

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries

John
5:39



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The Bible gives various definitions of Grace. These definitions combine and adhere together to comprise God's grace freely given to sinful man. As one diamond contains many dazzling facets on its face, so too God's grace revealed through the person and power of Jesus Christ has various glorious facets, functions, and out workings flowing from its single source. Below are several definitions and operations of this self same grace as revealed in Scripture.

Grace is foremost the undeserving love and favor of God shown toward the utterly undeserving by nature.

As law-breaking sinners, all of mankind stands guilty in the eyes of God and worthy of judgment and eternal death. Romans 1-3 present the awful evidence of humanity's moral guilt before a holy and righteous God. Against this dark, immoral, and hideous backdrop, God revealed His amazing grace through Jesus Christ (Romans 3:24-26) to rescue man from eternal ruin and death.

God, of course by the very nature of grace itself, is under no obligation to give grace to any one of us. Truth to tell, the only obligation God owes to sinners (i.e., those who have broken God's law in thought, word, or deed in defiance against Him) is to punish them with everlasting condemnation since a transgression against an eternal being merits in commensurate

fashion corresponding eternal judgment. But God's grace instead provided an innocent, sinless, and righteous substitute for our sins who took upon Himself the penalty due us for sin so that we could be pardoned and received in God's love. This gracious substitute was Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23; 2 Timothy 1:9).



Todd Baker

The Doctrine of Divine Grace Part 2

(Psalm 86:15, 103;
Romans 5:21;
Ephesians 2:4-9)

This is not a cheap grace but cost God the greatest object of His value and the best heaven could afford. Now that Christ redeemed us, we as Christians are obligated to serve Him in love, moral purity, thanksgiving, worship and obedience. ***"For you are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's"*** (1 Corinthians 6:20). No wonder someone used GRACE as an acronym to mean **God's Riches At Christ's Expense** freely bestowed on the believing sinner. We

are truly made rich at Christ's expense because of God's grace.

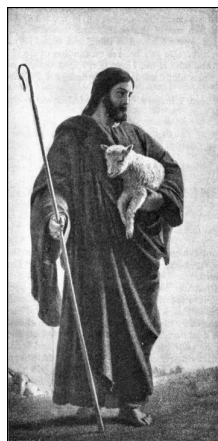
God's grace is unmerited by nature and by virtue of that can never be earned or worked for by the sinner.

Our good works cannot earn for us salvation. God's standard for salvation is moral perfection. But since humans by nature are morally imperfect, we cannot earn salvation

Continued on page 2

In This Issue:

<i>The Doctrine of Divine Grace</i>	1
<i>Listening to the Still Small Voice</i>	2
<i>Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables</i>	3
<i>Israel: The Super Sign of the End Times</i>	4



LISTENING TO THE "STILL SMALL VOICE"



By Robert Cuccia

A few weeks ago, my friend Byron and I were on the return drive from a canoe and camping trip in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area located on the U.S./Canadian border in Northern Minnesota. It was about a 6- or 7-hour drive to St. Cloud, so we were a long way from home. Along the highway on the Western shore of Lake Superior, Byron spotted a backpacker hitchhiking. He asked "should we pick him up?", fully intending to do so despite what my answer might be.

My first thought was that he might have a gun and I don't pick up hitchhikers anyway, so before I could throw a lasso around my tongue, off it went and I said so. No matter. The brakes were applied and in he climbed. After introductions (his name was Tom) and with a new destination set, we were off.

In the course of conversation, we discovered that our new companion had been backpacking extensively across the country. Byron, having hiked much of America and, in fact, the world, had much experience and many trails under his belt. These two had much in common. They had hiked many of the same trails and even knew some of the same people.

What were the odds?

Later, we found out that he was a former Catholic. So was I. Hmmm.

It was becoming clear that this was a divine appointment. We witnessed to Tom and the Holy Spirit was present. **IT WAS POWERFUL.** I had to hold back tears. Despite myself, God was using me.



It's a good thing my friend was paying attention to the "still small voice" or we could have missed this opportunity.

So why do I tell this story and what does it have to do with Israel?

Simple. We can throw all the money, plans, techniques, and good intentions we can muster at evangelization of Israel, but if we are not walking in The Spirit and listening to the "Still Small Voice," we will miss His plan and His

will. We will miss these Divine Appointments.

