

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

John
5:39

A Monthly Newsletter of B'rit Hadashah Ministries



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June 2004

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March's Gospel 2004 outreach began in Tiberias, Israel. Robert Cuccia and I spent three days here with follow-up visits to people we had spoken to in November.

Before we embarked on March's outreach, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart during my prayer time to go and revisit a young man we witnessed to in Tiberias on our November 2003 Gospel outreach. His name was Eli and works in a souvenir shop in Tiberias. The Spirit of God pressed upon my mind that when we saw Eli again, we were to strongly urge him to accept Yeshua by faith as his Lord and Savior. As some of our readers recall, in the March newsletter, I wrote that when we witnessed to Eli in November and shared the Gospel with him, he was not quite ready to accept Yeshua. This time, when we arrived at the shop where he worked, one of his co-workers was there but Eli was not working that day. So he called Eli on the phone and within five minutes, Eli came to the shop to visit with us.



Todd Baker



himself from God by sin. Sin is the violation of God's law and willful disobedience to His will with the end result producing death. No man by his own effort can remove the barrier between God and man that sin produced. Only God can solve the problem of death and separation that sin brought on all humanity.

The sin barrier can only be removed by trust in God's Word and by having the blood of atonement (see Habakkuk 2:4; Leviticus 17:11). We further explained to Eli that the blood atonement was first established by God in the Old Testament through the animal sacrifices offered by the Levitical priests in the Tabernacle and the Temple in Jerusalem. But the animal sacrifices provided only a temporary solution for sin until God sent Jesus the Messiah to sacrifice Himself on the cross as the permanent and final atonement for the sins of mankind. This perfect sacrifice for sin by the suffering Messiah, we said to Eli, was foretold in Isaiah 53. We went over that great prophetic chapter with him. This prophecy, made over 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ, is one of the many that clearly identify who the Messiah would be.

Another great Messianic prophecy we showed Eli was the prophecy of Daniel 9:26 where it was predicted the Messiah would come before the

destruction of the second Temple of Jerusalem which occurred in A.D. 70. History has verified that only Jesus of Nazareth could have fulfilled these and many other prophecies written in Scripture about the Messiah.

After this lengthy Biblical witness, we said to Eli that God has provided complete forgiveness and new life through the atonement of Yeshua on the cross. All a person has to do is believe and pray to receive Him in one's life as Lord and Savior.

During the course of our extensive Gospel witness to Eli, he was visibly moved and convicted by the greatness of God's love for him. Indeed, several times he put his head down into his hands and his eyes were welling up with tears. When we invited him to personally ask Christ into his life, he said he was ready. He prayed with us and placed his trust in Yeshua as the Messiah-the One who died for our sins and rose from death to give us eternal life. Once Eli made this momentous decision, Robert and I encouraged him to attend a Messianic congregation where he could fellowship with other Israeli believers in Yeshua. To that end we put him in contact with a prominent Messianic believer in that area.

Another person we had witnessed to in November was a young Jewish lady named Deborah who worked at a local restaurant in Tiberias. This time, when we went back at this eatery, she was there. When she saw Robert and me, she remembered who we were. As with Eli, we continued our Gospel witness to her. We made sure to share with Deborah that our profound and abiding love for the Jewish people came from Yeshua the Jewish Messiah who placed it in our hearts. Deborah amazingly told us that she believed that by looking at our eyes that



Todd, Eli and Robert

Our visit with him lasted for over two and a half hours. The content of our discussion was to remind him about what Robert and I discussed with him in November. An important reminder here about a key principle in evangelism: for it is important that when planting a Gospel seed to follow up and water that seed later so in the end, if possible, you can reap a saved soul for Jesus the Messiah.

The central theme of our follow-up witness to Eli this time was the examination of the historic and prophetic proofs for Jesus being the Messiah and the need for salvation by Him. To that end, we informed Eli that man's basic problem is that he has separated

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Receiving the Grace of God in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1):
"We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that you receive not the grace of God in vain."

The Greek word for "vain" is *kenos* and means to receive God's grace in an empty and self-conceited way. Here in this passage, Paul talks about receiving God's grace in vain under the context of ministry. When a person truly receives the grace of God, it produces a giving heart willing and anxious to share Christ with others.

