

## “Grace”

What does it mean to you in your Relationship with God/Elohim?

Can you “earn” favor in God’s/Elohim Eyes?

Hebrews 11:6; “But without faith it is impossible to please God/Elohim. For it is right that the one **drawing** near to God/Elohim should believe that He is, and that He **becomes a rewarder** to the one seeking Him out.”

September 12, 2015

Dear Brethren,

We certainly hope that you are being blessed during these difficult days of growing darkness. Just think, as things grow darker our lights should be appearing brighter. What a wonderful calling we have been given even with the increased trials and tests which accompany it. Never forget that we who are called at this time to be the bride of Christ/Messiah will only taste that very special cup if we suffer with Him. But the inexpressible joy as to the rest of the story is contained in Romans 8:16-17; “The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit (two witnesses to establish something) that we are children of God/Elohim (the Father) and if children, then heirs of God/Elohim and co-heirs (participating in common) with Christ/Messiah, if indeed we suffer with (Him), that we may also be glorified together.”

As we have often discussed, this is our time of training; to be able to recognize and undertake the responsibilities of being betrothed to Christ/Messiah in the household of Father God/Elohim. Nothing else matters if in fact we understand what that training encompasses. Do not let anyone or anything sell you short of that and steer you into a false hope generated by men and demons. The apostle Paul fought such things throughout his work for God/Elohim.

Our calling by the Father unto His Son is very personal. It is between our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ/Messiah, and ourselves. No one else can fulfill our part in it for us. We ourselves need to be personally involved in a very intimate relationship with both our Father and our Savior/Husband. To the Father; as a loving, obedient, respectful child. To our betrothed Jesus; a devoted, humble, resourceful, obedient and loving bride. That takes a lot of effort and attention on our part. **It takes a lot of diligent work.** Will we be ready when our Savior/Husband returns? Revelation 19:7 proclaims that we will have made ourselves ready. “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His

wife has made herself ready.” Now how did she make herself ready? Verse 8, “And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”

The What? “Righteous acts” That is #1345 in the Strongs, “dikaïoma” from #1344; an equitable deed; by implication; a statute or decision, translated as: judgement, justification, ordinance, and righteousness.

Vines says of it; dikaïoma is the concrete expression of righteousness. It tells us it does not stand for a decree, but an actual act, thus here in Revelation 19:8; righteous acts (works) or righteousness of the saints. This word is also translated as justify, justifier, and justification.

These justifying righteous acts or works have caused the wife to be classified as ready in Gods/Elohim eyes. Who did that? She “has made herself ready” by maturely meeting the responsibilities she was given to fulfill in this physical temporary life time, after having been called by the Father unto His Son.

That is so very simple to comprehend if we believe the scriptural patterns of God/Elohim.

This brings to mind Matthew 25 and the parable of the 10 virgins and a distinct separation being made between them (the 10 virgins). Verse 10; “and while they went to buy the bridegroom came **and those who were ready** went in with him to the wedding: and the door was shut.”

The process is clearly presented throughout scripture, but let’s listen to a few first covenant scriptural examples and a very important instruction given to us for our edification as to favor and acceptance given based on their righteous works.

Hebrews 11:4-7; “By faith Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, (faith without works is dead) God/Elohim testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. By faith Enoch was translated so that he did not see death, and was not found because God/Elohim had translated him; for before he was translated he had this testimony, that he pleased God/Elohim. **For without faith (visible righteous works) it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is a **rewarder** (#3405 misthapodosia from misthos and apodidomi **“a payment of wages”earned**) of those who diligently seek Him. By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with Godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”

Dear Brethren, we have our part to do in all of this; it isn’t just given to us. We are not “just saved.” There are many today who teach we do not have to do anything except “just believe”

because Christ has done all the work for us. By that they are actually saying just believe their deceived teachings and ignore the scriptural patterns on the subject of what we are to be doing to make it to the wedding supper. Their teachings qualify as doctrines of demons in my understanding. "Just stick by them and you will make it." What a destructive and diabolical method of preventing those who have been called to the wedding supper from falling short from having any of their own oil reserves which are necessary to enter into the wedding supper and thus the marriage of the Lamb to follow. We need to maintain our own oil. Paul tells us in Philippians 2:12-13; "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God/Elohim who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

There is that dirty little word "work" that the psychobabblers despise and the "just believe" crowd hates with a passion. Yet here we are told it takes both our works, and Gods/Elohim work in us to be able to do His good pleasure.

So what does this have to do with "grace"? Absolutely everything!!!

I have come to the point in my relationship with some brethren whom I do love as such, that I can no longer listen to their sermons, those who actually preach, because they are constantly mixing the deceitful doctrine of Protestant grace into much of what they preach about. It is a snare we must avoid by being able to discern the patterns found in the word of God/Elohim. We are to avoid these vain babblings, and be prepared when asked to give an answer for the hope, faith, and the truth, which is in us, for there are many who are deceived and who in turn are deceiving during this timeline in the plan of salvation whether doing so consciously or not. I remember vividly my years spent in the WCG. For the most part they were wonderful years for me and Linda and our four children. I choose to remember the good times because if we had not been members of that organization of men we may not be where we are today in many respects. Linda and I were not always in agreement with what took place there even in the good years but we moved through them with a serving attitude towards our brothers and sisters. Some may disagree with that but we are okay with it, for we are to have love for one another regardless of what others think about us. (John 13:34-35). It is a watershed teaching or doctrine to us from Christ/Messiah, given on the evening prior to His great sacrifice on the cross, and He calls it an actual identifying marker, like the Sabbath is for the people of God/Elohim.

