

**THE ANGELIC CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 132– July 25, 2010**

**/TODAY’S STUDY**

**Ten Learned Lessons on God’s Graciousness\**

We’re wrapping up our study of God’s graciousness at the fifth stop on the CREATOR clock. Tick tock. What time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK? It’s five o’clock.

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE>

We have learned several things about God’s graciousness. A good question to ask, as we continue the summary, is...

/How has your relationship with God changed as a result of your study of His graciousness?\

**<Learning Point 1**

God Has a Grace Mindset

A Grace Mindset is the Difference Maker in Relationships>

If you want to know what separates one relationship from another, it’s GRACE.

What is your attitude toward others when you find out that they have faults?

What is your attitude when those important to you make mistakes?

*/GAL 6:1*

*Brethren (believers in Christ), even if (3) anyone is caught (overtaken) in any trespass (a personal sin), you who are (in) spiritual (condition), restore such a one (encourage rebound) in a spirit of gentleness (by means of God the Holy Spirit); each one looking to (test) yourself, so that you too will not be tempted (to get out of fellowship).\*

When people you know make mistakes, do you rub their noses in their mistakes?

/Is your life a reflection of the GRACE of God, both in your human relationships and in your relationship with yourself?\

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**/Learning Point 2**

God's Grace Can Be Seen

GRACE makes God visible to us\

Graciousness is not a habit of the residents and proponents of Satan's kingdom. In fact, most people like to "teach people a lesson." We want people to be wrong, and we want them to know that they are wrong and we are right. The "I told you so" attitude is defensiveness.

There are a lot of people who study bible doctrine to use it against others. In their minds, instead of soaking in the truth and letting God use it to improve their minds, they have the, "This would be a perfect message for so and so." These are the people who never look at themselves.

As the late actor, Chris Farley used to say when people would lord their "rightness" over him, "La dee fricken dah!"

Bible doctrine is for you. Not for others. You come here to study for you. Turn in your bibles to James, Chapter 1, Verse 21...

/JAM 1:21-22

*Therefore, (keep on) putting aside all filthiness (mental attitude pollution) and all that remains of (the overflow of) wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted (inculcated), which is able to save (deliver) your souls.//But prove yourselves (by continuing to be) doers of the word, and not merely hearers ("gnosis gnuts") who delude themselves.\*

/JAM 1:23-24

*For if (1) anyone (who is a believer in Christ) is (one to keep on being) a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a (noble)man (spiritual royalty) who looks at his natural face in a mirror (in introspection through use of doctrine);//for once he has looked at himself and gone away (from the doctrine), he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was (totally depraved).\*

/JAM 1:25

*But one who looks intently at the perfect law (bible doctrine), the law of liberty, and abides by it (by living it), not having become a forgetful hearer*

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*but an effectual doer (of divine good), this man will be blessed (+H) in what he does.\*

There are a lot of believers who are in the church every week, you just never see the Word of God making a difference in their lives. They don't give, they don't use their spiritual gift without being prompted, they use bible doctrine as the antidote for everyone's problems but their own, they don't use the wisdom of the Word of God in their own lives...these are the hearers who are not doers. Why not doers? They don't really believe what they are hearing (epignosis).

On the other hand, when you reflect God's graciousness when others are wrong, you make God visible to others. You see the mistakes of others, they know you see them, and they say...press on...forget it. What good is there to reflect incessantly on mistakes?

Therefore a question for you...

/As a result of studying God's graciousness, how has God become more visible to you?\

A better question...

/How is your life making God visible to others?\

**/Learning Point 3**

God's Grace is Insignificant

GRACE, while wonderful, is the least significant thing God does for His creatures\

We blow grace WAY out of proportion. Many things credited to the GRACE of God really come from God's integrity.

/PSA 84:11

*For the Lord God is a sun (a light for our paths) and shield (a protector on all sides); The Lord gives (all forms of) grace and (the Lord gives) glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly (believers in Christ).\*

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No good thing does He withhold...what a God!

/MAT 7:11

*“If (I) you then, being evil (and you are), know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your (God the) Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!”\*

As we continue to learn about God, and as we hold the whole picture of Him in our minds simultaneously, we’ll get to know him better. Then His GRACE won’t seem so big to us.

/Are you putting God’s GRACE in the proper place in your mind?\

**/Learning Point 4**

Grace has only ONE Definition

Grace is God’s promise to do all the work while we get all the benefit\

Anything that is by means of grace excludes works of any kind. The Plan of God is by means of GRACE.

/ROM 11:6

*But if (I) it (the Plan of God for your life) is by (means of) grace (and it is), it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.\*

If you have to work for what is a free gift, it is no longer free is it?

You’ve heard it said that GRACE is something we don’t earn or deserve. I’ll make it even more emphatic. I’ll say it another way.

/YOU CAN’T EARN GRACE.

