

Hearts of Love

Tom & Debbie Tillman "to touch the world for Jesus Christ"

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Hearts of Love is a non-profit ministry, dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever we find open doors. Our first priority is to glorify God and lead whomever possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Please pray for us faithfully. We need your prayer, and we appreciate it more than we could ever say. Please consider us an extension of your ministry in this world, and support us with your prayer as such.

**May God richly
bless you!**

Tom & Debbie

Grace is not really Grace unless it's really Grace.

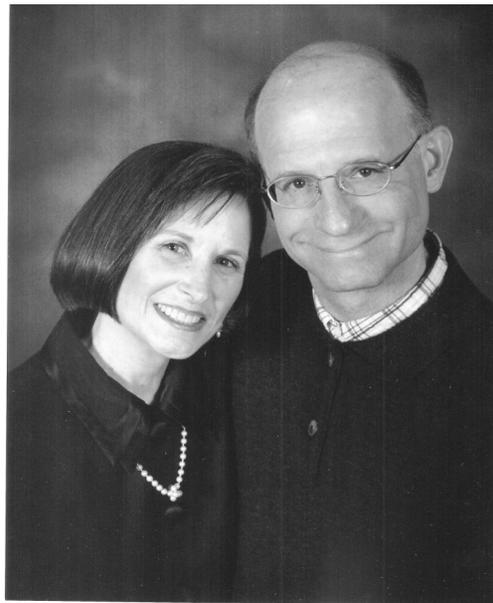
Only Grace is Grace; anything else is *not* Grace.

What is Grace? Grace is being given what is good, which we don't deserve. Mercy, on the other hand, is not receiving what is bad, which we do deserve.

God's Grace and Mercy together, for us, is having been granted Eternal Life, which we don't deserve while being spared eternity in the Lake of Fire, which we do so richly deserve.

Some people, some teachers seem to have a real problem in understanding what God, in the Lord Jesus Christ, has done for us. They want to allow for Grace, but only to a point; they want to allow Mercy, but only to a point. Here's where they go completely off track: the 'Red Letter Christians' are a prime example; they teach that the words of Jesus, in red, are our primary teaching while the words in black, mostly Paul's writings, are secondary and subservient to those of Jesus. In other words, Paul's letters are not really the Word of God in the same way that Jesus' are; at times, they seem to be in conflict; they seem to teach differently. Why is that? It's because they are, in fact, teaching two different things; Jesus and Paul are preaching two different Gospels. Jesus is preaching the *Gospel of the Kingdom* while Paul is teaching the *Gospel of Grace*; they are completely different foundations for life.

Paul wrote to Timothy, 'Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**' 2 Tim 2:15 Rightly dividing the Word of Truth. Is a crucially important concept in studying God's Word. God's Word is given to us in divided parts. The most obvious division is, the Old Testament and the New Testament, the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. The Old Covenant was based on the Law as given through Moses: 'obey and be blessed, disobey



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*He has committed to
us the word of
Reconciliation.
Therefore, we are
Ambassadors for Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:19,20

and be cursed; repent and bring a blood offering to the Temple and God will overlook your sin. The Messiah is coming and He will establish His Eternal Kingdom with Israel at the head of the nations.' The New Covenant said, God has offered Himself as our sacrifice for sin and when we come to Him in faith, we are completely forgiven of all our sin, of all time and for all time. In fact, we are, at that moment, recreated into Eternal children of God and we are, now, citizens of the Heavenly Kingdom of God and one day soon, we will rule and reign with Jesus Christ over His Everlasting Kingdom. The Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are all still part of the Old Testament. They only become part of the New Testament after Jesus is Crucified and Resurrected. Jesus, while still in the Old Testament, is preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom: 'I am the Messiah you've been waiting for; I am your King; receive Me now and I will establish My Kingdom on Earth' with Israel as the Head of Nations. Jesus '*said,*' be perfect, as I am perfect, and you will be blessed. Paul '*said,*' Jesus was perfect in your place and now you are actually in Him and the Father sees you in His Righteousness. Jesus never used the word grace even once... never! Paul uses the word grace 99 times! (King James V.) Jesus is preaching to Israel, not the Church. Paul is writing to the Church, Jews and Gentiles alike, but not to