One of the teachings or doctrines of Herbert Armstrong I often heard recited was that grace is defined as unmerited pardon. Many others repeated this as well, and in fact in the past I have stated the same thing. However I could never really get my head or thinking around that definition. For a dominion and control oriented organization that WCG was it seemed out of place. It also seemed out of place when applied to the entire pattern of scriptures about grace in the word of God/Elohim. Please remember we do not form a doctrine based on one word or

one scripture. What we do is use the pattern on the subject found throughout the Bible just as we are instructed to do in Isaiah 28:10, "For precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little there a little."

After a period of time I challenged the teaching that grace was equated as unmerited pardon in my mind because of what I read in scripture. I often look for clear contradictions and discrepancies when I am formulating a personal doctrine. So let's start with a little bit of that and put that definition to the test. Let's look at the relationship of Jesus with His Father and apply Herbert's definition of grace to it; unmerited pardon that is.

Luke 2:40, "And the Child grew and became strong in the spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God/Elohim was upon Him." So here we are taught that Jesus grew and became strong in the spirit, and as a result was filled with wisdom and that the grace of God/Elohim the Father was upon Him. A lot there brethren but let's look at another scripture.

John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Do we see the problem here with applying Herbert's definition of grace to Christ in these two scriptures and the relationship it presents between the Father and the Son? We know for a fact that Christ was without sin for the scriptures clearly tell us that. So why would He require unmerited pardon from the Father? Please think about that. Pardon for what? He had never sinned! That teaching lends itself to the demonic Catholic doctrine of original sin. That being that anyone born in the flesh has the original sin of Adam and Eve on them, but of course they the Catholics have a sacrament to take it away or absolve one of it. To include the concept of pardon in the definition of grace is not acceptable to me. Christ was full of grace and it was upon Him even prior to birth.

Grace here is the same word translated as such throughout the second covenant scriptures. It is charis #5485 in Strong's. It says of it "from #5463 [which is a prime verb meaning to be cheerful, happy or well off]; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstractly or concretely; literally, figuratively, or spiritually: especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude); acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, grace (-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thank (s) (-worthy)."

The Greek word charis encompassed a lot, originating from the state of being cheerful and happy through an act or manner of graciousness regardless of whether it is figurative, literal, or spiritual, but it has a very special significance when originating from God/Elohim because of the effect it **could** have upon our hearts and the resulting reflection of it acting out in our lives.

This word is not only translated as grace but also as: acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, gracious, joy, liberality, pleasure, thanks, and thankworthy. Those are all very special things when applied to our relationship with our heavenly Father and Jesus our Husband/Savior. In turn we are to reflect them in our acts, our walk in life with others before God/Elohim. Remember righteous acts. What don't we see here in the meaning? Pardon! For that matter we do not see the concept of unmerited as well! **If we did that would mean nothing we could do can put us in a state of growing acceptance, favor, benefit, joy, etc. with the Father or for that matter with the Son.** There are some who twist Paul's teachings who say that very thing, that it is all unmerited.

John 1:14 says Christ was full of grace thus He was full of the graciousness of the Father as to acceptance, favor, joy, gifts, benefit, etc. Just think He willingly divested Himself of His eternal existence to become a man, flesh and blood, so He could be tempted and tested just like we are, resisting and rejecting all the pulls of the flesh and having victory over satan and thus over sin so that He could willingly shed His righteous blood to cover the penalty that awaits us for breaking the eternal rules, the laws of conduct of the Fathers household, which we have all done.

Vines tells us "To be in favor with is to find grace with." The epistles constantly teach us that. So is that unmerited favor? Not a chance! How do we know that? Because Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:18, "But grow in the grace (favor and acceptance) and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

So is growing in the favor and acceptance, and knowledge of our Lord and Savior somehow unmerited? That is absurd to think so. The context this is stated in here is found in verse 14; "Therefore beloved, looking forward to these things (what things? The day of the Lord; verse 10) be **diligent** to be found by Him in peace (with one another), without spot, and blameless."

What does this equate to? "And His wife has made herself ready" (Rev. 19:7). How? "By her righteous acts."

It is a very simple equation. We need to do our part at being at peace with the rest of the body of Christ/Messiah. Be without spot through repentance and the blood of Christ having washed us clean and receiving that blessing once again in type each year at Passover through the footwashing ceremony, and then blameless by diligently attempting to keep the household rules of the Father. Yes we are to accomplish this on our part by growing in the favor and acceptance, and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ/Messiah. We are to be growing in both!

Are we growing in knowledge, the knowledge of Jesus Christ as to Him being our Lord and our Savior or do we rely on another to do it for us, to fill in the blanks for us? We need to be doing

so ourselves daily in a one on one relationship with Him. Are we growing in the favor and acceptance of our Lord and Savior so that we are able to reflect that happy graciousness in our lives towards others in the body of Christ and learning the functions required of the bride, which are required of us, by God/Elohim, to qualify for those eternal functions in the Fathers household? To sum up favor and acceptance, and knowledge (truth) we will be making a diligent effort to be in peace, without spot, and being blameless in the body of Christ.

“Grow” found here in 2 Peter 3:18 is #837 auxano “a prolonged form of a prime verb; to grow, i.e. enlarge.”

Vines says of it; “to grow or increase.” That by definition means work and effort, or as verse 14 states “diligence” on our behalf. We are to grow or increase upon what we have been given by the Father and His Son. The Father started it when He called us and the Son will pick it up to assist us in finishing it. The Father bestows His favor and acceptance to us and if we accept the offer, it leads us to repentance and the belief in Jesus Christ/Messiah as our personal Savior. Then we are ready to be washed in His blood and start the one on one relationship with Him as our Lord (Husband) and as our Savior. He has done His part and continues to assist us and we need to do our part being yoked with Him. It just doesn’t magically happen on our part and no, there is no sprinkling of Protestant fairy dust. He teaches us how to be without spot and without blemish as a husband should and also teaches us to be at peace with the rest of His body. We in actuality are reflecting His favor and acceptance, His graciousness that is in us. Yes we are to be diligent in growing in this. Our function as the future wife or fulfilling those responsibilities in the Fathers household depends on it. He will never leave nor forsake us; that is a promise from Him (unlike the first Adam), however, we can do the leaving and the forsaking when tested or tried. Hebrews 4:16 is so very encouraging in this regard. “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of graciousness that we may obtain mercy and find favor and acceptance, to help in time of need.”

Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior who suffered as we currently do, but without sin, can and will assist us in “finding” favor and acceptance in our time of need of such things.

When Christ was a young child, as He was growing and becoming strong in the spirit, the favor and acceptance (grace) of the Father God/Elohim was upon Him. We read that earlier in Luke 2:40. The same thing happens to us when the Father calls us. We are yet babes and His “grace” or better said; His acceptance, favor, benefit, etc. is upon us so that we can grow in wisdom to the point that we realize and believe that Jesus shed His blood on our behalf, because of our sins. We acknowledge our part in the need for Him to have shed His righteous blood for us and enter into true repentance. Thus we are ready to enter into a one on one relationship with Him so that He can teach us about our responsibilities to being His bride (betrothed) and thus the eventuality of functioning in the responsibilities of the wife in the Fathers household.

The favor and acceptance (grace) of God/Elohim the Father starts as a gift to us at our calling. He has looked at us with favor and because of His mercy and reasoning He enters into a special relationship with us. We had no say in the matter. **It was the Fathers decision based on His reasoning** and not any works we have done; in fact He says He calls the weak and the base. No ego trip in any of that (1 Cor. 1:26-31). His divine influence assists us in that initial calling, to start our walk to qualifying to be the bride of Christ. Yes His “grace” gift, favor and acceptance to that qualifying process was extended to us. It was granted to us for a special purpose. Romans 11:29; “For the gifts and calling of God/Elohim are without change of purpose.” (The translators of some bibles have that as “are irrevocable” which has no such intent in the Greek language or the patterns of God/Elohim). It is His to give, just like salvation is. Keep in mind that Christ/Messiah earned the opportunity for us all to be offered the gift of salvation as well as that of being called by the Father to be the bride. However not all will be given the gift of salvation and certainly not all will be called at this time to be the bride. One thing we should never forget is that the giving is free, the receiving is not! The recipient needs to be willingly yielding to the Fathers household rules of conduct or it will not be offered to them let alone granted. That very same set of rules applies to the gift of favor and acceptance (grace). Initially the Father covers the opportunity with the blood sacrifice but if the recipient is not willing to participate in showing works worthy of repentance which is the desired result then it will be withdrawn. The gift is free but not by any means permanent if the participating human being is not doing their part.

Listen to a principle that God/Elohim has established in all the relationships They enter into. It applies across the board with no exceptions. Romans 11:22-23; “Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God/Elohim: on those who fell, severity: but towards you (the Gentiles) goodness; **if you continue in goodness**. Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they (Israel) do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted (back) in, for God/Elohim is able to graft them in again.” So much for once saved always saved!

Now some use scriptures like these completely out of context to proclaim that the ones being cut loose are fuel for the fire that being the lake of fire. When they do such things they display their ignorance at a minimum and possibly their true disdain for others for any number of reasons. The context here in Romans 11 is actually about the inevitable saving of all of Israel 11:26; “all of Israel will be saved.” That will happen in a future timeline or phase of the plan of salvation. We could not understand any of the mysteries in place at this time in the plan unless we had the spirit of God/Elohim dwelling in us and that all starts with the Father calling us unto His Son. He starts the process of favor and acceptance on top of favor and acceptance. So let’s continue to see that from the scriptures.

Ephesians 2:8-10, "For by favor (grace) you are being saved (#4982), through faith, and that not of yourselves (we need help); it is the (initial) gift of God/Elohim (the Father John 6:44, 65), not of (our) works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His (the Fathers) workmanship created in Christ Jesus (He made it possible) for good works, which God/Elohim prepared beforehand (He defined and codified His household rules of conduct) that we **should** walk in them."

Once again we are instructed here that the Father started this work in us, it was His gift to us for His own reasons known to Himself and Christ. No works we had done prior to this qualified us for receiving this favor and acceptance in His eyes, so there is no boasting possible on our part. He had a purpose in mind for it all; we are to be His workmanship through Christ's acceptance of us for good works. Thus we are being saved by His favor and acceptance (grace) in His calling as we take hold of it and grow in it. It is certainly a process with conditions and growth plateaus attached. The Protestant doctrine of Grace says you are saved already. No! No! No! The Greek word and biblical pattern of instruction says we "are being saved." Why? Because we are the weak link in the line of succession in our calling. We have a part to play with conditions and goals which must be met to proceed to the next level; remember good works, righteous acts. The scriptures are loaded with them all spelled out very clearly and simple to understand. These good works are all based on the Fathers household rules of conduct and our willingness to walk in them as demonstrated by our outward acts or works of faith. These household rules of conduct are spiritual in nature Romans 7:12 and 14. "Therefore the law is holy, and the commandments holy and just and good. For we know that the law is spiritual but I am carnal, sold under sin." We need to be willingly, not begrudgingly, yielding to them and doing works worthy of them, or the gift of favor and acceptance (grace) will be taken away, the favorable regard will stop, the being saved at this time in the plan of salvation will be stopped until a later timeline in the plan. Maybe you don't believe that? The Protestant theologians certainly don't! They are already saved, for the requirement for keeping the commandments was already nailed to the cross or have you not heard?

Hebrews 5:8-9, "though He was a son, He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He **became** the author of eternal salvation to **all who obey Him.**" Do what? Obey Him; willingly yielding to Him! So much for the Protestant view of things. Do you possibly think for one second that if we do not keep the Fathers household rules of conduct, His commandments that we will receive eternal salvation, let alone continue to receive His good favor and acceptance in the form of His holy spirit?

