

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 6:23-24

Lesson #67

Grace and Peace

12/16/2018

Paul's **salutations**

in what is called "the Queen of Epistles".

Ephesians 1

"**2** **Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 6

"**23** **Peace** be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

24 **Grace** be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love incorruptible."

1

Eph.6:23-24 raise two questions.

"**23** Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, **from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**"

1. What **comes from God** - "grace", "peace", "love", "faith"?

"**24** Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love **incorruptible.**"

2. Does "**incorruptible**" refer to "love" or something else (perhaps "Grace")?



2

- Paul begins all his letters with the same phrase.

"Grace and peace from God"
(not "love" and "faith")

- "Grace" and the "peace" (reconciliation with God) that comes from it, play a **foundational** role in Paul's Gospel.
- Are "Love" and "faith" also gifts of God or do they represent our **response of commitment** to God's gifts?

3

Ephesians

Who we are in Christ
ch. 1-3

How we should live
ch. 4-6

Eph. 1:2
"Grace to you
and peace
from God"



Eph. 4:1-2
"**walking** . . .
in love"

Eph. 6:15-16
"**take up** the
shield of
faith"

4

Ephesians

Who we are in Christ
ch. 1-3

How we should live
ch. 4-6

God's gift
"in Christ"

Grace
Peace

One imperative
- "remember"

INCORRUPTABLE



Man's
response

Faith
Love

Many
imperatives

corruptible

5

Ephesians

Who we are in Christ
ch. 1-3

How we should live
ch. 4-6



Ephesians 6:23-24 (Interpretive paraphrase)

“May the incorruptible gifts of peace and grace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be yours. And may your love for and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ abide.”

6

Paul's doctrine of “Grace”

- God's grace is **not** “justification” apart from moral merit.
- ✓ Its **merit rests** not in the sinner's goodness but **in Christ** who perfectly fulfilled the law and bore our sins.

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to **fulfill**.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin **to be sin** on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God **in Him**.”

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Paul's doctrine of “Grace”

- God's grace is **not** “justification” apart from moral merit.
- ✓ Its **merit rests** not in the sinner's goodness but **in Christ** who perfectly fulfilled the law and bore our sins.
- ✓ Access to salvation rests not in the sinner's repentance from all sins but in the sinner's repentance from “**dead works**” and **disbelief**.

Hebrews 6:1

“Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of **repentance from dead works and of faith toward God**,”

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Paul's doctrine of “Grace”

- God's grace is **not** “justification” apart from moral merit.
- God's grace revealed in the Cross of Christ is the **core** of the Gospel.

*The emphasis
of the Gospels*

*The Passion and
Resurrection*



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Paul's doctrine of “Grace”

- God's grace is **not** “justification” apart from moral merit.
- God's grace revealed in the Cross of Christ is the **core** of the Gospel.

Gospels

Epistles

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

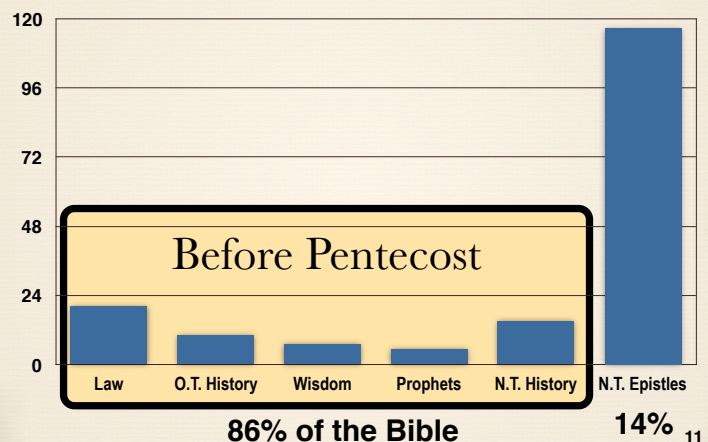
*The emphasis
of the Gospels*

*The emphasis
of the Epistles*

The Passion
and
Resurrection

10

Distribution of references to the word “grace” in the various divisions of the Scripture



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Romans 4

“4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one **who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly**, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,”

11:6 “But if it is by grace, **it is no longer on the basis of works**, otherwise grace is no longer grace.”

12

The root and fruit of the Cross.



One thing that can't be defiled or corrupted.



Romans 8

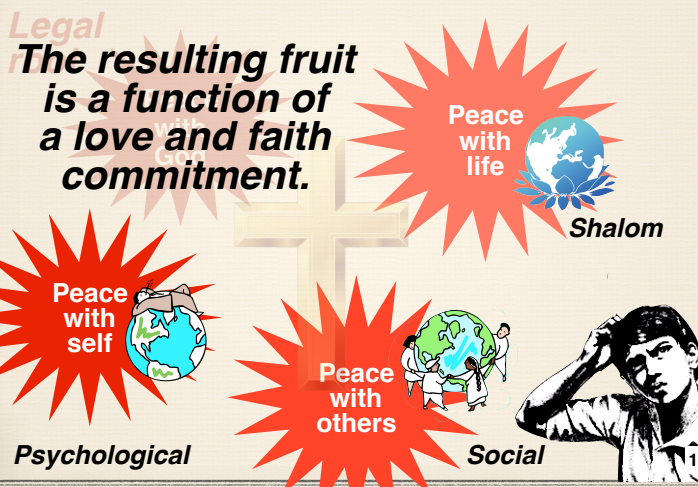
“38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us** from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2 Timothy 2:13

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for **He cannot deny Himself.**”

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Gal. 5:6 “faith working through love.”



