

## SO, NOW WHAT DO I DO? Lesson 7: The Chopping Block

Many people who wake up to the gospel of God's amazing grace go through a period of questioning what they believe. They ask, "If I missed something as basic as understanding the TRUE gospel, what else do I believe or practice that is wrong?"

### 1 Thessalonians 5:21

*Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

- I. Allow us to introduce to you what we call "The Chopping Block". This is where you open up your beliefs and religious practices to God's inspection. Keep these points in mind as you proceed.
  1. God is the One who does the chopping.
  2. God wants to see you free not only from false doctrine but also false practices.
  3. You are placing your doctrine and practices on the chopping block, not yourself. God is not interested in chopping any part of you. He wants to set you free and build you up.
  4. The chopping is based on the truth of God's written word not our random opinions.
  5. What do you have to lose?
  6. What do you stand to gain?
  7. Submitting our beliefs and practices to God's chopping block is a life-long process. Just when you think you've uncovered every area of mixture, you may discover another. Get in the habit of letting go!
  
- II. The How-to's of the Chopping Block

Here are some guidelines to help you evaluate your beliefs and practices. Keep in mind that this could take some time, maybe even years to root out beliefs you currently hold that are inaccurate.

  1. You have a brain. Don't be afraid to use the mental skills God gives us all.
  2. You have a Bible. Read it.
  3. You have the Holy Spirit. Listen.
  4. Be open to being wrong, but also be open to being right. You might place something on the chopping block, and after careful examination realize no chopping is necessary.

III. Some potential topics for the chopping block are:

1. The long list of Don'ts: Evaluating legalism
2. The long list of Do's: Questioning Tradition
3. What basic knowledge do I lack about the New Covenant?
4. What actually happened at the cross?
5. Am I trying to bring about things that Jesus Christ has already accomplished?
6. Am I asking God to give things to me He's already given?
7. If I'm not praying accurately, how do I pray now?
8. What does the New Testament say about giving?
9. To what extent am I allowing the Old Covenant to guide my life?
10. What mixture is harming or binding me?
11. How is legalism affecting my relationships?
12. Do I believe that I am loved or blessed by God based on my performance?
13. Am I living by formulas or by faith?
14. Have I experienced or participated in spiritual practices that weren't from God?
15. Etc., etc., etc.

IV. Be willing to be wrong, very wrong. Realizing that many and sometimes most of your beliefs are wrong can be a bit humiliating. However, freedom will come as you let go of false thinking.

*John 8:32*

*Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.<sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

V. Go all the way! Sometimes people will start to understand the true gospel and then shrink back. Never close your heart and mind to the Holy Spirit's chopping.

*Luke 9:62*

*"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

VI. Allow the truth to bring healing in every area of your life. This might involve some apologizing and drastic changes in how you deal with your closest relationships.

VII. Don't bring junk with you!

*We tend to cling tightly to our traditions and experiences. Many believers after understanding the good news of God's grace toward them continue to cling to their former false beliefs. For example, someone who was formerly of a hyper-faith background might try to incorporate that way of thinking into grace instead of questioning their beliefs. Someone who used to believe that it was evil to believe that God will prosper us and heal us might bring that bent with them. Remember, it won't hurt to open these things up to God's inspection. You don't want to cling on to ANYTHING that is false.*

VIII. Don't go off the deep end. We have observed a few believers who are having such a negative reaction to what they formerly believed that they venture into false doctrines. A very common example is someone who once believed that he would go to hell for just about anything is now relieved to know he is forgiven, but then will falsely conclude that everyone will be saved eventually. It will only take a brief search in scripture to see that this is not true.

*1 Thessalonians 5:21*

*Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

IX. Be aware of wolves!

*Acts 20:28-31*

*Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. <sup>29</sup> For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup> Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. <sup>31</sup> Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

Yes, there ARE wolves in the body of Christ. There are deliberate attempts to undermine the gospel of the grace of God. Here are some of our observations:

1. Using the word "grace" frequently in a sermon to make it appear to be a sermon about grace
2. Giving those who are teaching grace positions of "leadership" in order to subdue their message (since it is assumed they will have to be loyal to the leader).
3. Treating "grace" as if it is just a topic to be later set aside for weightier topics
4. Casting dispersions on the gospel of God's grace and those who teach it
5. Teaching that God's grace must be "balanced"
6. Saying things that diminish grace such as, "We need to teach the whole counsel of God"; the implication being that grace isn't the whole counsel of God which it is (Acts 20).
7. Adding conditions to God's grace: ifs, ands, buts

*John 7:16-17*

*So Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. <sup>17</sup> If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.*

Keep this in mind, lies bind, and truth sets free.

If you have beliefs that are not true, you will be bound in that area.

However, when you discover the truth, you will be set free.



Never be afraid to let God set you free.

## MAJESTY

### Chorus 1

Majesty worship His majesty  
Unto Jesus be all glory  
Honor and praise  
Majesty kingdom authority  
Flow from His throne  
Unto His own His anthem raise

So exalt lift up on high  
The name of Jesus  
Magnify come glorify  
Christ Jesus the King

Majesty worship His majesty  
Jesus who died now glorified  
King of all kings

*CCLI Song # 1527*

*Jack Hayford*

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