We have a command and a need to maintain what was started in us and to grow in it. Titus 3:3-8 locks it up in very simple terms.

"For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another (sounds familiar). But when



the kindness and the love of God/Elohim our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we had done, but according to His mercy He saved us (made it all possible), through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the holy spirit, it He (the Father) poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ/Messiah our Savior, that having been justified by His gift of favor and acceptance (grace) on our behalf we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God/Elohim **should be careful to maintain good works continuing in the goodness.** These things are good and profitable to men.”

We all have our part to do in the equation. The Father has done His part if we have answered the call and come to repentance, Christ/Messiah has done His part so that we can actually be saved from the second death, and now we are to do our part with His assistance in maintaining what was started in us and growing in it. Remember what Peter said to us, “Be diligent to be found by Him in peace (with one another), without spot, and blameless.”

These are good works, righteous acts, which are absolutely required on our part to fulfill our part of the agreement at this time. Yes we are required to do righteous acts to qualify to be the bride of Christ/Messiah. From what we read in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 we certainly were not doing them before. “For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base (insignificant or lowly) things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God; and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, that as it is written, he who glories let him glory in the Lord.”

Of late I have been hearing and reading some really disturbing comments and teachings and mutterings, coming from various church of God groups, and from some who have left them who consider themselves members of the body of Christ. The big one is centered around the acceptance of Protestant grace in its entirety or in portions. One is that grace did not come until after Christ’s death. Based on that they swallow the Protestant theologian babbling that there is a battle going on between Law and Grace. They pit one against the other and it is often referenced as law vs grace in their mutterings. They build it up as if it were a competition. The Catholic and Protestant theologians have high jacked the Hebrew word Chen and the Greek word Charis and turned them into something they were not intended to mean. That is demonic in nature, for both the law and grace (favor and acceptance) are spiritual and holy in their origins. This law vs grace craze is the equivalent to formulating a doctrine that says the Father

vs the Son. Both are separate yet one, because they, like the Father and the Son, are holy and spiritual in nature and in complete agreement.

One of the offshoot teachings of these folks as I mentioned is that “grace” (favor and acceptance) was not given prior to Christ/Messiah’s sacrifice. They teach that the law was and is cold and that grace is hot. That is not found in the pattern throughout the scriptures. They try to pin it however on Paul’s teachings, imagine that. You have to wonder if they have ever read let alone understood the simple and clear word of God on the subject.

1 John 5:2-3, “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”

2 John 5-6, “And now I plead with you lady, not that I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. This is love, that we walk according to His commandments...”

These are the same commandments that the under grace professing; once saved always saved; you do not need to do any works just believe and have faith; and the commandments were nailed to the cross folks rail against in their vain babblings. These are the same commandments which span two marriage covenants and even prior to that as scripture tells us and as we will see shortly. They are described as the love of God/Elohim and now they are somehow cold? How demonic is that!

I recently read in a discourse between two folks in which the one guy cites this. He uses Revelation 3:15-16 as a basis in fact, for this teaching. We need to take a moment and address such gibberish. Of course what he references is the message to the Laodicean church. “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot, I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew (vomit) you out of My mouth.”

This fellow goes on to say that the cold is the first covenant under the law and that the hot is the second covenant under grace and that the lukewarm folks are those who hold a mixture of both the law and “grace”. That is an extremely sick premise and appears to be contagious if ingested. Keeping the commandments of God/Elohim is the fundamental basis of our relationship with God/Elohim regardless of the covenant; first or second. It has been that way in fact since creation which by the way predates the first covenant given and accepted by Israel at Mt. Sinai.

Please keep in mind our Savior teaches us the following in Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday (first covenant), today (second covenant), and forever (the kingdom).” Because He was the Word, the God/Elohim of the first marriage covenant He makes this statement in

scripture so very compelling and true. The first covenant scriptures say the same thing: Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord/Yehovah, I do not change."

There is no contest or competition of the law vs grace in anything God does or teaches us. It is a doctrine of demons to think there is and it has infected many in the Christianity of the world who preach a false Christ/Messiah. We will address this briefly in a few minutes. Both covenants are united in one purpose, remember Romans 11:29. That is they are both marriage covenants. Under the first the required number to qualify to remain faithful to the marriage vows fell short thus requiring a second marriage covenant to complete the number who would internalize the Lamb of the Fathers household (Exodus 12:3-4). Thus a second covenant was required and it was primarily given so the count could be completed by offering it to the Gentiles as Paul says; they are being grafted in at this time. Matthew 22:1-14 is a parable which tells us, the called of the Father, about the entire marriage process under the time span of both covenants, and who all the participants were and are during that time frame. Let's run through that again before we turn to the first covenant scriptures to show that favor and acceptance (grace) of God/Elohim worked throughout that timeframe, even prior to the flood.

Matthew 22:1-14, "And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: (don't forget the purpose of parables is so that we who are called and have the spirit of God/Elohim would understand and the rest would not) The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king (the Father) who arranged a marriage for his son (Jesus), and he sent out his servants (the prophets), to call those who were invited (Israel) to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants (prophets); saying, tell those who are invited (Judah) see, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready come to the wedding. But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his business (so emblematic of Judah). And the rest seized his servants treated them spitefully and killed them. But when the king heard (the Father) he was furious. And he sent out his armies (the Romans as His rod), destroyed those murderers (the Jews) and burned up their city (Jerusalem 70 AD). Then he said to his servants (the apostles) the wedding is ready, but those who were invited (Israel and Judah) were not worthy (did not remain faithful) therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find (the Gentiles) invite to the wedding. So those servants (the apostles) went out to the highways and gathered together all whom they found , both bad and good (tares and wheat), and the wedding was filled with guests. But when the king came to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment (fine linen clean and bright, righteous acts) so he said to him friend (not enemy) how did you come in here without a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then the king (the Father) said to the servants bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called but few are chosen."