Read the first two chapters of Ephesians. He chooses us! He works out the details. Review Ephesians 1:11. **"In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will..."** (NIV)

Look at Ephesians 2:10, **"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."** (NIV) WOW! Think of it! He has prepared in advance these good works for us to do. Would that include sharing the Gospel and being a witness to His saving Grace, Mercy, and Power? Of course it does. In fact, these are the Primary good works that we are commanded in Scripture to do (Matt. 28:16, Mark 16:15-18, Mark 4:3-32).

Please pray that Todd and I will recognize the prompting of the Holy Spirit and can hear when God Speaks, so that we will not miss the works He has prepared in advance for us to do. †



Robert Cuccia

Divine Doctrine... Continued from page 1

in this way. Romans 3:12 tells us that no mortal man can keep God's law in perfect order. **"Therefore by the deeds of the Law no flesh shall be justified."** So then someone who can be perfect must enter into the picture and win salvation for us. This requirement is fully met in the God-man Jesus Christ who lived a perfect life and offers his perfection to us as a free gift. Titus 3:5 states: **"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy has He saved us."** Thus it is only by

God's grace can we actually be saved.

The word of God says that all of man's acquired righteousness are as "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6) and therefore utterly ineffective and deficient to save him. The sobering assessment from Scripture is that man's self-generated attempt at righteousness and good deeds are unprofitable for meriting God's favor or earning His salvation. In fact, God says to those who are

trying to earn salvation on the basis of their own efforts, **"I will declare your righteousness, and your works, for they will not profit you"** (Isaiah 57:12). That is because, as we previously pointed out, saving grace is solely given on the perfect merits of Christ, which He accomplished at Calvary. We all must come to God empty-handed if we are to receive Christ's saving grace. †

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age

"He that received seed into the good ground is he that bears the word, and understands it, which also bears fruit, and brings forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." (Matt 13:23)

The accumulation of the fruit from the good ground differs; some may bring forth a hundredfold, some sixty, and some only thirty. Whatever the degree of increase the Word of God brings from the arable soil of the human heart, the sowing minister of the Gospel is guaranteed great reward.

"To him that sows righteousness shall be a sure reward" (Proverbs 11:18). He that

continually bears the precious seed of the Gospel to the lost and dying is promised great joy in reaping converts to Christ

(Psalm 126:6). This will eventually happen, if the patient sower of the Word endures and does not faint (Galatians 6:9).

The particular reason for the varying degrees of fruitful productivity on the good ground is not due to the earthly composition of the soil, which is pictured as the pitiable, barren heart of sinful man without God. This was essentially the same all over the field of planting on the wayside, stony, and thorny parts. The problem of fruitlessness was in the lack of proper cultivation. God's spiritual cure for a fruitless, barren, and hardened heart is excellently offered in Hosea 10:12: ***"Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap in mercy. Break up your fallow ground. For it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you."*** Without a humble, broken, and contrite heart, the sown seed of the Word will not be rooted deeply, and is unable to produce a gentle, meek, and repentant spirit.

This inability, of course, does not rest with God, but in man's stubborn unwillingness to repent and renounce sin, and with childlike meekness receive the engrafted Word which is able to save the soul (James 1:21). Therefore, from these observations we can say: whatever the spiritual upbringing of the Christian is will determine in direct proportion the level and spiritual productivity of His faith according to the evangelical resources at his disposal. Indeed, the true Christian church is entirely composed of good ground hearers. The collective fruition of their labor is perseverance over the

Part 10 - the Parable of the
Sower and the Seed



world by faith in God and trust in His Word that results in a series of victories over the snares that entrapped the other three hearers mentioned in the parable of the sower and the seed.

The stumbling block that prevented the wayside hearer from receiving salvation was rank unbelief. The remedy implemented by the good ground hearer against such a universal sin is an unshakable faith in God and His Word. The good ground hearer has his heart and mind firmly rooted in the word of God. His unpretentious simple faith in the sovereign Lordship of Jesus Christ elevates him above the problematic storms of life into the sweet, comforting trust of God bringing security and peace in the darkest hour of trials when unbelief hangs overhead like an ominous storm cloud thundering threats of doubt and defeat upon him.

