your performance, worth, sacrifice, will power, or strengths. That's not to say these things aren't important. They are but not to receive, grow, or have relationship with God.

The more I know about this unmerited favor, the more I fall in love with Jesus and the more I fall out of love with my abilities, merits, strengths and vile passions. Yet, many Christians insist that His Grace isn't enough; so some turn to the religious system of merit – the Law.

Don't get me wrong, the Law is good because the Law is a system created to emit the light of God's holiest holiness. Yet that same light empowers your flesh to do exactly the opposite to God's holiness, whether it's to obtain wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and/or redemption. Why? Because the Law is a mirror that encourages self by awakening sin and producing the opposite of what is expected.

The Law is what empowers the people to go out and sin.

Before you know it, what you thought was going to help you receive wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, is actually saturating your mind with man's wisdom, self-righteousness, self-effort, and self-centeredness. In other words, you will be regressing in spiritual growth and be no better than a non-believer in regards to philosophy and quality of life.

Romans 10:3

For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law.

The majority of today's believer in Christ engages in a "Christian" life to try to achieve righteousness or a certain level of spiritual growth. It may seem like a humble thing from afar but in reality they are still obsessed with self to try to maintain righteousness and grow in some form of godliness. The Pharisees used the Law for this purpose, yet it never worked.

A great man of God said it like this:

- "Violent efforts to grow are right in earnestness, but wholly wrong in principle. There is but one principle of growth both for the natural and spiritual, for animal and plant, for body and soul. For all growth is an organic thing. And the principle of growing in grace is once more this, "Consider the Lilies how they grow." – **Henry Drummond**

When we stop obsessing on our need to find answers outside the grace of God; that is what the Bible means when it says "My grace is sufficient." Our focus is to be on Jesus Christ and on the fullness of His grace; then the outflow of life will occur just like the growth of a Lilly.

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

The word *sufficient* in the Greek is the idea of *more than enough*. In other words, it is a fullness to the point of satisfaction. When our thinking and emotions begin to harmonize with the sufficiency (fullness) of His grace, the result we will see is when the Bible says we might reign in life through the knowledge of God's grace and the gift of righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Righteousness is a gift, not by doing but by believing in Christ and everything He accomplished through His finished work at the cross. The Law is a dead end work not by believing but by striving to obtain everything good for a full life, turning righteousness into a work, sanctification into a strive, redemption into an accomplishment, and wisdom (guidance or growth) into a prize.

Hebrews 7:19

For the Law never made anything perfect (the law brought nothing to maturity) but instead a better hope is introduced through which we [now] come close to God.

The better hope is Christ and His grace and not you receiving anything through the Law or its principles. It is absurd to use the Law or its principles for Christian growth, wisdom, or even guidance because the Law was only meant for death. The Law never made anything perfect. Therefore, anything built upon its foundation will not empower you to live a quality of life.

It's time to take off all restrainers on Grace with the error of trying to seek more outside of it. Trying to live solely from principles, rules, and standards no matter how good or wise they seem to be are poor substitutes for a life empowered by the fullness of God's grace. Rather, immerse in the ocean of His grace and experience it time and time again. So it's either Grace or nothing. Let the fullness of Grace reign where you will start experiencing quality of life.

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