

Chapter 2C: Grace-Based vs. Performance-Based Approaches (Start to Finish)

Bible Study Prepared for Grace Christian Fellowship of Dayton, Inc. on Sundays, November 17, 2019 by Greg Weis

- I. **Defining Performance Based Approaches to Justification / Righteousness / or Right Standing & Life.**
- A. **Performance Based is Characterized by Self-Initiated & Self-Empowered Attempts to Live Justly or Righteously.** Thus, it inevitably leads to various degrees (shades) of Vain-glory or Self-righteousness as well as ongoing struggles with Condemnation & Shame. (Luke 16:15a; 18:9-14) (Philippians 3:2-11) (Cf. Ephesians 2:1-10) **{Covered: Chapter 2A on Sunday, November 3, 2019}**
- B. **Two Three Types of Self- Righteousness: Theonomic, Anti-Nomian (Legalism) & Mixture of Both.**
1. **Theonomic:** Self-Initiated Performance Based (Failing) attempts to Keep of Scriptural Law.
 2. **Anti-Nomian:** Performance Based “Not Under Law” Usually Dispensational. Always & Inevitably Conterminously Self-Righteous (Prideful) & Self-Condemned Legalism. Harsh, Judgmental. Always Less Desirous of Truth & True Righteousness. (Romans 10:4)
- (Matthew 5:17-19)** “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **{Covered: Chapter 2B on Sunday, November 3, 2019}**
3. See Also “Grace Plus Theologies” in “Grace Upon Grace Series.” for Partially Performance Based.
- II. **Both Knowing & Knowing Jesus: The Only Source, Fullness & Result of Grace.** (Cf. Romans 10:4 Above)
- (John 1:16-17)** 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 (came to be) through (with, by, in, because of, by reason of) Jesus Christ. (NASB)
- (Ephesians 3:14-19)** ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to **know (γινώσκω) the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge (γνώσις)**, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. (NASB) **{See: Chapter 2B on Sunday, November 3, 2019}**
- III. **Grace Defined: Beyond Unmerited Favor to Divine Empowerment.**
1. **Grace As Unmerited Favor:** (See Ephesians 4:7) (Universally Popular, but Extremely Incomplete.)
- (John 15:16)** You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.
- (Ephesians 1:3-8a)** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us. **(Discuss: Election)**
- (Rom. 3:24)** being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus (Rom. 5:15-17, 20)
- (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)** ⁶ “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set His love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that He swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

2. Grace As Divine Enablement: Empowered: Equipped & Transformed by His Glory to Do His Will
(Acts 20:32) And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. **(Acts 4:33)** And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.
(Romans 1:4b-5) Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, (See Romans 5:2)
(1 Corinthians 15:10) But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.
(2 Corinthians 9:8) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; (Compare Ephesians 2:8-10; 3:2, 7-8)
(Hebrews 4:16) Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (1 Peter 5:5) (James 2:4)
(Hebrews 12:15-16a) See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; ¹⁶ that *there be* no immoral or godless person ...

IV. **Grace Delivered: The Three-Fold Inextricably-Intertwined Delivery System of Grace.** (Water Tower)

A. The Word of His Grace, (Empowerment.) {Handout: "The Bible on the Importance of Bible Study.}
(Acts 20:32) And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (See John 8:31-34) (Joshua 1:8) (Hebrews 4:12)
(2 Timothy 3:16-17) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
(Psalm 119:160) The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

B. The Holy Spirit of Grace. (Hebrews 10:29) ... the Spirit of grace?
(1 Peter 1:1b-2a) ... who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: ...
(Acts 1:8) ... but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Luke 24:44-49)
(John 14:16-20; 25-26) I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Advocate), that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
(See also John 15:26-27; 16:7-14)

C. The Church as a Delivery System (Means) of Grace. {Jesus Dwells in Local Body.} (Hebrews 10:19-25)
(Ephesians 4:7, 11-13) But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift... .. And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. *δίδωμι (didōmi)* grant, supply necessary things.
Consider Multiple Means of Grace Provided by Church: Lord's Day; Community; Discipleship; Pastoral Care; **Etc.**

V. **Fifteen Biblical Emphasis for Rediscovery (Rethink, Reexamine, Reconsider) & Restoration (Reconstruct)** **(See Previous Outlines)**