This is a beautiful teaching from Jesus as to the process of the wedding invitations spanning the two marriage covenants. We have addressed this often in the past in a lot of detail so we won't go into it further today. My point of once again bringing it to our remembrance is to illustrate how absolutely absurd the fellow was who attempts to use the scriptures depicting the first covenant as cold under the law, the second covenant under grace as hot, and the lukewarm who were to be vomited out as those who profess both the law and grace together.

As I mentioned earlier let's go way back into the beginning and review what God/Elohim had in place as to favor and acceptance (grace) and what was required of the ones under it. We are going to see it is fundamentally exactly the same thing, starting at creation, as is found in the second covenant scriptures, without Protestant theology wrapped around it and choking it out. If I didn't mention it earlier the Protestant version of grace is based on the opinions of men devoid of the spirit of God/Elohim, which we have been taught from scripture is given to assist us in understanding the deep things of God/Elohim. The Protestant premise is complete psychobabble and in disagreement with the scriptural patterns throughout the bible. Do not be fooled on this point. Christianity today is no different than Judaism (the traditions of the elders) during the time of Christ/Messiah walking the earth. He warned us to be wary of the leaven of the teachers of Judaism; the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Matthew 16:11, Mark 8:15, and Luke 12:1. Christ gives us the reason why in detail in Mark 7 and Matthew 15. Let's just sample a piece of what He wants us to learn. Mark 7:6-9, "He answered and said to them, well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: this people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men, and laying aside the commandments of God/Elohim you hold the traditions of men the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do. And He said to them, all too well you reject the commandments of God/Elohim; that you may keep your traditions."

Dear brethren, Christianity does the very same thing! It sets aside, and in some cases openly rejects the commandments of God/Elohim for its traditions and doctrines; Sunday, Christmas, Easter, once saved always saved grace, child baptism, etc. etc. etc. Yes we must be wary of the leaven of the Christian sects or denominations. Unfortunately many of their psychobabble deceptive doctrines are infecting the churches, but none more so than their doctrine of grace. I recently heard one preacher in the churches say we can't "earn" grace (favor and acceptance) from God/Elohim through any works we can do. That is as Protestant as it comes and a twisting of Paul's teachings as we will see in detail.

Let's look at the Hebrew word translated in some scriptures as grace by the Protestant translators as well as the Catholic ones. It is #2580 chen, pronounced khane from #2603 chanan; a prime root properly to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior, graciousness, i.e.,

subjective, (kindness, favor) or objective (beauty); favor, grace (-ious), pleasant, precious, (well) favored.”

The Brown Driver Briggs says it means favor or grace with 2 chief uses; 1) favor, grace, elegance of appearance or speech. 2) favor and acceptance. Does this sound familiar? Remember the definition of the Greek word charis. Vines says of chen “favor, grace. The root with the meaning; favor. To favor someone is a common Semitic term. It occurs 69 times in the bible. The very first occurrence is in Genesis 6:8. The basic meaning of chen is favor. Whatever is pleasant and agreeable can be described by this word.” It also denotes; “the response to whatever is agreeable. The verbs used with favor are; give favor, obtain favor, and find favor. These idioms are equivalent to the English verbs; to like, or to love: she said to him why have I found favor (grace) in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner? (Ruth 2:10.)”

What an incredibly uplifting Hebrew word when we understand what the word actually means and how it is used. The bible uses both chen and charis, to describe the same thing in the two covenants. **This favor and acceptance is rooted in something being agreeable.** That is very important and is an integral part of the doctrine of “grace.”

Genesis 6:8, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord/Yehovah.” The Hebrew word for “found” here is “#4672 matsa which is a prime root basically meaning **attain to find.**”

Now how do you think Noah found or “attained to find” this favor and acceptance (grace) in the eyes of God/Elohim? Verse 9 holds the answer. Let’s read it from the J.P. Green Interlinear Bible for it nails the intent of the Hebrew language.

“These are the generations of Noah. Noah a righteous man, **had been perfected** among his family. Noah walked with God/Elohim.” That sounds very familiar to me from what we have read already today. It took time and effort on the part of Noah and God/Elohim.

These generations of Noah have nothing to do with his pedigree. These are the generations he lived through and was perfected in. What exactly were they like? Verse 5; “And Yehovah saw that the evil of man was great on the earth, and every imagination of the thought of his heart was only evil all day long.”

In spite of being surrounded by such evil throughout his lifetime, Noah found, “attained to,” the favor and acceptance (grace) of the Lord/Yehovah. How? Because he willingly yielded to God/Elohim and was in agreement with Him, and walked in His ways! Was he always that way? The scripture says he **was perfected** during his lifetime so that means he grew in it. That certainly sounds like God/Elohim chose to work with him and perfect him over the course of his

lifetime as long as Noah willingly continued in it. Noah grew in it and was diligent to maintain that walk. Dear brethren that is exactly what the Father and the Son are doing with us today.

Just think, only 8 were accounted worthy to escape the wrath of God/Elohim. How many millions inhabited the earth at that time? How many at that time had been “called” to walk with God/Elohim? The second covenant adage of “many are called and few chosen” can probably apply in some fashion to this pre-flood era as well. The basic fundamental principles of “grace,” favor and acceptance, are found from the beginning of creation and throughout the duration of the plan of salvation. That does not change. If we are not in agreement with God/Elohim there will not be any gift of salvation offered to us, let alone favor and acceptance (grace). This is a biblical pattern!

