



BOLD TO SPEAK THE MYSTERY

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**You are
Saved:**

- **BY GRACE**
- **THROUGH FAITH**
- **UNTO LIFE ETERNAL**

**In
CHRIST**
(Eph. 2:5-9)

ETERNAL SALVATION

This could be the most important article you have ever read in your life. Not because of who we are or what we have to say, but because of who God is and what He has to say about one especially important subject—SALVATION.

Maybe you just woke up and think it is too deep to go into this early in the day. Or maybe you are lying awake late at night, tossing and turning in your sleep, thinking about getting your next job or increasing your savings or feeding your children or getting back your health.

As important as all of these issues are, they pale in significance to the surpassing im-

portance of SALVATION. What could be more important than where you and those around you will spend not just the next few years on earth but all eternity?

And there is no better time to consider it than right now. Jesus Christ put the question in this penetrating way: **For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul** (Mk. 8:36)? Be advised from an infallible source: The things of this world are mere distractions from the far more important issue of our lost souls. That is why Jesus Christ came. He came **to seek and to save that which was lost** (Lk. 19:10). **Christ Jesus**

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The Danger in Wrongly-Dividing God's Word

When God explains how to study His Word, he says it must be rightly-divided. **Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth** (II Tim. 2:15). The workman approved by God is the one who rightly divides His Word. In other words, the student who passes God's test is the one

who understands the Bible rightly-divided. But what exactly is rightly-dividing? What does it accomplish? To some people rightly-dividing the Bible sounds complicated, but it is really the easiest and most straightforward thing in the world. It is an everyday, common sense sort of thing. The sort of thing we do almost

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came into the world to save sinners (I Tim. 1:15). As lost sinners who need salvation, the most important questions we can ask are ones like: Where will I spend eternity? And what must I do to be saved?

Yet these seem to be the very ones we are so prone to ignore. At the world's social gatherings, you can talk about sports and politics and sex, but we must never mention the most important topic of all: SALVATION. Some people go their whole lives ignoring or, even worse, denying that these questions not only need to be asked but need to be answered. A pastor once said that our lives can change in the 'twinkling' of an eye. In case you're wondering, that's 0.0000000000898 seconds. In other words, time isn't on our side. Each one of us will one day reach for a heartbeat that isn't there or grab for a breath that doesn't come, and in that moment, all our priorities will instantly change. All those temporal things of this world we thought were so important will vanish into the fog of insignificance, while all those eternal things we ignored will come into focus and burn like a laser beam into the next life.

When Christ said He came **to seek and to save that which was lost**, He delineated the two extremes of the human condition—being lost and being saved. What does it mean to be lost or to be saved?

JUST HOW LOST ARE WE?

What does it mean to say that man is lost?

And you...who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past

in the lusts (*strong desires*) of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind (*whether noble or ignoble*); and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (Eph. 2:1-5, italics mine)

Before we can appreciate what it means to be saved, we first need to appreciate what it means to be lost. To be lost means to be spiritually dead. And being spiritually dead means we are enslaved to sin and are now conducting our lives under the authority of sin, death and the world as the **children of disobedience**.

This disobedience harkens back to the Garden of Eden and the Fall of Adam in Genesis 1. There God explains that He created humanity as volitional creatures with the power to choose. Adam could choose righteousness by obeying God, or he could choose unrighteousness (sin) by disobeying God. Gen. 2:17 says, **In the day you shall eat, you shall surely die**. In the day Adam ate the forbidden fruit, he chose sin, and he died spiritually. Then, several hundred years later, he died physically.

Eating a little piece of fruit seems such a small sin by man's standard. In fact, it was abject rebellion against the authority of God. In eating it, Adam thrust his fist in the face of God and declared his independence from Him, thinking he would become his own 'god,' his own master. But what really happened is that he was just handed over to another master, the master he wanted, Master Sin who leads to Death. This is the true measure of the enormity of Adam's disobedience. And we are all his offspring. We are his children by nature.

To some, this sounds like a fairy tale. But we do not need to look far to see its truth. All we need to do is open today's newspaper or turn on tonight's news to see

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that something is radically wrong with the human race. Six thousand years of human history shows little more than a panoramic view of war, violence, hatred, and suffering inflicted by humanity upon itself.

