

Grace Upon Grace Series

Chapter 2: Grace Plus Theologies: “Sola Gracia” or “O Foolish Galatians” or “A Little Leaven Leavens the Whole Lump”

I. Series Theme Verses

(John 1:16-17) ¹⁶ For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. (NASB) (ESV) (CJB) / (Irony: YLT Wrong) “one gracious gift (blessing) after another” (NLT) (MOUNCE) / “grace for grace” (KJV) (NKJV) (GNV)
See Also: (Hebrews 4:13-16) (Deut. 7:6-8) (Exodus 19:4-6) (Ephesians 1:3-8; 2:4-10) (1 Peter 5:12 in Context)

II. Grace Series Titles: Six Chapters (Likely Two Sundays / Chapter) (Possibly an Epilogue & an Appendix)

A. Section 1: Grace Re-Examined

1. Chapter 1: Grace in Perspective – The Importance and Meaning of Grace
2. Chapter 2: Grace Plus Theologies – “Sola Gracia” or “O Foolish Galatians” or “A Little Leaven...”
3. Chapter 3: Growing in Grace – Attitudes and Actions for Appropriating Greater Grace

B. Section 2: Grace Delivered

4. Chapter 4: Grace Delivered – The Word of His Grace
5. Chapter 5: Grace Delivered – The Spirit of Grace
6. Chapter 6: Grace Delivered – The People of Grace

III. Review: Grace Defined

- A. Grace As Unmerited Favor: A Popular & True Partial Definition (Deut. 7:7-8 & Eph. 1:3-8; 2:4-9)
- B. Grace As Divine Enablement: Empowered: Equipped & Transformed by His Glory to Do His Will
- C. Grace As Covenant Relationship: Grace Realized In Christ; Grow In Grace “They Shall All Know Me”
“Acceptance As You Are & Empowerment to Grow”
- D. Grace Upon Grace: (John 1:16-17)

IV. Review: The Importance of Grace

- A. Grace: A Central Theme of All Scripture
- B. Grace: Realized in Jesus Christ; He is the Essence, Fountain & Fullness of Grace (John 1:17 Above)
- C. Grace: The Critical Issue of the Reformation – ***Sola Gracia (Today: Why It Was & Is a Very Big Deal?)***

V. Grace Plus Theologies: Five Approaches to Grace & How to Detect Them (Discernment)

A. ***Works Plus Nothing: Performance Produces Grace*** (Acceptance or Favor) – The Jew’s in Romans 10 (Romans 10:1-4) Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of (not knowing about) God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (NKJV)

1. “Christ the End of the Law” –
2. “Not Knowing About God’s Righteousness” – Many church-goers today. (1 Timothy 3:15)
3. “Seeking to Establish Their Own Righteousness” – Performance, Works, Our Initiative
4. “Have Not Submitted to the Righteousness of God” – Pride, Self-Righteousness & Boasting

B. ***Works Plus Grace Leads to Favor*** (Acceptance or Grace) - Grace & Work Mixed (Covering Bases)

1. Grows Out of Reaction Against Both D & E Below - Therefore, Possibly Good & Bad
2. The Scandal of Grace – The Offense of the Cross – A & B Slapped in the Face By Grace (Humility)

C. ***Grace Plus Works: Starting by Grace and “Growing” by Works*** (Performance) – **The Galatian Crises!**

“Paul is more critical of his audience here than in any other letter” (From ESV SB Intro) (Think about that!)

“There is no initial thanksgiving, however, which indicates Paul’s agitation and alarm over the theological situation in Galatia. Paul gets right to the point, which is that the Galatians are in danger of turning to a different gospel, thereby risking the everlasting ruin of their souls.” (ESV SB Introduction)

“The main argument of the epistle is advanced by the use of autobiography, example, allegory, satiric rebuke, and exhortation.” (ESV SB Introduction) (Paul Uses Every Literary Device Found In All Scripture – GW)

(Galatians 1:6-11) ⁶ I am astonished (*amazed, marvel, shocked, surprised*) that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— ⁷ not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort (*pervert, twist*) the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. ¹⁰ For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. ¹¹ For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. (*according to man*)

(Galatians 3:1-5) O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. ² Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ⁴ Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith? (ESV)

(Galatians 5:1; 4-5) It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery... ⁴ You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. ⁵ For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. **(Galatians 5:9) A little leaven leavens the whole lump.** (ESV) (Moralistic, Therapeutic, Deism)

D. **Grace Plus Licentiousness: Grace Perverted:** Grace Requires Nothing (Late 20th C. to Now)

(Galatians 5:13-14) For you were called to (live in) freedom (liberty), brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”

(Jude 1:3-4) Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. ⁴ For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (Popular in our Modern day. Especially, Unchurched Christians. Tragic.)

E. **Grace Plus Grace** (Nothing Else): **Grace Upon Grace** - Start, Grow, Continue & Finish by His Grace

(Galatians 1: 3-5) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom *be* the glory forevermore. Amen. (Explain)

(2 Peter 1:1b-5a) To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: ² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. ⁵ Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith

VI. How to Detect Grace Plus Theologies: Ourselves & More (Discernment Critical; Life & Death; Good & Evil)

(Hebrews 5:14) But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. **(Be Clear: Meditate On Galatians – Not about preferences or minor matters, but Good & Evil)**

A. Condemnation and Self-Righteousness In One Person (Romans 8:1) (John 9: 34, 39-41) (Luke 18:9-14)

B. Harsh In Judgment – (Luke 6:37-45) Logs vs. Specks, Good Tree Root vs. Bad; Disciple Like His Teacher

C. Expectations & Appreciations –

D. People Pleaser – (Galatians 1:10) “Woe Are You If All Men Speak Well of You” (Hollywood Awards)

VII. Upcoming Weeks – See Chapter Titles in “II” Above