Shalom

Peace with life

the temporal fruit of the believer's relationship with God may be unrealized

Peace with others

Peace with self

Peace with God

the believer's relationship with God is secured

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Four kinds of righteousness

1. God's perfect standard

This is the perfect character of God.

2. Man's relative virtue

This is the imperfect behavior of the proud.

3. The imputed virtue of Christ

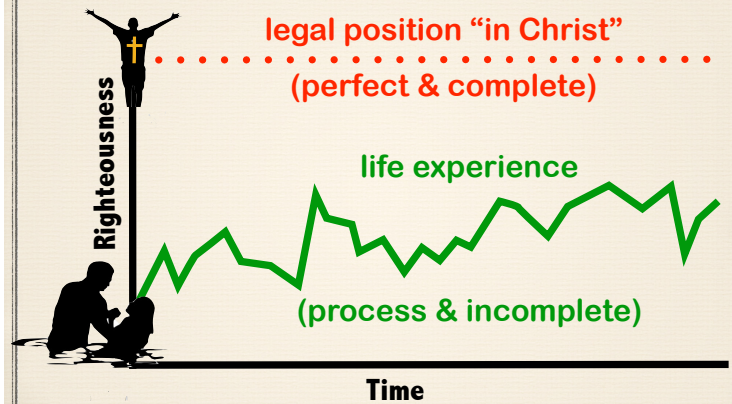
This is the sanctification of all who believe.

4. The obedient walk in the Spirit

This is the fruit of justification by faith.

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Two aspects of righteousness



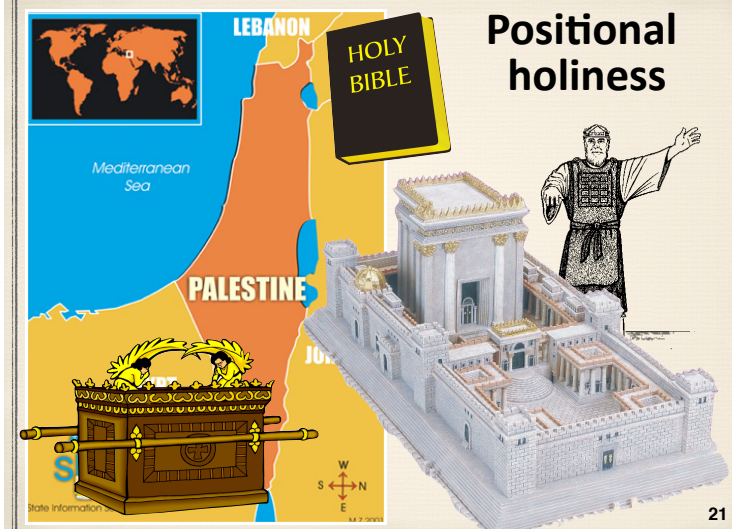
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Positional truth

- ✓ It is a declaration & non-experiential.
- ✓ It is not progressive.
- ✓ It is not related to human merit.
- ✓ It is not related to moral reform.
- ✓ It fully satisfies the demands of a perfectly holy God.
- ✓ **It must be learned through teaching & applied by faith.**

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Positional holiness



21

The temple priest was ceremonially sanctified with water before he performed his sacred duties.



This had to do with his official position not his personal character.

22

Water baptism
is our positional washing
as a believer priests.

“... baptism now saves you, not the washing of the filth of the flesh but the answer of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

1 Peter 3:21



23

- **Feelings and behavior make the train a practical place to ride.**



- **But they will not pull the train.**

24

1 Corinthians 1:2

“to the church of God which is **sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling**, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:”

- ✓ **Positionally** the Corinthians were “sanctified”.

1 Corinthians 3:3

“for **you are still fleshly**. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not **walking like mere men?**”

- ✓ **Experientially** the Corinthians were “like fleshly non believers”.

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Concerns about Positional Truth

- ✓ It is not relational, personal, or felt.
- ✓ It promotes moral irresponsibility.



- ✓ It is too intellectual and philosophical.
- ✓ It places too much emphasis on legal justification.
- ✓ It ignores the importance of “moral discipline.”

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Why Positional truth is important

- ✓ It is clearly taught in the Old and New Testaments.
- ✓ It is at the heart of the Gospel.
 - ✓ It puts the attention on what God has done in Christ not on what we must do.
- ✓ It grounds our relationship in what is finished and secure not in our behavior, feelings or circumstances.



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The lesson for us

1. **Don't fear the loss** of God's provision in Christ. God's grace and peace are secured.
2. Our faith and love are **responses to God's grace** and not secured.
3. **Defilement** can never touch our gifts in Christ but can affect our response to them (perception, understanding, application).
4. **How** are we to guard our heart response from spiritual defilement / corruption?

66 lessons on Ephesians address this question.

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