But let's bring it closer to home. Let's look at our friends and coworkers. Enough said, right? But why stop there? Let's get even closer. Look at our families. Those with teenagers, nay, toddlers, will understand this immediately. And what about our spouses? Better not go there. But why stop? Let's look at ourselves. We know our thoughts. We know the intents of our hearts. No, we all belong to a lost and fallen humanity, one that is enslaved to sin and worthy of death. This is confirmed everywhere.

It is important to see that Adam's plight subjected the whole human race to sin and death because when he fell he was all the humanity there was. The whole human race was seminally present in his loins. So when he fell, the whole human race fell. When he fell, we fell. When he sinned, we sinned. When he died, we died. This means that we are NOT sinners because we commit sins. We commit sins because we are sinners! The sins we commit are just the symptoms of a far worse disease: We are enslaved to Master Sin and under his power (Rom. 1:18-32).

Is there a way for sinful humanity to escape this dark and dire situation? Or are we all hopelessly lost, forevermore? Of course, the Good News from God tells us that what we could not do ourselves, God did for us through the Person and Work of His Son on the Cross. At the Cross, Christ dealt with the sins/sin/sinner/death issue once-and-for-all on our behalf in a way that fully met the demands of an infinitely Holy, Just and Righteous God. In short, God Himself accomplished our SALVATION on the Cross, and we are saved when we believe it.

SAVED BY GRACE

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us; Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us (made us alive) together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved)... For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Eph. 2:4-9)

What a contrast! These verses present three basic salvation facts:

1. Salvation is possible for sinners!
2. Salvation is exactly what sinners need—Life From the Dead!
3. God gives salvation to sinners as a free gift!

What does it mean to be saved by grace? What is grace? The Bible defines grace in this way:

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. (Rom. 11:6)

In other words: If salvation comes by (God's) grace, it cannot come by (our) works otherwise grace would lose its character as grace. And if salvation is by works (our human merit), it cannot be by grace otherwise works would lose its character as works.

Now, if this sounds a little convoluted, it is not because it is saying something difficult and hard to understand. It sounds convoluted because it is trying to say something very simple and easy to understand. Think about it. If you take a cup of pure baby's milk and then you add one drop of cyanide to it, it instantly ceases to be baby's milk and instantly becomes poison.

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That's easy to understand. Likewise, if you have pure grace and add one teeny-tiny work to it, it ceases to be God's grace and instantly becomes our works. Salvation is given on the basis of God's grace not our works.

Many theologians talk about grace being God's favor apart from our merit. That is okay as far as it goes. But it is also much, much more than this. Grace isn't just God's favor apart from our merit. It's God's favor in spite of our demerit! Grace isn't just God's favor without regard for our good works. It's God's favor without regard of our bad works! In grace, God doesn't even bring our works into the picture, and this is the hardest thing for us to accept.

Religious systems say God saves the righteous and godly. But God in the Bible says He saves the unrighteous and ungodly!

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly...But God commends His love toward us. In that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us ... when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son...

(Rom. 5:6-10)

Could God have stated anything more plainly? In five short verses God tells us in four different ways that in grace He saves us when we were without strength! When we were ungodly! When we were sinners! When we were His enemies!

Why, then, do so many world religions, ancient denominations, large churches, countless sects tell us that grace is unmerited on the one hand, but then go on to tell us how to merit it on the other hand? What a contradiction in terms. How can you merit unmerited favor? Grace is God's loving kind-

ness to sinners apart from their merit and in spite of their demerit.

SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

Having established this foundation of grace, our passage in Ephesians 2 goes on to say that salvation is not only by grace but through faith:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works! (Eph. 2:8).

What does it mean to be saved through faith? The Bible tells us that faith and grace always go together: **Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace** (Rom. 4:16). In human terms, God searched the universe for a way to save fallen, sinful humanity, and the only way He could find was the way of salvation by grace through faith. Religions and man-made theological systems have countless other ways of salvation, but God in His infinite wisdom has only one: the way of grace and faith. God does all the work. Our only part is believing in Him and relying on that work—the work of Christ on the Cross. He does all the saving. Our only part is being saved.

Someone has said, "Faith (or believing) is the only thing we can do without doing anything. It is the setting aside of our own doing so that we can rely on the doing of someone else—the Lord Jesus Christ."

