

Tuesday, April 30, 2019:
JUSITIFICATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH –
“A Study of the book of Galatians”

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the *New Kings James Version* of the Bible.

JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH – “A Study of the book of Galatians”
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LESSON TWO: THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD: Gal. 2:15 – 6:1-18

The goal of persuasive speaking or teaching is to instruct, inspire and move the audience to a decision to become involved.

Doing so involves **3** pillars of **Ethos**, from which the word ethics come which describes the messenger, **Pathos** which describes the passion of the messenger, and finally the **Logos** which describes the content of the message.

LOGOS: PAUL'S MESSAGE - FREEDOM THROUGH GRACE.

1. His message was the **completion** of the gospel to the church (Eph. 3:1–3, Col. 1:25).
2. Faith in the “**finished work**” of Christ
 - His message doesn't contradict Jesus But was an extension of the Jesus message ie. How to be born again; Forgiveness; Walking in the Spirit; Identity; Gifts of the Spirit....
3. Addresses **3 major themes** namely:
 - **Law vs Grace = Foundation. Eph. 2:8-9.**
 - **Flesh vs Spirit = Power. Philip. 2:13, Tit. 2:11–12.**
 - **Bondage vs Freedom = Effect**

PAUL'S USE OF THE WORD GRACE: Gal. 1:1-5

“**Grace**” was a greeting and farewell in all of Paul's letters.

Paul uses this word **80+** times: 7 times in this letter alone.

WHAT PAUL SAID ABOUT GOD'S GRACE:

- God's grace leads to peace for its recipients (verse 3).
- **"Peace"** = restoration to relational closeness by resolving the root cause of alienation.
- **"Grace"** (Charis) is a free gift offered to people who don't deserve it – Paul was a **"poster child"** of the grace of God.

For him, it was not just an intellectual debate; it was reality.

- Grace motivates it's recipients to praise Him.

GRACE IS ABOUT WHAT GOD DOES FOR US:

1. Rescue = Redemption – Gal. 1:4, Col. 1:13
2. Acceptability = Relationship – Gal. 2:21
3. Justification = Legal standing – Gal. 2:16
4. Adoption (Heirs) = Identity – Gal. 4:6–7

LAW VS GRACE (HOW DO YOU RELATE TO GOD?)

LAW IS THE PERFORMANCE PRINCIPLE.

1. You get what you earn.
2. It is universal in most world religions.
3. False hopes of the performance principle: Gal. 2:16
 - You can satisfy God by works.
 - God grades on a curve: Gal. 3:10, Deut. 27:26.
 - Your performance is God's main concern: Gal. 5:6.

LEGALISTS OBJECTIONS #1

- How can my works fail to have an effect on my ultimate destiny? – Matt 7:21–23 (that's the point in Luke 15 story)
- Are you saying it doesn't matter how I live?
- Grace is unfair and offensive – any old sinner can get in. Matt.20:1–15.

RESPONDING TO THE LEGALIST'S OBJECTION – Gal. 2:14–16

- Do we understand what's at stake with legalistic justification?
- Balance of justice OR sliding scale?
- Broken chain James 2:10.
- Thank God Grace is not fair.

LEGALISTS OBJECTION #2 - GRACE IS DANGEROUS - Gal. 2:17

- Are you saying you can do anything you want?
- Grace is a recipe for spiritual anarchy.
- Grace provides no motivation to do good. Gal. 2:17–20

MORALITY MATTERS, BUT NOT LIKE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE THINK – Gal. 2:17b.

- Can't rebuild from a broken foundation under the law.
- The Law never had the effect of making people better.

A CHANGE IN IDENTITY IS REQUIRED FOR REAL CHANGE. Gal. 2:20.

- What we do flows from who we are.
- A life pleasing to God is a response to God's love and gratitude for His mercy. Rom. 12:1–2.

- Either Christ is sufficient or I am sufficient.

SO WHY DID GOD INSTITUTE THE LAW?

To reveal our inadequacy and the need for mercy from a loving God. Rom. 3:10–12; 23; 5:8, Gal. 3:23–24).

Grace by faith has always been God’s message even throughout the Old Testament.

THE HEART OF THE JUDAIZERS’ MESSAGE:

1. Start by grace, but continue by the performance principle.
 - i.e. circumcision as a symbolic commitment to the law
2. Why would Gentiles want the law?
 - heightened awareness of failure leading to alienation.
 - authentic desire for change
 - “need” to feel worthy of grace

PAUL’S RESPONSE:

- Grace PLUS performance **is not grace!**
- Grace and Law = “Either/Or”
- Law directly contradicts the cross (Gal. 2:21).
- Not a mere religious debate.
- You can do **nothing** to make yourself more or less acceptable to God; life transformation, like salvation is a “God–thing” at every point.

