

# Are We Preaching “Another” Gospel: A 31-Day Journey toward Rediscovering the Gospel of the Grace of God

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## *Day 12*

### REDEFINITION OF TERMS

When we became aware that we missed “the” gospel, we began a gradual process we called “the chopping block,” reasoning that if we had not understood something as basic as the Christian life being a life of faith in response to His grace and not about what we do and don’t do to improve ourselves, then surely there were other areas in which we had erred. Everything we’d been taught about how to live the Christian life became subject to examination. Every supposed “spiritual” experience we’d known was evaluated. Our callings and gifts were also part of this assessment. As this process took place over several years, we began to see a pattern developing and were able to gradually identify just *how* it was that we got off track.

One factor stands out to us as our most crucial error. Just as happens in a cult, terms were redefined. Once this happened, a veil of misinterpretation was hung before us that kept us from seeing the truth. It was as if we had put on a pair of truth-dimming glasses that obscured the light, not allowing us to see what was actually written. Therefore, we missed the truth in verses such as this.

#### ***Romans 16:25***

*Now to Him who is able to **establish you** according to my **gospel** and the **preaching of Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began.*

First of all, as I’ve discussed, “the gospel”, in our thinking, was what you preached to the lost. We never once considered that the gospel should be preached to the saved. Thus, each time we read the word “gospel,” we assumed the text applied to non-believers and were blind as to how the passage might be directed at us, the saved. So, in the above passage, we didn’t see that **the gospel establishes believers**.

Another blind spot we developed was that we saw “grace” only as what one needed to get saved, the ability to endure difficulties, or a kindness afforded to those who offend. Certainly, grace is all of these things, but grace is also **the gospel**.

### **Galatians 6:1**

*I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in **the grace of Christ**, to a **different** gospel.*

While we might at first be uncertain as to what Paul means by a “different” gospel, there can be no doubt from this passage that in his thinking, the real gospel is “the grace of Christ”.

In fact, Paul defined his entire ministry as the gospel of God’s grace.

### **Acts 20:24**

*But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and **the ministry** which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the **gospel of the grace of God**.*

As our studies continued, we saw again and again that Paul, John, and Peter all saw God’s **grace** as **the** gospel, not just an **aspect** of the gospel. To Titus, Paul said that **grace** brings salvation.

### **Titus 2:11**

*For the **grace of God** has appeared, **bringing salvation** to all men.*

He wrote that the **gospel** which the Colossians heard and understood was the **grace of God**. This very grace was continually bearing fruit and increasing.

### **Colossians 1:5-6**

*Because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, **the gospel** <sup>6</sup> which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood **the grace of God** in truth.*

To the Corinthians, he spoke of **the grace of God**, which was **spreading**, and to the Ephesians, he states that it is by **grace** that we are saved through faith.

### **2 Corinthians 4:15**

*For all things are for your sakes, so that **the grace which is spreading to more and more people** may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.*

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

*For **by grace** you have been saved through faith; and that not of*

*yourselves, it is the **gift of God**; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

John wrote that grace and truth **came** through Jesus. Peter spoke of the prophets who foresaw our **salvation** as the **grace** that would come to us.

**John 1:14, 16-17**

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of **grace** and truth.*

*<sup>16</sup> And of His fullness we have all received, and **grace for grace**. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, but **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ**.*

**1 Peter 1:10**

*As to this **salvation**, the prophets who prophesied of **the grace that would come to you** made careful searches and inquiries.*

Grace is the “glad tidings of good things” from our benevolent Father. It isn’t just how we get saved—it’s not the elementary principles that we leave behind after we understand them. It is the full counsel of God.<sup>1</sup> Grace is everything that God did and does for us. It is His undeserved and unmerited favor not only for the sinner, but toward us, His beloved children. It is undeserved because we have done plenty to disqualify ourselves from receiving it, and unmerited because we can do nothing to earn it. He not only gave up His Son for us when we were His enemies; He now freely gives us all things! This is good news—for *believers*—the gospel of God’s grace!

**Romans 8:31-32**

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is **for** us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him **also** freely give (shall be graciously granting)<sup>2</sup> us all things?*

By redefining “gospel” and “grace”, we missed the significance of multiple passages—nearly the entire impact of the gospel. Even Paul’s greetings of grace were skipped over as mere salutations. As we began to embrace the fuller significance of these terms and others, our

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<sup>1</sup> Notice the context of the term “full counsel of God” is immediately following Acts 20:24 where Paul refers to his ministry as the gospel of God’s grace. To him the gospel was the full counsel of God.

<sup>2</sup> Parenthesis from Greek Interlinear  
(<http://www.scripture4all.org/OnlineInterlinear/NTpdf/rom8.pdf>)

understanding of Scripture came alive again, and we were able to return to the blessed enjoyment of our relationship with God.