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believes on him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

(Rom. 4:4-5)

In spite of centuries, no millennia, of the-

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ologians saying otherwise, God says faith or believing is a non-meritorious act. In faith, we set aside all our own work/merit/performance that leads to death so that we can believe/trust in/rely upon the work/merit/performance of Christ and His Cross that leads to eternal life. God freely gives (by grace) eternal life based on His work on the Cross (not our works) when we believe in Him (through faith).

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom. 6:23)

We all know the difference between a wage and a gift. Wages are something we

have coming and deserve. They are something owed to us because we earned them. If you work for a living, and you go to the boss to collect your pay, he is not giving you something that belongs to him, or even something that belongs to the company. He is giving you something that belongs to you. You are being paid for the work you have done and given what you deserve.

If we approach God like we approached the boss, expecting our pay according to the work we have done, what we have earned and deserved, then we would be asking to receive our due wages. But if God pays us sinners our due wages, if He gives us what we deserve, then justice demands that He pay us our wages in the currency of death because **the wages of sin is death.**

Thank God the verse does not end there.

It goes on to say: **BUT the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.** What a contrast! Thank God that He saves the powerless and the ungodly, sinners and enemies, you know, people like me and people like you. Eternal life is not something we deserve or merit or have coming. It is not based on the work we have done. It is a gift God gives us freely because it is based on the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. Christ deserves it! Christ merited it! Christ has it coming! Christ earned it! And now God is offering the benefits of

Christ's Work on behalf of sinners freely to all who cease from working and receive it by faith.

HEAVEN ISN'T A REWARD FOR GOOD PEOPLE! IT IS A FREE GIFT FOR BAD PEOPLE!

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

A man once asked the Apostle Paul: **What must I do to be saved?** Paul answered: **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved** (Acts. 16:30-31. This is God's answer—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear readers, if you have not yet set your deadly doing down and come to the Cross empty-handed, relying solely on Christ and His work so that you might receive eternal life from God as a free gift, believe now, and, like the Philippian jailor you too will be—**SAVED.**

To Hear More, click here:
[A Salvation Message:](#)
[The Supremacy of the Gospel](#)

The Danger in Wrongly-Dividing God's Word

unconsciously in every area of our lives.

Say you have two children, an 8 year old daughter and an 18 year old son. They are both asleep when you leave the house, so you write notes to give them their instructions for the day. You might tell your 8 year old daughter to put on her pretty pink dress, curl her hair and play with her dolls if she gets bored. You might tell your 18 year old son to clean his dirt bike, use the ride-on mower to cut the grass and drive to the store to get some groceries.

Now, what would happen if your 8 year old daughter decided to follow the instructions you gave to your son? Or what if your 18 year old son decided to follow the instructions you gave to your daughter? Of course, the result would be ridiculous! It would be mayhem! It could even be a life threatening disaster! We laugh and immediately recognize how ludicrous this would be.

It is clear that in order to operate in accord to the mother's wishes, the children must "rightly-divide" the messages she had written to them. Both notes are equally the word of the Mother, both are equally true and important, but if the children are to be approved by their Mother, they must rightly-divide the messages she sent and follow the one that is specifically written to them. The daughter can read her brother's note for her learning so that she knows what he is doing, and the son can read his sister's note for his learning so that he knows what she is doing, but they cannot claim the other's note for their own and follow it because that would lead to chaos.

Although a homely illustration, it shows that rightly-dividing is a most common sense, everyday sort of thing. We rightly

divide in every area of our lives—at home, at work, at play. Everywhere! So when God comes along and tells us to rightly-divide His Word, He is not telling us to do something difficult or foreign to our experience. He is telling us to do something basic and common place, something we apply to every other aspect of our lives.

God has written different instructions to different people at different times, and if we are to operate in accord with His wishes, we must rightly-divide these messages. When we approach the Bible in this way it clears up confusion, alleviates supposed contradictions some think they find in His Word, and makes the Bible the most understandable and practical thing in the world, which is exactly what God designed it to be. When we rightly-divide, we will understand God's Word and make use of it in the way He intended. In short, we will be workmen approved of God!

THE DANGER OF WRONGLY-DIVIDING

Wrongly dividing God's Word can be a dangerous business. In Numbers 13-14, we read an account of what happens when we do not rightly-divide God's distinct messages. In that passage, God had delivered the Israelites out of Egypt, guided them through the wilderness, brought them to the borders of their Promised Land, and then He told them to enter into it. They had nothing to fear because God had told them that when they entered the land He would fight their battles and protect them. He would send His fear in before them and send hornets in among their enemies and drive the Canaanites out of the land (Ex. 23:27-33).

