

# GRACE I

9/23/07

Opening Discussion: Which, if any, of the following statements are found in the Word?

- “Christ cannot help you
- “You have been cut off from Christ!
- “You have fallen away from the grace of God

All three are actually in God’s Word, in the N.T no less. Surprised?

*Galatians 5:1-5 (N.L.T.) – “So Christ has really set us free. Now make sure that you (Galatians) stay free and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law. Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: **If** you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then **Christ cannot help you**. I’ll say it again: **If** you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey all of the regulations in the whole law of Moses. For **if** you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, **you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God’s grace**. But, we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive everything promised to us who are right with God through faith.”*

## \*UNDERSTANDING GRACE...

### 1. WHAT? - \_\_\_\_\_

*Mt. 5:48 – “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”*

*Heb. 12:14b – “...without holiness no one will see the Lord.”*

**\*Discussion:** What is it that will NOT be allowed into heaven? Why not?

### 2. BUT! - \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

*Rom 3:23 – “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

*Rom 6:23b – “For the wages of sin is death, ....”*

*Rev 21:8 – “But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters **and all liars** --- their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.*

**\*Discussion:** After the first two points, what is our dilemma? Why? What really sealed the deal that we are in deep trouble at this point?

### 3. HOW? - \_\_\_\_\_

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_

*Gal 5:3 – “If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey **all** the regulations in the whole law of Moses.*

*James 2:10 – “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at **just one point** is guilty of breaking all of it.”*

*Rom 3:20 – “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by **observing the law**: Rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”*

**\*Discussion:** Noting the above scriptures, why is it impossible for one to become righteous enough to go heaven by keeping the law, doing good works?

**B.**

*Eph 2:8 – “For it is **by grace** you have been saved, **through faith** --- and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God.**”*

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*Rom 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but **the gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

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*John 1:12,13 – “Yet to all who **received Him**, to those **who believed** in His name, He gave the right to become children of God --- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”*

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*Rom 4:5 – “...to the man who does not work but **trust god ... his faith** is credited as righteousness.”*

*Rom 5:1 – “Therefore, since we have been justified **through faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**\*Discussion:** Expound on the three points of Grace mentioned above.

**CONCLUSION:**

While we certainly are saved **for** “good works” (Eph 2:10), we are not saved **from** them. We must never trust in them for our salvation, which is entirely by grace through faith. If ever we do trust in God’s grace + our good works, we are guilty of the very thing the Galatian church was guilty of, and in danger of being cut off from Christ and His grace.

For further study on this, read the parable of the wedding banquet. Note “who was invited”, and then note “who was kicked out and why”. (Matthew 22:1-13)

**THE SOLID ROCK**

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus name.

**On Christ the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.**

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh may I then in Him be found;  
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before His throne.