Israel, the Nation. Israel rejected her King and the Gospel of the Kingdom was withdrawn; the Gospel of Grace then was spread to all the Gentiles of the World. The Gospel of Grace is what is in operation now, during the time of the Church on Earth but soon, at the Rapture, the Gospel of Grace will be withdrawn and the Gospel of the Kingdom will, once again, be the only avenue to Salvation during the seven years of the Tribulation. The Gospel of the Kingdom is all about performance, measuring up, being good enough. Here's a difficult saying: the Gospel of the Kingdom is a false gospel during the time of the Church; the Gospel of Grace is offered to all. A distorted Gospel of the Kingdom is what is preached in many areas of the Church which is in the process of falling into apostasy. They preach that the Church is tasked with 'taking over' the World and 'christianizing' it until the World is '*good enough*' so that Jesus can finally return and then we can hand Him back the 'keys of the kingdom.' They talk about 'kingdom life,' of 'living in the kingdom' and many other reiterations of 'kingdomism' When Jesus taught them to pray, saying, 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,' He was giving that to Israel; receive Me and receive My Kingdom but all the people rejected Him; in fact, even the disciples abandoned

Him. He was alone, despised and rejected when He willingly took all our punishment upon Himself so that we could, through faith in Him, be born again unto Eternal Life, that we could become actual children of God and to eventually become His Bride.

'Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.' ^{Heb 12:2}

Look at that verse again: 'the joy that was set before Him...' He knew what was coming after the Cross; He was willing to endure the Cross for our sake. He knew that those from every tribe, nation and tongue would be drawn to Him by the Father; He knew that we would be made perfect in the Father's sight; He knew that we would become His spotless, perfect, holy and righteous Bride who would rule and reign at His side, forever! He knew it all and that was the Joy that was set before Him; **we are His Joy!**

The Gospel of Grace says that we were crucified with Him and then raised up to Eternal Life, that eventually, one day soon, even our sinful flesh will be recreated into a new, glorified, eternal, perfect body like His own: '*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*' 1 John 3:2

Here is the salient point of the Gospel of Grace: we have been made perfect in God's sight; we do not have to perform in any way or 'be good enough' in any way; we are completely loved and accepted by God because we are 'in Jesus Christ' and He is 'in us.' We have been forgiven, completely, of all our sin: past, present and future. '*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴ **That the righteousness of the law might be**

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fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.' Rom 8:1 How do we 'walk after the Spirit' or, as he says it elsewhere, 'Walk in the Spirit?' Like God, in Whose Image we've been created, we are eternal, tripartite beings; we will live forever while, now, our complete makeup is spirit, soul and flesh. When we were born again, our spirits became 'one' with the Lord Jesus Christ. We are in Him and He is in us. Our souls are being sanctified daily as we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us in conforming us more and more, day by day, into the image and likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ. *'For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.'* Phpn 2:13 Our flesh remains corrupt, sinful and dying; our flesh will only be recreated, in immortality, at the moment of the Rapture. We walk in the flesh as we allow our flesh to take us to our favorite places of sin; we walk in the spirit as we control our flesh and allow our spirits to lead us into the things of God, as we, in our souls, 'set our minds on things above, not on things of the Earth.' Col 3:2

God is Holy and nothing sinful can come into His Presence. But the Bible says that we are, now, seated with Christ in Heavenly places... how can that be? Our spirits are one with Him and our spirits are now seated with Him. Our flesh remains Earthly, always seeking to lead us into sin and to walk in darkness. Only our souls can stop our flesh; only our souls can

choose right from wrong while our spirits which are one with Christ, always seeks to pull us into the light. We walk in the light, in the spirit, as we walk in fellowship, with Christ, denying our flesh the opportunity to sin.

Just because we walked down an aisle or repeated a prayer, after someone, does not mean that we have been truly born again. The proof of our conversion will be borne out in the result of our conversion: if we've been born again, if we did come to Him in faith and repentance, our desires will have changed; that which does now please us will be found in doing what we know pleases God. None of us is perfect; all of us remain in our sinful, corrupt flesh; we still battle, daily, against the desires of our flesh and if we did not really come to Him in faith and repentance, our desires will have remained, largely the same; we will continue to desire that which pleases our flesh.

Everything about our Eternal Salvation is founded upon God's Grace. Before creation, He elected and chose me. At His chosen moment, He revealed Himself to me and gave me the faith to believe in Him; even though I was dead in sin, unable to even believe or respond in any way, He did the work, within me, to bring me to belief and faith in Him and in the truth of His complete Salvation for me, even though I don't clearly understand it all.

'...God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,' 2 Tim 1:9

'...He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.' Eph 1:4

The error taught by many, today, is that you must be good enough. If you are not good enough, or if you are bad enough, you will lose your salvation.

There is no condemnation or loss of salvation or need to be good enough for those who are in Christ Jesus!

We are loved with an everlasting love that will never change; His Grace is more than sufficient for us. We will always be good enough because we are in Christ Jesus and He is good enough for us. His sacrifice on the Cross has saved us for all time and eternity; we are His and He is ours.. Our election, our new birth, our faith and obedience, our justification, our righteousness, our ministry, our sanctification is all the result of God's work and His Grace, *not as a result of any works, lest any man should boast. For by Grace we've been saved!*

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