

God's Grace Made Simple by David Heresy

God has more characteristics that define who He is and how He operates, but the four listed above are sufficient to provide us with the parameters under which His Grace MUST operate. While God is indeed gracious, at the same time, He is absolutely trustworthy in that everything He said is reliable, and He will accomplish everything He said He would do. God is also incapable of telling a lie. Therefore, everything He said in His Word must be the truth. None of it can be left out or disregarded. God is absolutely fair and impartial in His dealings with humankind. And He is Just in all His expectations and actions with respect to no one. God is all these things at the same time, and none of them, irrespective of His other characteristics.

Many people in the religious world believe and teach that God's Grace is unconditional and will usher them into eternal life on the merits of faith alone, without the need for obedience to His commands. If this is true, then Jesus lied in Matthew 7:21, where He was quoted as saying, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." This would mean that not only did Jesus make a false statement, there is a statement in God's Word that is not true. God's Grace cannot save without obedience to God and without causing Him to act in contradiction to His nature. God cannot be the God He claims to be if Grace can put one in the kingdom of heaven without obedience. God and His Word cannot be trusted if Grace can save without obedience. God is untrustworthy if Grace can save without obedience to His will. God's Word, therefore God lied if Grace can save without obedience to God's will. This one statement by Jesus alone in Matthew 7:21 is enough, in and of itself to utterly render the idea of salvation by Grace apart from obedience false.

The quote by Jesus in Matthew 7:21 is by no means the only statement within God's Word that connects obedience with salvation. In Luke 13:3-5 Jesus directly made a connection between repentance and eternal life when He stated that "unless you repent, you will all likewise perish". Grace cannot save apart from repentance without making Jesus a liar. Jesus said in John 3:5, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." God's Grace, therefore, cannot put anyone in the kingdom of God apart from being born again of water and the Spirit without making Jesus a liar. God's Grace cannot make His Son a liar. *Will be continued in next week's bulletin...*

Brushy church of Christ
774 Hwy 48 South
Centerville TN 37033



The Brushy Beacon

"Open up Your Heart & Door in 2024"

October 6, 2024

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:00
Sunday Morning Service	10:00
Sunday Evening Service	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

The church of Christ at Brushy

Elders

Ricky Atkinson
James Atkinson
Tony Duncan

Deacons

Paul Johnston Terry Banks
Kevin Johnston Justin Atkinson
Caleb Truett

Preacher: Kevin Johnston

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God's Grace is the single most misunderstood concept in Christendom. This lesson explains exactly what God's Grace is and what it does for the Christian in simple, understandable terms.

God is indeed gracious. 1 Peter 2:3 reads, "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." Grace is defined in Webster's dictionary as 'disposition to or an act or instance of kindness, courtesy, or clemency'. God's gracious nature compelled Him to act on behalf of mankind. This concept is not at all difficult when we apply it to ourselves. We have a disposition toward our families that compels us to favor them and to go out of our way to act on their behalf. God's Grace is the exact same thing. It is His beneficial disposition toward us that compelled Him to go out of His way and act on our behalf. It is much easier to grasp the concept of Grace when one thinks of it as a characteristic of God.

God, indeed, has a gracious characteristic. But His gracious nature, which compelled Him to act on our behalf, will not compel Him to act in contradiction with any of His other qualities:

God is Trustworthy: Also reliable and faithful, He is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). The Lord will never leave or forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6-8; Psalm 9:10; Hebrews 13:5). He alone is "is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does" (Psalm 145:13). We can absolutely trust in God's Grace. However, under no circumstances could His Grace cause Him to be **untrustworthy** or unreliable.

God is impartial: Romans 2:11 "For there is no respect of persons with God." In James chapter 2, verses 1-13, the inspired writer makes it clear that Christians must act impartially toward others. The gospel is equally and impartially applicable to all people (Galatians 3:26-29; Acts 15:9; Romans 10:11-13; Revelation 22:17). Favoritism is not in God's nature, and it is likewise forbidden in a Christian's behavior. God's Grace will never compel Him to act with partiality toward anyone. To do so would cause God to be a respecter of one person over another, thus causing Him to be untrustworthy.

God is Just: God is perfectly and equally fair in His treatment of mankind. God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34). He perfectly executes vengeance against oppressors (2 Thessalonians 1:6; Romans 12:19). God is just in dealing out rewards: "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them" *Continued on page 3...*

Family News & Notes

Mission Work in Africa Please continue to remember Tony Duncan in your prayers as he is in Tanzania, Africa. He spoke at the Tanzanian Leadership Conference this past week. If you want to follow some of his travels, search for Kilimanjaro Missions on Facebook. He will be return on October 15. Please remember Tony in your prayers & Cathy as she is here anticipating his return.

Men's Meal Please meet up front following morning worship today to plan the Men's Meal for next Sunday, October 13, following the mornig worship service.