The first 6,000 years of the plan are focused on preparing people to be able to assume the responsibilities that a wife would undertake in the Fathers household. It is a time of qualifying with lots of caveats adjoined to it. Those who do qualify will function in the family, and household duties relative to a wife for eternity. The resume is found in Proverbs 31:10-31. It’s a lot of work which can’t be accomplished solely by our own efforts for it takes the spirit of God/Elohim working in us to do so. Without Gods/Elohim help we could never be perfected during this physical lifetime. We need to have the favor and acceptance, of God/Elohim to even have a prayer in doing so. Not only do we read that prior to Israel entering into a marriage covenant with God/Elohim, we read it in the second covenant “generations” as well when it is offered to the Gentiles. What is this all based on? **The mercy of God/Elohim to share Themselves with others and our willingness to yield to Their way of thinking and doing things as spelled out in the Fathers household rules of conduct and His requirements.**

Look to Abraham to establish this permanently in our minds if there is any doubt. In Genesis 26:1-5 we see God/Elohim giving a choice to Isaac to walk with Him, in his father’s footsteps and then be blessed for it. Look what the footsteps are: verse 5, “Because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

Abraham was in agreement with God/Elohim and found favor and acceptance (grace) in His eyes.

The pattern does not change throughout scripture in spite of what Protestant theology proclaims. However we have an adversary who used scripture to deceive the vast majority of mankind to stumble in truth. We who are called of the Father unto His Son and who have been granted to go beyond the milk of the word found in Hebrews 5:12-6:3, and who are being held to a more stringent test as Hebrews 6:4-6 clearly explains have no excuse in the need to function more soberly and maturely.

Let's jump back to John 1:14 again and pick it up so we can come to an understanding of a very important point about favor and acceptance (grace).

“And the Word became flesh, (by the way that means He was something other than flesh prior to that time) and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of favor and acceptance (grace) and truth.”

Here we are taught that Christ/Messiah was full, of both favor and acceptance (grace) and truth. That is a very important combination for we are to grow in both of them as it pertains to us as we are about to see.

Verse 16, “And of His fullness we have all received, and (grace) favor and acceptance on top of (grace) favor and acceptance.” This is very important in explaining the pattern of favor and acceptance given. It comes first through the Father and then through Christ/Messiah. So what fullness have we also received? The fullness of His favor and acceptance, **and His truth**. This is a very big deal on both counts. Remember it is the truth which will set us free as Paul teaches us. Free from what? Real big subject on its own, so we are only going to look at its relevance here, to favor and acceptance (grace).

Verse 17; “For the law (#3551 nomos) was given through Moses but (grace) favor and acceptance came through Jesus Christ/Messiah.”

This is really big brethren in addressing what is meant by the law here as contrasted with “grace” and truth. Do not forget this truth or “aletheia,” the fullness of it, will set us free as John 8:32 instructs. It is very, very, important to see what truth the apostle John instructs us in immediately after he tells us we will share in its fullness that was, and is, in Christ/Messiah.

Verse 18; “No one has seen God/Elohim (the Father) at any time. The only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

Now from the Interlinear Bible, “No one has seen God/Elohim (the Father) at any time; the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father reveals Him.”

That is a tremendous teaching from John. He was setting the record straight (at a time of great deceit being presented to the brethren) in the first chapter of his gospel as to who was the Word, what His functions had been, and now what He was doing or had done in the flesh. He was part of the Godhead, the Elohim (John 1:1-4), prior to becoming the flesh and blood Being known to us as Jesus the Christ/Messiah, and that it was Him in His prior existence and role as the Word who had revealed Himself only to mankind since creation. One of His purposes as Jesus or the “Word in the flesh” as the only begotten Son was to reveal the other Being of the Godhead who we now know as the Father. This part of the fullness of the truth which came

through Christ/Mesiah which sets us free from the deceitful lies of satan the devil who has deceived all mankind unto another gospel is very important. But back to the favor and acceptance which came through Jesus and the law which was **given** through Moses. John clearly tells us “the law” was **given** through Moses; it did not **come** from him which is very important. What “law” was given through Moses to Israel? Lots of them! There were the 10 commandments, the statutes, the national laws, the laws governing what we could eat, the morality laws, the laws of the sacrifices, etc., etc. Moses was just the conduit for **giving** them. He was not an originator of them, for many of them already existed prior to His time as evidenced by the relationship God/Elohim had with Abraham and others. Here we have a great understanding of the **deep things of God/Elohim** being described in simple terms by John. Once again he was setting the record straight because of the apostasy and different gospels flooding the churches at that time. Here John gives us a contrast to consider. What law is John talking about here? Is he talking about all of them or some of them? Not all the laws given through Moses are **holy and spiritual** are they. For instance moving a land mark is quite physical in nature, so is replacing a bull you may have inadvertently killed or crippled. Obviously the Ten Commandments are not being contrasted here with the favor and acceptance (grace) which came through Christ/Messiah. The scriptures tell us the 10 Commandments are the definition of the love of God/Elohim. They were given to Israel through Moses at Mt. Sinai. However if you read Exodus 19-23 you will read about a lot of laws and statutes which were given through him at that time. Some of them had very big penalties attached to them and some had lesser penalties attached to them. Some of the penalties did not require a blood sacrifice while others did. The ones that did involve the shedding of an animal’s blood, a clean animal without spot or blemish, which had no part in the actual trespass, are clearly defined in Leviticus. The real perpetrator received a temporary reprieve or temporary favor through that act of shedding animal blood. John is contrasting this here with the favor and acceptance which came through Christ’s willingness, and eventual shedding of His innocent blood which garnered favor and acceptance on our behalf with the Father. Jesus’ sacrifice removed the death penalty from us as applied to us and thus made it possible for the Father to work with us so that we could come to repentance and then receive the permanence of it in our lives so that we could enter into a marriage covenant with Him (Christ/Messiah) after baptism. Yes, it, as well as the truth, are utilized to set us free; one from the sentence of death and the other from the deceit of satan the devil. We have a very definite pattern to be found throughout the scriptures as well as in the Hebrew word *chen* and the Greek word *charis* which teaches us about favor and acceptance (grace). The patterns are associated with obedience to the household rules of conduct, the holy and spiritual ones. That dear brethren is of the fullness of the truth which has come through Christ/Messiah. Satan wants to distort that truth through the Protestant doctrine of grace and for that matter through the Catholic one as well. Both twist the scriptures under his guidance just as he did in his epic showdown with Jesus in the wilderness. Remember how he tried to