FLESH VS SPIRIT (BY WHAT POWER DO YOU LIVE?)

WHAT IS THE “FLESH”? – Remnants of the “old self” that continue to dominate.

- Life by my power on my terms.
- I must maintain control.
- I must protect “my ego”

BY WHAT POWER DO YOU LIVE? – Gal. 5:17

Are you aware as a Christian where you wrestle with your flesh?

WALKING BY THE SPIRIT: Gal. 5:16, 25; 6:16

- trusting the Spirit’s leading.
- letting the Spirit empower.
- Effect of the Spirit’s work is really beautiful (Gal. 5:22–23).

BONDAGE VS FREEDOM (THE EFFECT OF GRACE):

Law and flesh is bondage, but life in the Spirit lived under grace is freedom (Gal. 5:1)

- Question is, isn’t freedom dangerous? – YES.
- Only freedom can produce love (Gal. 5:13–14).
- Life transformation has love as its central objective.

SHOWDOWN IN ANTIOCH: Gal. 2:11-21

Paul had a confrontation with Peter in Antioch over the same issues he was addressing in the Galatian Church.

Prior to the coming of certain men from James (Jerusalem), Peter used to eat with the Gentiles (Acts.10:28) but when they came, he began to withdraw and separated himself, fearing those of the circumcision.

Unfortunately, the rest of the Jewish believers joined Peter in this behavior, even Barnabas.

- Peter knew from his own experience that God hasn't made any separation between Jews and Gentiles (Acts 10:34–35; 11:17–18).
- Peter knew that the attitude was not true.
- Peter's withdrawal was hypocritical – means not being straightforward.

Paul had a public and open rebuke of Peter because the “freedom in Christ was under attack” – the same reason for which he was scolding the Galatians.

Peter's behavior was inconsistent with what he taught and a lot was at stake.

TWO IRRECONCILABLE WAYS OF APPROACH TO GOD

Approach of Law (WORKS):	Approach of Grace: (FAITH)
1. Believe	1. Believe
2. Obey	2. Acceptability
3. Acceptability	3. Obey
4. PAROLE	4. PARDON

The approach of the Law is equivalent to a “**Parole**”

The approach of Grace is equivalent to a “**Pardon**”

What does grace as “**pardon**” mean?

To be pardoned is to be forgiven – like it never happened – not on your record.

A “**pardon**” is unlike a **parole** or commuted sentence which says you're still guilty – we're just not going to make you pay.

However, a pardon must be accepted if it's to be in effect.

In 1833, George Wilson rejected the **pardon** granted by U.S. President Andrew Jackson.

The Supreme Court ruled that a pardon cannot be in effect except it be accepted by the beneficiary.

It can never be forced on a person rather it must be received (John 1:11–12).

We must decide our approach God: **pardon or parole.**

1. Pardon is Justification

- Not a sentence “commuted”
- Not let out on good behavior
- Means to be declared innocent.
- Totally accepted now and can’t add to acceptability.

WHO WILL YOU TRUST?

- Your self-righteousness or Christ’s imputed righteousness.

2. Pardon is Union with Christ.

- Objection: grace excuses sin; response: No way (vs.17).
- We have a new **Identity** (2 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 2:20); not prisoner #159037–265 – **A New Creation.**

Living the “grace” life is not that God has made you **better**.

Rather God has made you **new**.

What does pardon look like for living the Christian Life?

PAROLE:	PARDON:
Self-reformation: prove yourself worthy.	Regeneration.
Fear: just one bad choice and its back to jail.	Gratitude: not worried about stepping on a land mine; always a few decisions away from real health.
Fake: minimize failure; make excuses; hide or redefine sin.	Genuine: candid; real about deep character stuff
Penance: focus on what to avoid.	Positive focus: it’s about where am I growing; delighting in Christ-like love

SIGNS THAT YOU MAY BE FALLING UNDER THE LAW:

- More time in prayer spent apologizing than giving thanks.
- Prayer declines and is hard to enjoy.
- Most prayers centers on self.
- Starting your time of prayer on what you have failed to do for God.
- Anxiety and insecurity.
- Inability to admit fault to others.
- Rationalizing, minimizing, and blame shifting.
- Constant comparing of self and others.
- Focus shifting from loving others to personal holiness.
- Man pleasing – need to impress others.
- Dishonesty – pretend you're better than you are.
- Judgmental – lack of grace towards others.
- Focus shifts to minor external moral issues.
- Spiritual starvation: which leads to vulnerability – this is where immorality and the like happens.