Secret Sister Reveal All ladies are invited to the Ladies Luncheon on Sunday, October 13, following the morning worship service. All ladies are invited to attend whether you are participating in the program or not. Bring your favorite fingerfood or dish and join us for a fun afternoon. Please see Cindy Atkinson if you plan to take part in the Secret Sister Program!

Annual BIG Singing We are planning to attend the Annual BIG Singing at the church of Christ at Crieve Hall. It will be on Friday, October 18. This will be our 3rd Year to attend. We will plan to leave the building at 5 P.M. If you are interested in going or need more details, please see Kevin or Amy.

Brushy Members Group Did you know we have a Remind Group to help everyone stay informed of various things going on with our members. If you are not a part of this group and want to be, please text 81010 with the message @79f2fbk to join. If you have questions or can't get signed up, please see Amy Johnston.

Have you noticed the Stars? On the bulletin board in the back there are stars. Each star represents a household we have sent a compassion card to. Currently we have 51 stars and counting! You are making a difference by writing a card and showing that you care! A huge thanks for participaing in the Compassion Card Ministry.

We Need Names... In order for us to be successful, plant seeds, and keep the Compassion Card Ministry going, we need names and addresses. Revisit the names you put on your bookmark and consider when the time will be right to put them on the list to receive cards. It can be for a joyous event like new baby, wedding, new job, new house, new mover, etc. Other oportunities are when someone experiences a loss, surgery, sickness, diveorce, loss of job, etc. Carefully consider when the time is right and put their name on a card. We will then add them to the list!

A Happy Birthday to... David Fitzgerald...October 9 Jacinda Porter...October 12

Upcoming Events

- *Sunday, October 13 ~ Men's Meal Following the Morning Worship Service
- *Sunday, October 13 ~ Ladies Luncheon ~ Secret Sister Reveal
- *Friday, October 18 ~ Annual Big Singing at the church of Christ at Crieve Hall

For the Record

Sunday Morning Bible Class	51	Sunday Morning Worship	76
Sunday Evening Worship	87	Wednesday Bible Study	31
Contribution	\$1810		

Pray for Those Sick Among Us...

Kim Atkinson will have cataract surgery on Tuesday.

Carl Bryant is doing fair and remains in the Centerville Life Care Center.

Rita Atkinson daughter of Ann Bryant, is doing better and doing therapy after shoulder surgery.

Steve Winebrenner Jacinda Porter's Dad, will have an outpatient heart procedure on Tuesday.

Kane Cross son of Emily Cross and grandson of Joanna Campbell. Lost some fingers after an accident.

He is in Vanderbilt and will be there a while.

Easton Tanner friend of Carter Tucker, is very sick in the hospital with a bone infection.

Continuing Prayer Requests

Dealing with Cancer - Roger Pace, Megan Inman, Debbie Pierce, Ricky Chandler, Ron Pafford, Robbie Pinkerton, Ruth Sanders, April Colvett, Glen Herrington, Shannon Irwin

Special Requests - Scottie Simmons, William Kirby, Deborah Brazil, Ryan Horton, Claud & Glenda Teet, Jeff Lynn, Ronnie Howell, Paul Schneider, Chris Allen, Helen Bryant, Miranda Smith, Dana McCaleb

Pray for Those in Nursing Homes

Dickson Nursing Home... Larry Donaldson

Community Living Center in Murfreesboro... Fred Bowman

Ongoing Prayer Reminders

- All in the military and civil workers overseas and their families right.
- All those Preaching and teaching the Good News all over the world.
- Our Government Leaders – Local, State, and National (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Our Elders and Deacons who oversee, care for, serve, and feed us spiritually. (Hebrews 13:7)

God's Grace Made Simple Continued... by David Heresy

Continued from Page one... (Hebrews 6:10). He is equally just in dealing out punishments: "Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism" (Colossians 3:25). Every sin of man will receive a just recompense of reward (Hebrews 2:2-3). Justice and righteousness, which always work hand in hand, are the foundation of God's throne (Psalm 89:14). God's Grace can never be understood to cause Him to act in contradiction of His Just nature. To do so in any way would make Him unjust and, therefore, unreliable and untrustworthy.

God is Honest: He cannot lie. This characteristic of God is directly stated in Titus 1:2, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began..." Absolute honesty is the characteristic of God upon which we all must be able to have faith in. We can trust God's Word to be true, in its totality, without reservation and die for the sake of the gospel, if need be, with full confidence that God will take care of us as He has stated. God's honest nature also helps us to understand His gracious characteristics correctly. As wonderful as God's Grace is, we can know with certainty that it can never compel Him to act in contradiction with His honest nature. Put simply, God's Grace will never make Him a liar. We must be able to trust God, and if His Grace caused him to act in a manner inconsistent with His honest nature, He would be dishonest and, therefore, untrustworthy. *Continued on page 4...*