So what did the Israelites do? Instead of entering the land, they sent 12 spies to go into the land and gather information about it, checking out the people, the crops, and the cities. After

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40 days, the 12 spies returned to the Israelite's camp and brought with them examples of the fruit of the land—figs and pomegranates and bunches of grapes so large and heavy they had to be put on a pole and carried by two men. They reported to Moses, Aaron and the whole congregation that the land was everything God said it would be, truly a land flowing with milk and honey.

But then 10 of the 12 spies, viewing things from man's perspective, saw what seemed to them to be insurmountable problems. The people dwelling there were strong and the cities built there were walled securely. Compared to the mighty people, the giants, who resided there, the Israelites were no more than grasshoppers waiting to be squashed. But 2 of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, viewing things from God's perspective, didn't see any problems because God was on their side. God had promised that He would remove all the problems. God said He would conquer the Israelite's enemies, protect them and give them the Land. God told them: **DON'T WAIT! GO INTO THE LAND RIGHT NOW! TODAY!!**

But they didn't go in that day. Instead, they ignored the instructions God gave that day and refused to go in.

And all the congregation lifted up their voice and cried and wept that night and all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt or would God we had died in the wilderness! And wherefore has the LORD brought us unto this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? Were it not better for us to return unto Egypt. (Num. 14:1-3)

What rebellion! They would rather follow another leader back into Egypt than follow God and Moses into the Promised Land. They would rather die alone in the wilderness than live with God in the Promised Land. God would have brought them into it and would have given them victory over their enemies, but the Israelites refused to listen. Things got so bad, that if the Glory of God had not separated Moses from the wrath of the people, they would have stoned him.

Just think— these are the same people who, not long before, had seen all the wonders God worked to deliver them out of bondage in Egypt. They saw the plagues and the destruction of the Egyptian army and the parting of the Red Sea and the miraculous preservation in the wilderness, and much more. But now, having arrived at the very land God had promised them, they rebelled, refusing to believe that He would accomplish all that He had said.

And it was then, in the light of this rebellion, that God gave the Israelites a new message. Before He had instructed them to go into the Land, **BUT NOW** He instructs them to not go into the land. Before He told them to exit the wilderness and enter the Land, **BUT NOW** He tells them to stay in the wilderness and do not go into the Land! Before He told them to live in the Land, **BUT NOW** He tells them to die in the wilderness. Before He told them that He would conquer their enemies, **BUT NOW** He tells them that He will not conquer their enemies.

So what were the Israelites to do? Were they to follow God's 1st message? Or His 2nd message? Both are equally the Word of God! It is obvious that they needed to follow the 2nd message! But what did

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they do?

And they rose the next morning and got them up into the mountain, saying Lo we be here and will go up into the place which the Lord has promised for we have sinned ... They presumed to go up unto the hill top, nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the Lord and Moses departed not out of camp” (Num. 14:40-44)

Although God had given them a new set of instructions, they decided to go back to the old set of instructions. But this is not the day before. This is the next day! Yesterday God told them to enter the land and have victory over their enemies. But now, today, He tells them to NOT enter the land because they won't have victory over their enemies. Yesterday, God's Word for them was to go into the land, engage the inhabitants in battle and be assured that God would give them the victory so they could live peacefully in their Promised Land.

But that was yesterday! And today is today! Between yesterday and today, God's Word for them changed. Today they were instructed to not go into the land and engage the enemy because God will not give them the victory. Both messages are truly the Word of God, but they were spoken at different times under different circumstances and, therefore, must be rightly divided.

The Israelites, however, wrongly-divided them, and the results were catastrophic.

And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? But it shall not prosper. Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies. For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away

from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you. But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp (Num. 14:41-44)

The Israelites ignored the change in God's messages and went up anyway to fight the enemy saying, **Lo we be here.** But God wasn't there! Like our illustration of the mother's notes to her children, this would be very funny if the results weren't so dire. The Israelites went into battle, calling on God to bless and protect them, even though He had changed His message stating explicitly that He would NOT bless and protect them.

