

Lesson 8: No Turning Back!

People tend to go “so far” with the topic of grace until they come upon a sacred cow that they are afraid to place on the chopping block. They think if they “go there” it could get them in trouble, perhaps with a senior pastor or one’s denomination. We would like to ask, “So what?” Isn’t it better to know the truth? If you place a certain belief before the Lord and ask Him to show you if it’s true, and you keep your heart open to His Spirit, don’t you want to hear what He has to say? What if the thing you are holding onto so dearly is actually WRONG? Don’t you want to know the truth...won’t that set you free? If what you believe is accurate, it should be able to stand the test of Scripture, shouldn’t it? Why would you want to hold on to anything that can’t? It’s time for total honesty before God.

- I. Allow the truth of the gospel of God’s grace (Acts 20:24) to take root and become strong in your life. Don’t allow persecution to prevent you from growing in grace.

Matthew 13:20-21

He who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word (the gospel), immediately he stumbles.

- A. What does this tribulation and persecution look like?

1. **Misunderstandings**

Friends or family often do not understand what we are learning. Sometimes they will sideline you for a period of time or refuse to talk about it. Some have even experienced alienation from their spouse and children. This can be VERY PAINFUL, but we are called to follow him.

Matthew 10:34-39

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; ³⁶ and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ ³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Mark 10:29-30

So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, ³⁰ who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.

2. **False Accusations**

Romans 3:8

And why not say, “Let us do evil that good may come”?—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.

- *Grace believers think we should throw away the pages of the Old Testament.*
- *They teach that sinning is no big deal.*
- *They think everyone will be saved in the end.*

Matthew 5:10-12

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 *“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

3. Finger Pointing & Name Calling (Alienation and Shunning)

Attempts to label you or what you are teaching in a negative light so that no one will listen to you.

- *Grace teachers are “extremists”!*
- *They are “unbalanced”.*
- *That is just a “fad”.*
- *Greasy grace, sloppy agape, easy believism*
- *They are antinomianists!*

4. Arrogance and Patronization

Using one’s status, educational degrees, religious practices, and supposed knowledge to assert superiority and to intimidate (bully).

- *I’m an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher.*
- *I attended such and such university.*
- *I have such and such a degree.*
- *I’ve been in ministry fifty years.*
- *I’ve read the Bible a hundred times.*

5. Projection

Accusing others of doing something that they are actually doing

- *Lack of Unity: Unity vs. conformity*
- *Divisive: Loyalty to a “king” vs. loyalty to the Jesus*
- *Unloving: Critical spirit vs. speaking the truth in love*

6. Increasing Persecution

Grace teachers are heretics and must be stopped!

a. Extensive Shunning

b. Public smear campaigns

Acts 13:49-52

And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

c. Public false accusations

d. Private accusations to spiritual authorities

e. Being brought before the authorities

f. Expulsion from religious systems

g. Threats

h. Imprisonment

i. Physical harm

j. Martyrdom

II. Fear of Rocking the Boat

A. Fear of not being seen in a positive light.

B. Fear of losing position within the church.

III. Financial Worries

- A. Employees of church fear losing job if they speak the truth in love.
- B. Pastors fear loss of income if they don't preach mandatory giving.

IV. Settling for Less

There can be no compromise. There is only one gospel and there can be no mixture. It ISN'T correct to mix the revelation of grace in with the old way of doing things. Grace changes everything. God's amazing grace IS the gospel (Acts 20:24).

A. The Old is NOT Better (Good Enough)

Luke 5:36-39

Then He spoke a parable to them: "No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old. 37 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. 38 But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. 39 And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better (good enough).'"

1. No, the old isn't good enough and it isn't better. If Paul pronounced a curse on anyone teaching a mixed message, then surely it is not good. If preaching a mixed gospel nullifies the cross, it is NOT better.
2. Don't give into the temptation to blend in, to go with the flow. Seek TRUTH and pursue it. Don't compromise the truth. Do not begin to believe the true gospel and go back to the old.

Luke 9:62

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

V. The is only ONE faith. Contend for it!

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Jude 1:3

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend (struggle) earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

VI. "Anyone" includes everyone!!!

Galatians 1:6-10

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

- A. To preach another gospel is to be a pleaser of man and not a pleaser of God; a servant of man and not of God.

VII. GIVE US A KING!

Break the habit of looking to formula and so-called spiritual authority to serve as a mediator between you and God. Jesus is the only Mediator.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

VIII. STAND FAST!

It will take effort on your part and even personal loss and sacrifice, but Jesus is worth it. Don't allow anyone to bring you back under bondage. Keep pressing on to know and follow the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Galatians 5:1, 4-5, 7-10 AMPLIFIED

In [this] freedom Christ has made us free [and completely liberated us]; stand fast then, and do not be hampered and held ensnared and submit again to a yoke of slavery [which you have once put off].

⁴ *If you seek to be justified and declared righteous and to be given a right standing with God through the Law, you are brought to nothing and so separated (severed) from Christ. You have fallen away from grace (from God's gracious favor and unmerited blessing).*

⁵ *For we, [not relying on the Law but] through the [Holy] Spirit's [help], by faith anticipate and wait for the blessing and good for which our righteousness and right standing with God [our conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action, causes us] to hope.*

⁷ ***You were running the race nobly. Who has interfered in (hindered and stopped you from) your heeding and following the Truth?***

⁸ *This [evil] persuasion is not from Him Who called you [Who invited you to freedom in Christ].*

⁹ *A little leaven (a slight inclination to error, or a few false teachers) leavens the whole lump [it perverts the whole conception of faith or misleads the whole church].*

¹⁰ *[For my part] I have confidence [toward you] in the Lord that you will take no contrary view of the matter but will come to think with me. But he who is unsettling you, whoever he is, will have to bear the penalty.*