A recipient of saving grace will first seek to glorify Christ and then serve others. The one outstanding earmark of a minister that has received the grace of God in vain is seen by the fact that he will use the gracious ability of God given to minister to draw attention to himself rather than the Lord Jesus Christ alone. He will use the name of Jesus and the appeal of the Gospel to promote, enrich, and financially prosper himself. Instead of serving the church, he uses the church to exclusively serve him. A ministry that is constantly centered on a certain individual rather than Jesus Christ and His body the Church is a ministry that has received the grace of God in vain. Their works will be burned up in the Day of Judgment and they are in danger of eternal loss.

Biblical examples of those that frustrated the grace of God:

(1) False prophets and religious unsaved ministers of the Gospel. They will have wrought signs and wonders in the name of Jesus. On the day of the Great White Throne judgment, the Lord Jesus will be cast them into the lake of fire because in their selfish unsaved state they sought to use the power of God for unlawful purposes (see Matthew 7:20-23).

(2) Judas. This apostle witnessed the great ministry of Jesus and walked intimately with Him for three years. Yet he forfeited his apostolic office and betrayed his beloved Master for a financial reward of iniquity and thus frustrated the grace of God by using it in the end for selfish gain (Acts 1:16-25).

The Doctrine of Divine Grace Part 8

(3) Demas. This man was a close associate minister of the Apostle Paul, but his love for the present world system frustrated God's grace causing him to later abandon the imprisoned apostle. Of this tragedy, Paul lamentably wrote in 2 Timothy 4:10: *"Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world."*

**Biblical Warnings
Against the Misuse,
Abuse, and Neglect
of God's Grace.**

Turning the grace of God into lasciviousness (Jude 4): *"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."*

The Greek word for "lasciviousness" is *aselgeian*. It means to engage in a vice of immoral activity. This passage warns of false Christians that declare God's freely given grace allows Christians to commit sin and indulge in any immoral practice without any moral obligations to obey God. Grace then becomes a license for sin. Anyone claiming to be a Christian yet says that God's grace somehow gives us a freedom without

moral restrictions is a false prophet and worker of iniquity. True, we as Christians are now under grace and not under the condemnation of the Law, but we have been freed now by Christ not to sin that we may become servants of His in righteous and holy living (Romans 6:1-2).

The body, mind, and spirit of the Christian should be ruled and guided under the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:12-18) instead of the unruly passions of the sin nature that is contrary to the will of God and His rule. Grace has delivered us from the binding obligation of the Mosaic Law as a way of trying to earn God's favor. Christ is our fulfillment and payment for the penalty of the Law (Romans 10:4). But we are not saved to be without God's law as a lawless people given over to vice and immorality. Christians are under a new law—the law of Christ (1 Corinthians 7:22; 9:21). The law of Christ is the law of love. The law of Christ is to love God supremely and then love our neighbor as ourselves. This love translates into moral obedience to God and a just treatment and concern for our neighbor's well being (Galatians 6:1-2).

As we let the love of God work in us and through us, Christ's law is expressed and fulfilled. We are saved by God's free grace not so that we can do whatever we desire. Believers in Christ are liberated from the bondage of sin to serve a new Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. God's grace never excuses us from rendering obedience to God. It gives us the power to obey Him with holy and righteous conduct in all manner of living through the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit within us (Titus 2:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5-7).

God's grace emancipates us from sin to serve Christ (Galatians 5:13-14; Romans 13:8-10). Grace is never used as a cloak for evil-doing (1 Peter 2:16). Those who have truly received God's saving grace will keep Christ's commandments with loving obedience (John 14:21, 23-24; 1 John 2:3-5). ***"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not grievous."*** Obedience to God is not a mere option for Christians, but is the natural outgrowth of saving grace. God's grace always produces Holy and moral living. ✠

A Special Appeal

B'rit Hadashah Ministries is a young but groundbreaking ministry. We are among the very few who take the Jewish Gospel of Jesus to His homeland, Israel, to share it boldly with His own ethnic people—the Jews. As an active Messianic ministry, we are striving to serve both Israel and the Church. This principally involves educating Gentile Christians about the Jewish roots of their faith, and teaching the Jewish people about the Jewishness of the New Testament and the Messiah Jesus. Our goal is to be able to do this on a full-time basis, as funds permit.