The stumbling block that prevented the stony ground hearer from obtaining saving faith in the Gospel was a lack of total dedication to the Lord Jesus Christ. When met with adversity and persecution, he failed to stand. The good ground hearer, on the other hand, when confronted with fierce opposition and harsh persecution for the Gospel's sake, will not retreat or retract his Christian faith but

gladly receives ***"the Word in much affliction"*** (1 Thessalonians 1:6) and rejoices in the fact that he has been accounted worthy to suffer for Christ's sake.

For he knows full well suffering will produce godly character, developing an indomitable and proven faith in God that cannot be shaken by any known or unknown persons, places, or things in all existence (see 1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:1-2, 12-14;

Continued on page 6

Search the Scriptures

This is a monthly newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries. Special thanks go to several people who helped to make this newsletter possible:

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www.searchthescripturesonline.org

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Israel: The Super Sign of the End-Times (Part 8)

1948 - Israeli soldiers
recapture Jerusalem



Zionism no doubt enjoyed a popular resurgence in the latter half of the nineteenth century due directly to the increasing hatred and hostility explicitly shown toward the Jews throughout Europe. That hatred and hostility has always been an inherent part of European culture dating back to the days of the Roman



Empire. The greatest concentration of anti-Semitic hostilities against the Chosen People was in Eastern Europe and Russia. In fact, hatred for the Jews was so bad in Russia that the Czar in 1903 commissioned his secret police to forge a document entitled *The Protocols of the Elders in Zion*. This forgery allegedly was supposed to be the blueprint and planned conspiracy for Jewish world domination drawn up by a group of influential Jews as codified in the twenty-four protocols. The Czar was to use this fabrication to justify a bloody pogrom carried out throughout Russia and the Ukraine from 1903 to 1906.

Such a tidal wave of anti-Semitism that had and would engulf Europe in the 19th and the 20th centuries created a strong and unquenchable desire among many European Jews to return to their ancient homeland of Israel. This prompted an early leader and pioneer of Zionism, Russian Doctor Leon Pinsker, to write a seminal work of Modern-day Zionism entitled *Auto-Emancipation* in 1882. In it, Pinsker basically proposed that the only solution to protect the Jewish people from ongoing anti-Semitism was for them to have a national homeland of their own. Initially, he thought this Jewish State could be established anywhere in the world, but eventually came to the firm conviction that such a homeland could only be planted where ancient Israel had originally been located.

A decade after this, Zionism's political ideas and concepts for a Jewish homeland were formally defined by its leading proponent,

Theodor Herzl, in his foundational work *The Jewish State*. This book formed the constitutional basis for the First Zionist Congress convened on August 27, 1897, at Basel, Switzerland; 204 delegates from 17 countries attended the Congress. Herzl worked tirelessly to gain support and backing for a Jewish State indefatigably traveling throughout Europe meeting with the monarchs, statesmen, and politicians to obtain legal acceptance for a Jewish homeland. At the Fifth Zionist Congress held in August 1903 (Herzl's last before his death in 1904), Herzl tentatively accepted the British proposal to establish a Jewish State in the country of Uganda located in East Africa. After much debate and deliberation among the delegates of the Fifth Congress, the Uganda proposal was rejected. The delegates came to the firm and uncompromising conclusion that a Jewish State could only be established in the land of their ancestors—the land of Israel. This unshakable resolve would only grow, intensify, and be carried to eventual fruition some forty-five years later with the birth of the modern nation of Israel.



Leon Pinsker

Theodor Herzl's vision was really the greater vision of God to restore His people, Israel, to the land He gave to Abraham, their founding father, and his Jewish descendants after him for an eternal possession in fulfillment

of those End-time prophecies that the Jews would be regathered back to Israel as a sign and precondition for the return of the Messiah-Jesus of Nazareth. Satan knows of these prophecies and, within a generation of these pioneers of Zionism, was allowed by the providence of God to try to subvert and prevent the Jewish people from returning to their ancient God-given homeland. But the die had already been cast. In the modern-day movement of Zionism, God was beginning to focus His attention again on the "everlasting nation" so that many of the promises of their latter day restoration to the land in preparation for the Messiah's return would be realized as supernaturally foretold in the Word of God. The prophecy of Isaiah 41:8-10 stands fulfilled in this distinct regard: ***"But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend. You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest regions, and said to you: 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away. Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'"*** †

About the Author

Todd Baker is president of B'rit Hadashah Ministries — a Gospel outreach ministry to the Jewish people of Israel. He is also a full-time chaplain at Medical City Hospital. Since called to the ministry in 1984 his ministering experience includes Bible teaching, jail and prison chaplaincy, counseling, evangelism, and church ministry. Todd is also a theological consultant, writer, and tour leader in Israel for Zola Levitt Ministries. He has led several Gospel outreaches to the Jews of Israel commissioned and sent by Shalom, Shalom Messianic Congregation of Dallas, Texas. Todd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biblical studies and a Master of Theology Degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. He is currently a Doctoral candidate at Trinity Seminary under the auspices of Liverpool University at Liverpool, England.†

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YOU CAN BE ...