They were following God's Word, but it was not God's Word to them for TODAY. They were following God's Word to them for yesterday, and they were defeated badly:

The Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah. (Num. 14:45)

God's Word For Today

Such are the hazards of wrongly-dividing God's Word, and they are just as hazardous for us today when we wrongly-divide His Word. God has changed His instructions to humanity many times in the Bible, and it is critical that we understand these changes and act accordingly. As the Israelites found, rightly-dividing God's Word is not an option. It is a necessity!

One the most important such changes occurs in the Book of Acts. There we find the transition from the Dispensation of the Law to the Dispensation of the Grace of God. Acts begins with Peter and the 12 ad-

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ressing national Israel in accord with her Prophetic Program, which had been spoken about since the world began (Acts 2-3). But Acts ends with Paul addressing the Body of Christ in accord with her Mystery Program, which had been kept secret since the world began (Rom. 16:25).

To reject this change in God's instructions from Time Past to The Present is even more dangerous for us today than it was for the Israelites in the past. In the beginning of Acts, God told His believing assembly through Peter and the 12 that they must follow the Law. But later in Acts He tells His believing assembly through the Apostle Paul that they must NOT follow the Law—they are not under the Law but under Grace (Rom. 6:14). Well? Which is it? Are believers under the Law or aren't they? Both are God's Word. Both are equally true. But you cannot follow both. They are mutually exclusive. So which set of instructions do we follow?

In Acts 15, we see what happens when those whom God had previously instructed must follow the Law come in contact with those whom God is now instructing must NOT follow the Law? This is no archaic question that bears little importance for us today. It is the million dollar question of Christianity. How we answer this question will not only have consequences today but for all eternity. How we answer this question is the difference between confusion and chaos that leads to dis-

aster; and clarity and order that leads to eternal life.

In Acts 15, the men from the Jerusalem assembly (who earlier had been told to follow God's Word in the Law under Peter and the 12) went to the assembly in Antioch (who were now being taught to NOT follow the Law but to follow God's Grace teachings under Paul) and commanded the believers there to follow the Law, especially with regard to circumcision. These men from Jerusalem were following God's instructions for yesterday. Paul's followers were following God's instruc-

tions for today. To confuse the two would result in disaster. So Paul stopped them dead in their tracks.

If the leaders from Jerusalem could force these predominantly Gentile believers to be circumcised according to the Law, that would mean that the believers in Antioch would have to do

every thing else in the Law as well. If they were circumcised, shouldn't they also give sacrifices in Jerusalem? Keep the Sabbath? Maintain the dietary restrictions? Must they not, in fact, keep the whole Law? If the men from Jerusalem won this point, God's work among the Gentiles would be destroyed.

Let's eavesdrop on the proceedings in Acts 15:3-19. When Paul arrived in Jerusalem, he told them about **all the things that God had done with them** among the Gentiles. Then a certain sect of the Pharisees who believed said: **It was needful to circumcise**

THE APOSTLE PETER:

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing (for the Nation of Israel) shall come from the presence of the Lord ... whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God has spoken about by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

(Acts 3:19-21)

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them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. Peter arose and attested to the fact that God's program with the world was changing, and his speech culminated with this amazing statement: **But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we (Jews) shall be saved even as they (Gentiles) (Acts. 15:11).**

Now, if you don't see the earth-shaking force of that statement, then you don't know your Bible. In all God's instructions before Paul the Gentiles were saved as the Jews. To relate to God, the Gentiles needed to come to Israel, and with her and through her RISE they would be saved and blessed. BUT NOW God instructs the Apostle Paul to make known that today He is no longer operating in that way. Today He is saving and blessing the Jews like the Gentiles, apart from Israel and through her FALL! And Peter acknowledged and appreciated it.

No wonder the sparks flew. Paul's preaching turned the Jewish world upside down. God's instructions to the world before He raised up the Apostle Paul explained how He will restore His glory on earth through the Nation Israel in accord with her Prophetic Program (found in the Law and the Prophets, including Christ's earthly ministry in the Gospels and the Ministry of Peter and the 12 in Acts). BUT NOW God has set aside, tempo-

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[Peter or Paul?](#)

THE APOSTLE PAUL:
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. NOW to Him that is of power to establish you according to my (Paul's) Gospel, and the Preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the Revelation of the Mystery, which was kept secret since the world began. (Rom. 6:24-25)

rarily, His Program with the Nation Israel because of her unbelief and has given a new set of instructions to and through the Apostle Paul that explains how He will restore His glory in the heavenlies through the Body of Christ in accord with her Mystery Program (found in Paul's Epistles).