I wish, therefore, to simply say that if the Lord lays it upon your hearts to support this ministry, we would greatly benefit from your help. From my previous Gospel outreaches to Israel, I can certainly tell you that the Jewish people are open to hearing the Gospel message that Scripture says is to go to them first (Romans 1:16).

Present circumstances only allow us to go once or twice a year for two weeks each time we go. Being funded full-time will allow us to conduct more Gospel outreaches to Israel.

Very few ministries are doing what we are doing. It is critically and urgently important that these outreaches to the Jews go forward on a full-time basis because we are living in the Last Days near the return of the Lord. When Christ returns, it will be to the land of Israel to redeem the Chosen People (see Zechariah 12-14). The Jewish people should not be left in the dark about what is prophetically approaching for them. Much of End-Times Bible prophecy focuses on the Jewish nation of Israel. It is our duty given by God to warn, persuade, teach, and preach the Gospel to them so that they can be saved and secure in their Messiah forever.

To that end, we are making a sincere and special appeal to those of you who receive this newsletter to pray about helping us to financially fulfill this calling. The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should be sustained and supported in doing this (see 1 Corinthians 9:9-14). We ask, therefore, that you pray about supporting these outreaches and teaching ministry.

By God's grace, I have recently been given the weekly opportunity to teach on DCTV (Dallas Community Television). DCTV is a local Dallas cable television channel. This will allow the ministry to extend its teaching of the Bible to a wider audience so as to educate them about the importance of the Gospel, Israel, and the Jewish people. Also, we have plans to make VHS and DVD recordings of this program available. More on this in the future.

Your servant in the Messiah,
Todd Baker

Comforting... Continued from page 1



Yeshua in her life and receive Him as Messiah and Savior, even as Eli has already done through this effective ministry. ✞

reflected such love! She said we should come to Israel full-time with such a message.

Please pray as we continue to go and take the Gospel to Israel that we build lasting friendship with the Jewish people like Deborah. Pray that she will come to see by the Holy Spirit's enlightenment her need for



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 7:00 at Fellowship Bible Church located at Meadow Road and Central in Dallas, Texas. For more information, visit <http://www.levitt.com/congregation.html> or call (214) 356-2583.

Matthew 13 and the Prophetic Parables About the Present Age

Part 6 - the Parable of the
Wheat and the Tares
(Matthew 13:24-30; 37-43)

In verses 27 and 28, the servants of the householder came and said to him, **"Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?"** He said to them, **"An enemy has done this."** The servants said to him, **"Do you want us then to go and gather them up?"** The impatient and inquisitive servants who come to the householder are somewhat reminiscent of the martyred saints of God before the heavenly altar of the Lord who cry out to Him with the imprecatory plea, **"How long O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"** (Revelation 6:10). Every child of God has the instinctive desire to uproot and eliminate wickedness, injustice, and sin from the earth, and like the impetuous servants of this parable, we too resolutely ask the Lord, "Will you have us gather them up?"

Nevertheless, in their unwise zeal, the servants forget the fact that to perfectly uproot all evil from the world is far beyond human ability and intellectual capacity to flawlessly enact. Recounting a terrible event in church history graphically confirms this so. The Spanish Inquisition (1163 A.D. to 1800 A.D.) was a cruel and bloody attempt to abolish religious dissension and extirpate those deemed "heretics" from the Papal church. Historical figures estimate that some 68 million people were brutally tortured and murdered in the process. Many of them were Bible-believing born-again Christians who theologically disagreed

with some of the unscriptural teachings of the Papacy. In these horribly shameful and infamous pages of Church history, which strangely has been ignored and conveniently passed over in most current history books, we have the tares uprooting the wheat. Man's cruelty to man in the name of religion will never establish the righteous judgment of God. **"For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God"** (James 1:120). One can also witness this fact with the bloody history of Islam and the concept of Jihad to the present day (holy war).

Yet how great and infinite is the Lord's love for the wheat. He would rather have the tares grow up instead of uprooting the wheat prematurely, lest they should by fatal accident remove and destroy one single blade of wheat. This is seen by the householder's reply to the servants in verse 29.

"No, lest while you gather up the tares, you root up also the wheat with them." We must keep in mind, beloved,

that many times the wheat can have the similarity of a tare, and the tare can have a resemblance to wheat.