convince Jesus by quoting scripture to Him. Of course it was totally out of context. He told Him to throw Himself off the pinnacle for angels would assist Him so He would not be hurt. If Jesus had have done that He would have committed self-murder or suicide. We have read that often in Matthew 4:1-11 and particularly in verse 6. With our Savior/Husband working with us through the spirit we are able to see through such diabolical lies and doctrines of demons. We are promised that we will partake in His fullness of favor and acceptance, and truth, if we follow through on the Fathers calling us to repentance unto His Son. We start out under the Fathers favor and acceptance, which once again leads us to repentance. I cannot stress that enough. Only after the completion of that do we come under the fullness of the favor and acceptance of Christ/Messiah through His sacrifice on our behalf. Thus we have favor and acceptance on top of favor and acceptance. It is not a riddle, but a deep truth of God/Elohim. If you had not heard that before I am happy you are now. The choice is yours to embrace it or not. These are offered under the terms of the second marriage covenant thus it is founded on better terms than the first because it helps us deal with our weaknesses and our shortcomings. However we still have a lot to do ourselves.

We need to apply these things to the different “gospels” which are drifting all around us these days. The very thought of the law vs grace is abominal to me. There is no such competition in the plan of salvation. The fact that those who profess such doctrines are themselves deceived for the most part, yet, very zealous for them. Let’s go back to Peter’s epistle we were in earlier and review all this.

2 Peter 3:14-18 once again. Remember the context here from the prior verses is looking for and desiring the hastening of the return of Christ/Messiah at which time righteousness will dwell throughout the heavens and the earth.

“Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace (among one another in the body of Christ), without spot and blameless; and account (consider) the longsuffering of our Lord (I need that longsuffering applied to me in my relationship with Him for I slip far too much) as salvation; as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him (not his own), has written to you (did we get that? Paul also taught we were to remain diligent in peace, without spot, and blameless in our quest for salvation), as also in all his epistles (he repeated it often in all his teachings so how do folks in graceland come up with what they do from his teachings?) speaking in them of these things in which some things are hard to understand, which those untaught and unstable (without the spirit of God/Elohim) twist to their own destruction as also the rest of the scriptures. You therefore beloved since you know beforehand, beware lest you also fall from **your own steadfastness**, being led away by the error of the wicked (lawless); but grow in the favor and acceptance (grace) and knowledge

(truth) of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ/Messiah. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

Peter tells us those who twisted the writings of Paul also twist the rest of the scriptures as well, to their own destruction. He labels them as wicked or lawless people, who lead other people away from the wisdom given by God/Elohim, into error. He forewarns us, that to avoid this from happening to us, we need to grow in the favor and acceptance and truth of our Lord and Savior. Please take note that he (Peter) uses three titles for Jesus here; Lord, Savior, and Christ/Messiah. All three are important to both favor and acceptance, and knowledge.

We have spent a lot of time on favor and acceptance or “grace” so let’s spend a little time on knowledge and then illustrate how we grow in both. Knowledge here is the Greek word *gnosis* #1108. This is important to point out for it is not *ginosko* #1097 which means or signifies; to be taking in knowledge, to come to know, recognize, understand, or to understand completely. It can be deemed as passive. However there is nothing subtle about *gnosis* which Peter uses here. It is very proactive and very diligent in purpose. It primarily means; a seeking to know, an inquiry, investigation; especially of spiritual truth. That is what the Vines tells us and it is obvious that Peter is instructing us to do that very thing when telling us to grow in spiritual knowledge, or the truth that is from Jesus to us. We are to investigate it and not just accept what is being placed in front of us by men who may be lawless in their understanding and thus be bound to be in error and for that matter very happy to lead us into that as well. It is not a coincidence here that Peter associates and in fact contrasts the teachings of Paul with those of lawless men. Paul taught more about favor and acceptance (grace) and law than anyone else. **Untaught and unstable men, is how Peter characterizes these lawless teachers or teachers against the law.** They can’t understand the wisdom of Paul’s teachings because they do not possess the spirit of God/Elohim. The vast majority of these people are not evil in their intent; they are ignorant and unfixed in spiritual understanding as a result of not having the spirit to lead them let alone be in them. Let’s review that again quickly.

1 Corinthians 2:10-13; “But God has revealed them to us through the spirit. For the spirit searches all things, yes **the deep things of God/Elohim**. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him. Even so no one knows the things of God/Elohim except the spirit of God/Elohim. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God/Elohim, that we may know the things which have been freely given to us by God/Elohim.”

Once we are called by the Father we come under His favor and acceptance (grace), so that He can lead us to a basic understanding of why His Eternal Companion and Best Friend had to die on our behalf. To come to that understanding and accepting it personally, is to be truly repentant and we thus make the decision to accept the sacrifice in knowledge of what it is and

what it does for us, and are then moved to be baptized as an outward display of our inward convictions. We then come under Jesus' favor and acceptance, under His gift to us. We are in agreement with Him and follow His lead for we are to be yoked with Him. We are then betrothed to Him as 2 Corinthians 11:2 tells us and the process of becoming without spot and blameless begins on an ongoing basis. That process is explained in Ephesians 5 in addressing what Paul calls the mystery of the church. Verses 25-27;

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ/Messiah also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He **might** (not a sure thing on an individual basis because of us not Him) sanctify (set apart) and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He **might** present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it (we) should be holy and without blemish.”