Historic Christianity has for the most part rejected this change in God's instructions, foolishly choosing to operate in accord with Israel's Prophetic Program rather than the Body of Christ's Mystery Program. And in wrongly-dividing God's Word, historical Christianity has thrown away God's Instructions for today, and in doing that she has thrown away God and His glory, making her powerless to walk in a way that pleases Him. In fact, for the last 2000 years, professing Christianity has looked little different from the world, and this is still true today.

This train-wreck of historic Christianity goes far beyond physical death on the battle field. It is spiritual death. It robs us of things with eternal significance. The lost are robbed of the clear presentation of the saving Gospel of the Grace of God. And the saved have been robbed of the clear instructions they need to walk in a way that is well-pleasing to the Lord. What a disaster.

The only way we can be a force for God in the world today is to return to the Word rightly-divided, distinguishing between what God has done in the past and will do in the future with the Nation of Israel and what He

Question and Answer

Today, are we under the Law or under Grace?

The Apostle Paul tells us that we are not “under Law but under Grace (Rom. 6:14).” Too often we think of this simply in terms of no longer having to observe some of the things found in the Law--like keeping the sacrifices or the feast days or the tithe or the Sabbath or the dietary restrictions. But to think in these terms is to miss Paul’s point.

What Paul is saying is that today God is not dealing with us on the basis of a Law System. He is dealing with us on the basis of a Grace System.

How do these two systems differ? The Law was a system of command with assigned blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience (usually death). The Law System did not say: Do Not Commit Adultery. It said: Do Not Commit Adultery, and if you do commit adultery you shall die.

The Law called on sinful flesh to obey in order to receive God’s blessings. But this is like commanding a penniless beggar to first pay a million dollars in order to receive a 2 million dollar reward! Or commanding an invalid to first set a new world record for the 100 yard dash so that he could be blessed with the ability to walk! The Law calls on our sick, powerless, sinful, fallen flesh to produce human righteousness, but it neither equips nor empowers it to do so. Israel lived under the Mosaic Law system for 1500 years, yet even with all her numerous advantages--she had God’s promises, God’s presence, God’s Word, God’s protection, God’s leadership, etc.—she failed to keep the Law, and her history was characterized as one not of receiving the blessings but of falling under

the curses.

And if this was true for Israel with all her benefits it is even truer for us Gentiles who have far less. In the history of Israel, God proved once-and-for-all that when sinful flesh enters into a Law System with God, it will always receive the curses and never the blessings of that Law. The Law is powerless to aid sinners in being right before God (Rom. 3:19-20).

Paul announces that today God has ruled out the option of approaching Him on the basis of a Law System. It is futile as a means of approach to God. Israel proved

it. We CANNOT do it! If we are going to be brought into a right relationship with God, He must do it for us. And He does just that in the Grace System He revealed to and

through the Apostle Paul. In a Grace System, God first gives us all His blessing freely not based on our person and work but based on the Person and Work of His Son on the Cross. There, Christ took all our sin, condemnation and death onto Himself, so that now He might offer us eternal life as a free gift simply on the basis of faith or believing. Grace enriches the sinner first, giving him righteousness and life as a free gift. Then it teaches him how to use and dispense those riches to others in service to God.

For sin shall not have dominion over you because you are not under the law, but under grace (Rom. 6:14)

**GRACE IS ALL GOD IS
FREE TO DO FOR YOU AND
ME ...
BECAUSE OF WHAT HIS
SON DID ON THE CROSS
OF CALVARY!**

We preach *Christ Crucified*¹; we worship *Jesus Christ According to the Revelation of the Mystery*²; and we study the Bible using the principle of *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*³.

1. 1 Cor. 1:23

2. Rom. 16:25

3. 2 Tim. 2:15

We meet every Sunday morning at the *Rolling Meadows Community Center* located at **3705 Pheasant Dr.**

www.gbcm.org

Fellowship and Refreshments: 9:30 - 9:55

Morning Service: 9:55 - 11:15

We have Sunday School for all children

Please visit our website for Directions: [Directions](#)

Newsletter email: biblestudygbcrm@gmail.com

All Articles in the Bold To Speak The Mystery Newsletter are by Steve Walker

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