We get GRACE because God wants to give it.

YOU DESERVE GRACE BECAUSE GOD THINKS YOU DO.\

There you have summary of points one through four. Let’s get back into our summary of GRACE at learning point five, which is where we left off in our last study.

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**/Learning Point 5**

Grace is God's Guaranteed Solution

You may focus on problems, but God's GRACE creates solutions\

Any of us can regurgitate the answer to this question...“Why did the Lord Jesus Christ go to the Cross?” We can blurt out...“To die for our sins!”

Yes. That is ONE of the things that the Lord's death on the Cross did for us. It took the sin problem out of the way. Why don't we believe the sin problem is out of our way? Why do we fixate on our personal sins and the fact that we have a sin nature, when we clearly know that simple point concerning the Cross?

/The CROSS is a GRACE solution!\

The REAL point of the Lord Jesus Christ going to the Cross in substitutionary spiritual death, as it relates to GRACE, is captured in Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 32...turn there please...

/ROM 8:32 (in corrected translation)

*He (God the Father) who did not spare His own Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), but delivered Him over (as a sin substitute) for us all (in mankind while we were His enemies), how will He (God the Father) not also (for those in union) with Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) freely give us (believers in Christ the) all things?\*

The Problem?

At physical birth, God gave us a sin nature, which would at a future time manufacture personal sins...the penalty of having a sin nature is spiritual death, total separation from God in a state of total helplessness, with an inability to have any relationship with God. All humanity experiences this state of condemnation. It's not our fault but it is our circumstance. In short, we are born totally depraved. We are nothing. We remain totally depraved throughout this life. We are nothing. Even though the problem of spiritual death was solved by the substitutionary spiritual death of Jesus Christ on the Cross, Satan wants us to focus on the sin problem.

/REV 12:10c

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*“...(Satan) who accuses them (believers in Christ) before our God day and night.”\*

Let’s not forget that God is not the only one who has a plan for our lives. The great counterfeiter, Satan, who copies everything that God does, has a counterfeit plan for our lives as well.

Satan wants to distract us...He wants us to turn our attention to the non-issues in our lives. And we do! Sin is a non-issue in our lives. Our total depravity is a non-issue in our lives. Our mistakes are a non-issue in our lives.

Yet, following the Satanic pattern perfectly, we believers in Christ focus on our problems as well. We focus on our sinful condition. We are either in the carnal condition or the spiritual condition at any moment in time. We magnify the carnal condition in our mind. We make our mistakes and our personal sins a monster. Some of you have heard Pastors say...

*You are reversionists in reverse process revisionism!*

It’s an accusation of “backsliding” in the Plan of God...

Does that sound like an accusation God would make to you? Does that sound like God being GRACEful to you?

If you are confused let me make it perfectly clear. Accusations like this are NOT from God; they are from Satan. An over focus on personal sins that are paid for at the Cross is NOT GRACE!

/GAL 2:21 (in corrected translation)

*“I (Paul) do not nullify (frustrate or void) the grace of God, for if [I] (self) righteousness comes through (adherence to) the (Mosaic) Law (by means of works...and let’s assume it does), then (the Lord Jesus) Christ died needlessly.”\*

Did the Lord Jesus Christ waste His time going to the Cross? He did for you if you are over focused on your sins!

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Legalism voids out...in fact cancels God's grace. Legalism focuses us on the problem.

Since Christ died for a purpose, to give us absolute righteousness (+R) apart from the Mosaic Law and apart from human merit, then the Mosaic Law was set aside by the Cross. GRACE is the principle that governs the lives of Church Age believers. The Mosaic Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

/JOH 1:14

*And the Word (ho logos – the Lord Jesus Christ) became flesh, and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, and we saw (beheld) His glory, glory as of the only begotten (uniquely born one) from the Father, full of grace and truth.\*

/The CROSS is a solution!\

Anyone, and I don't care who they are, who draws your attention to your mistakes is not teaching within the sphere of the GRACE of the Plan of God. Yet how many of us are wandering around this life worrying that we are reversionists in reverse process reversionism? How many of us are wandering around wondering if we have too much scar tissue on our souls? How many of us are wondering where we are on the road to spiritual maturity? How many of us are wondering if a teacher is NUTS when He is teaching God's GRACE? That is legalism. Do you really think that a Christian in AD 91 was worried about reversionism and backsliding? I say not, especially if they understood GRACE.

If you want to be a legalist, be one outside of this ministry. This is a grace ministry. This is a ministry committed to teaching truth as it is revealed in Scripture. And God the Holy Spirit is clearly calling for believers in Christ today to live in the freedom that He is providing through bible doctrine.

Here's how Isaiah said it...turn to Isaiah, Chapter 61, Verse 1...

/ISA 61:1

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me (through enduement), because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners...\*

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God wants your souls to be free...God wants you focused on His solutions and not on your problems.