

God's Grace Is Not Cheap Grace

Romans 5:1-2

Romans 5:1-2 (NKJV) ¹Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

The Christian is to live every day...

A. ...knowing he has eternal life.

1 John 5:13 (NKJV) ¹³These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life,^f and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

2 Timothy 1:12 (NKJV) ¹²For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

B. ...coming boldly before God's throne of grace.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NKJV) ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

C. ...with joy and peace and power.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Romans 14:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷f for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Cheap Grace vs. Costly Grace...

Romans 6:1-2 (NKJV) ¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Romans 6:12-13 (NKJV) ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

Psalms 99:1-9 (NKJV) ¹ The Lord reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells *between* the cherubim; Let the earth be moved! ² The Lord *is* great in Zion, And He *is* high above all the

peoples. ³ Let them praise Your great and awesome name—He *is* holy. ⁴ The King's strength also loves justice; You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. ⁵ Exalt the Lord our God, And worship at His footstool— He *is* holy. ⁶ Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; They called upon the Lord, and He answered them. ⁷ He spoke to them in the cloudy pillar; They kept His testimonies and the ordinance He gave them. ⁸ You answered them, O Lord our God; You were to them God-Who-Forgives, Though You took vengeance on their deeds. ⁹ Exalt the Lord our God, And worship at His holy hill; For the Lord our God *is* holy.

Isaiah 6:1-7 (NKJV) ¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. ²Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy *is* the Lord of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!" ⁴And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

⁵So I said: "Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts." ⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."

Titus 2:11-13 (NKJV) ¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Bonhoeffer on Cheap Grace vs. Costly Grace

The Cost of Discipleship is a book by the German Theologian [Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#), considered a classic of Christian thought. It is centered around an exposition of the [Sermon on the Mount](#), in which Bonhoeffer spells out what he believes it means to follow Christ. It was first published in 1937, when the rise of the [Nazi regime](#) was underway in Germany. It was against this background that Bonhoeffer's theology of costly discipleship developed, which ultimately led to his death.

Bonhoeffer argues that as [Christianity](#) spread, the Church became more "secularized", accommodating the demands of obedience to [Jesus](#) to the requirements of society. In this way, "the world was Christianized, and grace became its common property." But the hazard of this was that the [gospel](#) was cheapened, and obedience to the living Christ was gradually lost beneath formula and ritual, so that in the end, grace could literally be sold for monetary gain.

One of the most quoted parts of the book deals with the distinction which Bonhoeffer makes between "cheap" and "costly" [grace](#). In Bonhoeffer's words:

"Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession.... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

"Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man' will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is

the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

"Costly grace... is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us."

<https://caffeinatedthoughts.com/2010/06/dietrich-bonhoeffer-cheap-grace-vs-costly-grace/>

Grace teaches us to change our minds about sin.

James 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

Genesis 2:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

A. Not loving brethren can prevent our salvation.

1 John 3:14-15 (NKJV) ¹⁴We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love [£]his brother abides in death. ¹⁵Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 4:20 (NKJV) ²⁰If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, [£]how can he love God whom he has not seen?

B. Empty words can condemn us.

Matthew 12:36-37 (NKJV) ³⁶But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

James 5:12 (NKJV) ¹²But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

C. Practicing impurity can put us in league with Satan.

1 John 3:3-8 (NKJV) ³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. ⁴Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. ⁵And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

D. Tempting one to sin can cost us our soul.

Matthew 18:6-7 (ESV) ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, [£]it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin![£] For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!

E. Teaching and practicing a false gospel can make us accursed.

Galatians 1:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

2 Peter 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures.

Matthew 15:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

F. Worshipping God in error can bring judgment.

Leviticus 10:1-3 (NKJV) ¹Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. ²So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. ³And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’” So Aaron held his peace.

G. Disobedience can bring judgment.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV) ²¹“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

Luke 6:46-49 (NKJV) ⁴⁶“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? ⁴⁷Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was **f**ounded on the rock. ⁴⁹But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it **f**ell. And the ruin of that house was great.”