During the present age, while the people of God are evangelizing and bringing people into the kingdom of God, the devil is simultaneously busy incorporating his pseudo-Christians among them virtually making it at times impossible to differentiate with absolute certainty the true believer

in Christ from the false one within the realm of professing Christendom. Man in his fallible condition cannot always impeccably distinguish the saved from the unsaved based on external appearance alone. Therefore, it is necessary to use extreme caution and discernment when exercising spiritual judgment. Unless one takes prudent steps according to the Scriptures concerning the proper discernment of the body of Christ, the believer will fall prey to excessive criticism that adopts a self-righteous attitude condemning another fellow believer in Christ as unsaved thereby destroying that person's credible testimony as a Christian. **"My brethren, these things ought not so to be"** (James 3:10).

On the other hand, we also learn from verse 29 that it is equally harmful to naively believe that everyone who verbally professes Christ is a bona fide Christian. The real Christian will match his words with obedient actions. They that claim Christ with the lips will seriously endeavor to live the lifestyle He expects from His followers with the supernatural aid of the Holy Spirit's enabling power. Those who affirm being Christians, but do not lovingly obey the divine Master are obviously otherwise. The very words of Jesus on this point settle the matter beyond all disputes. **"Not everyone that says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father who is in heaven"** (Matthew 7:21).

A tare will notoriously exhibit a lifestyle contrary to the ethical principles of Jesus Christ while at the same time



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B'rit Hadashah Ministries

needs your support

Asking for money is not what this ministry is about. B'rit Hadashah Ministries is a Non-denominational evangelistic and teaching outreach devoted to proclaiming the Gospel to the Jewish people (Romans 1:16) with particular focus on Gospel outreaches to Israel. We seek to explain the Jewish nature of the Christian faith to Gentile and Jewish believers and explore the integral relationship between Israel and the Church. But we need your help in continuing this mission.

Your financial donations go directly to help our outreach and operational costs only. That means they go either into the production of this newsletter, into the expenses of traveling to and around Israel speaking to those to whom God leads us, or into the tracts and Bibles which we distribute in Israel. Please help us in our mission as much as you feel led to contribute. And remember, donations are tax deductible as you give to this Non-profit ministry. God bless!

Checks and money orders can be made out to:
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other ways you can help...

If you would like to help this ministry but can't afford a financial commitment, suggest to your church pastor that Todd Baker come speak to your congregation about his work in Israel. Todd is available for speaking engagements in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, and can be reached via e-mail (toddbus@yahoo.com) or phone (214-356-2583) for scheduling information.

If you have access to the internet and the world wide web, would you consider receiving our newsletter via your e-mail rather than through the postal system? The money you would be saving our ministry in printing and postage cost by doing this would be a big help to us.

You will be able to see the newsletter in its full color form! And you will of course be able to print the newsletter at any time if you so desire. You will also have access to past editions.

Just send an e-mail to Todd at toddbus@yahoo.com and tell him to remove your postal address and add your e-mail address. It's that simple!



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P.O. Box 796127

Dallas, Texas 75379-6127

e-mail: toddbus@yahoo.com

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. †

Search the Scriptures

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For more information about our ministry, or to be added to our subscription list, you may contact Todd Baker by mail:

B'rit Hadashah Ministries
P.O. Box 796127
Dallas, Texas 75379-6127

or by E-mail: toddbus@yahoo.com

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Matthew 13... Continued from page 4

giving the outward and misleading impression of conforming to them. Sanctified Christians are not to fellowship or eat with people who live immorally and call themselves "Christians" (see 1 Corinthians 5:11). He or she that lives in sin with no godly remorse and repentance, yet claims to be a Christian, is tragically deceived and deceives the naïve minded with their hollow confession. ***"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the children of disobedience. Do not be partakers with them"*** (Ephesians 5:6-7). God is surely not slack concerning His promise to punish the wicked (2 Peter 3:9). Rest assured at the harvest time, God will execute the final judgment on the entire ungodly world.

At the conclusion of the present age, God will uproot every single malicious tare from the field just as Jesus promised He would do. ***"Every plant that My heavenly father has not planted will be rooted up"*** (Matthew 15:13). Sin is the destructive work of the enemy, who alone is responsible for the initial sowing of the tares. Satan is the architect of evil and the author of sin. He will be judged and forever punished in the lake of fire by the Lord for the terrible origination of sin in all its catastrophic effects upon a groaning creation (Revelation 20:10). †