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Comments? Suggestions?

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PRAYER REQUEST



Dear readers,


Please pray for our Gospel outreach team consisting of Robert Cuccia and myself as we go to Israel from **November 2nd through 20th** to conduct another witnessing campaign sharing the Gospel of Yeshua with His people. It is not too late to pledge your financial support to underwrite some of the cost for this outreach. May God bless you as you do so in blessing the Jewish people (Genesis 12:3).

Here is a suggested prayer list to use when praying for us.

We will give a full report of how things go over there in future newsletters.

Your servant in the Messiah,

Todd Baker



Join Todd Baker in an enriching evening of teaching the Bible and the Jewish roots of Christianity. The Shalom Shalom Congregation meets each Friday evening at 7:30 at the Biblical Arts Center located at Park Lane and Boedeker in Dallas, Texas. For more information, visit <http://www.levitt.com/congregation.html> or call (214) 696-8844 during normal business hours.

- ☆ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).
- ☆ Pray that we have the Father's wisdom and guidance in everything we do (Psalm 32:8; 48:14; Colossians 4:5).
- ☆ Pray for witnessing opportunities (John 4:35; Luke 10:2; Acts 1:8).
- ☆ Pray that God will open the hearts of those who will hear (Psalm 110:3; Acts 16:14).

- ☆ Pray that God will give us the boldness to proclaim the Gospel to the Jew first and also the Gentile (Acts 4:31; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 6:19).
- ☆ Pray for spiritual unity and agreement among us (Psalm 133:1).
- ☆ Pray for our health, protection, safety, and God's protection from the hand of the enemy, both seen and unseen (Psalm 91; Matthew 6:13).
- ☆ Pray for spiritual fruit that will last (John 15:7-8; Galatians 5:22-23).
- ☆ Pray for favor among the Chosen People as we share the Gospel with them (Proverbs 12:2).
- ☆ Pray that the Chosen People will come to faith in Messiah (Christ) Jesus (Romans 10:1; Matthew 15:16; Mark 8:27-29, 14:61-62; Luke 9:18-20; John 4:25-26). †



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God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Matthew 13... Continued from page 3

Philippians 1:29; Romans 8:35-39).

The stumbling block that prevented the thorny ground hearer from possessing salvation was his divided allegiance. He had one foot planted in the kingdom of God, and the other foot planted in the world-system opposed to God. His heart is one of great division and instability. When the good ground hearer is pierced and tested by the thorny trials of this world, he chooses to bear it and overcome through patience, endurance, and stability. He is able to persevere because his heart is fixed "on things above, and not on things upon the earth."

The good ground hearer is that good and faithful servant of the Lord who in unswerving obedience yields for himself the salutary commendation from Christ: "Well done good and faithful servant, enter in the joy of the Lord." The good ground hearer is a good and faithful steward that watches over his Master's household (church) giving the members spiritual food in due season. The good ground hearer is one, who by the imminent anticipation of "the Blessed Hope" is made pure before God. He lives in a constant, reverent expectancy for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 3:2-3).

The good ground hearer feeds the Lord's sheep, and is willing to give his life for his brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). A good ground hearer is willing to impoverish himself of selfish ambition and worldly comforts, **"that he should no longer live the flesh for the lust of men, but for the will of God"**

(1 Peter 4:1-2). The good ground hearer is a living example of the Gospel in self-abnegation of the "old man" in favor of the "new man" in all significant areas of his life, even if it should entail martyrdom that will bring the crown of eternal reward. **"For whoever will save his life shall lose it, but whoever shall lose his life for My sake and the Gospel's, the same shall find it"** (Mark 8:34-35). Truly thereafter, the good ground hearer can rejoice in the confident and exultant words of Paul, **"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the good faith. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom, to Him be glory forever and ever. Amen."** †