Our Husband and Father have great expectations for us! It is a process as Ephesians 4:13-16 and many other scriptures teach us. “Till we come to the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God/Elohim, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ/Messiah; that we should no longer be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ/Messiah; from whom the whole body, is joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working, by which every part does its share, causes growth in the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

As Peter has instructed us, “be diligent to be found in peace (in the body), without spot, and blameless.” As a result of that we are in agreement with the Father and the Son in our daily walk before men. We grow in Their favor and acceptance as we grow in Their knowledge, the truth of our calling and Their ultimate purpose for it in the plan of salvation. We learn about our part in it and what is expected of us to succeed at it. The Father and the Son are engaged in a plan of salvation for all mankind. That is Their intent but not all will be willing to accept the terms of the gift they are offering. Once again one of those “terms” of agreement is that we accept the household rules of conduct, the eternal ones, which are holy and spiritual. Accepting them is demonstrated through actually engaging in righteous acts and not just lip service or a nod and a wink. To walk in the them is very pleasing to both the Father and the Son and as a result we grow in Their favor and acceptance and the gift They had offered us. We are then able to assist others in the very same process as we look to edify the body in love. That is the function of a devoted, determined, mature bride. It has nothing in common with the deluded and deceptive Protestant doctrine of grace founded on; once saved always saved, and that the household rules of the Father are nailed to the cross, and we don't need to make any effort as to being acceptable.

Brethren we must never become dull of hearing or dull of learning on a daily basis, and please do not forget that comes accompanied with suffering if we are true lights not being embarrassed by our Savior/Husband when functioning in the world.

Paul tells us about this process in Hebrews 5:12-14, “for though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the scriptural patterns of God/Elohim; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are full age, those who by reason of use (practice righteous acts) have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

That is very sobering and very instructive. In 6:1-2 Paul lists some of the basic teachings of Christ/Messiah; the milk of the word. He sums this up by saying we need to leave the **continual discussion** of these basic beliefs and that we need to go on, grow in knowledge which he calls “going onto perfection.” We will only be able to do this if God/Elohim permits as stated in verse three; “And this we will do if God/Elohim permits.”

This is a milestone in our calling brethren. This is a time when Christ says I choose to work with you as an adult, for He sees in us a desire to grow in Him, to not look back, to remain faithful to Him for eternity, and the Father grants it to happen. Brethren it does not happen to all who are called; “for many are called and few are chosen.” There is no vanity in this at all, in fact there is tremendous humility encasing it. At that time our Lord and Savior opens our mind to be able to understand what Paul calls “solid food.” This is a level and depth of Godly understanding that we cannot turn our backs on, for once we have tasted its power in our lives, it is undeniable. If we ever fall away from it, there is no way to renew us back to it as Paul so vividly instructs us in verses 4-6. Be mindful I am not talking about the sin which can be forgiven but that which cannot, the unpardonable sin as defined in scripture.

This is beyond the milk of the word, the basic scriptural patterns, and thus onto the actual carrying out of the righteous works required of a mature individual to fulfill the responsibilities to be held by the wife in the household of God/Elohim the Father. As such we are expected to give an answer, a defense, for the hope which is in us which Peter teaches us in 1 Peter 3:13-17. Let’s read that before we move to some of the scriptures the lawless folk’s use whom are ignorant of the spiritual truth which Paul encompasses into His teachings about law and grace. “And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness sake; blessed, do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. But sanctify (set apart the knowledge of) the Lord God/Elohim in your hearts and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason about the hope which is in you, with meekness and fear, having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evil doers, those

who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God/Elohim, to suffer for doing good than evil.”

Dear brethren many of you are experiencing that in the organizations, and in your families at this time, and many of you have overcome it and are at peace with it. Keep up the good work!

The Protestant doctrine of grace is claimed to be founded on Paul’s teachings. Their entire premise is that grace is **unmerited favor from start to finish** thus the individual has no effect on it, no responsibility as to maintaining it let alone growing in it. If that is the case why do the scriptures teach us we must grow in it? The scriptures tell us we have a part to play in it that needs to be maintained by us. The Hebrew “chen” and Greek “charis” mean favor and acceptance from the standing of being agreeable. Once again agreeable with what?

WIKIPEDIA (and they are not alone in saying what is to follow) states that, “Protestants almost universally believe that grace is given by God based on the **faith** of the believer.” Now that understanding is correct to a point just like most deceptive teachings. Unfortunately Protestant theology does not understand what true faith on top of faith is, or that faith without works is dead, which in turn leads to another one of their upside down doctrines. Unfortunately Israel did not understand the relationship of the works of the law and faith either. Let’s just spend a second on that as to faith and the laws of God/Elohim. **Israel did not approach the law as a work of faith.** They used the works of the law (sacrifices of sheep, goats, bulls, etc. and all the trappings that went with them) to declare their righteousness. That just does not work with God/Elohim. That eventually led to the ritualistic and ceremonial approach to their own traditions which were all completely dead works not even sanctioned as necessary works by God/Elohim. Faith is at the center of all righteous works. So if we look for righteousness in works without faith being the driving and guiding force behind them, they will fall far short of pleasing God/Elohim. When applied to the law, Paul makes it abundantly clear that without Christ as the ultimate focus of it, it will not amount to anything lasting. Paul tells us that “Christ is the goal or aim of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes” (Romans 10:4). That is very important and central to our understanding of favor and acceptance (grace). **Israel did not look to the works of the law with belief but rather from a point or perspective of relief.** That is very important. Why? Because they saw the penalty of breaking the law as a temporary thing! They came to look at it as purely a physical transaction, actually economic. For instance if they committed a certain sin they had to offer up a lamb, goat, etc. Now they did not want to part with the lamb, goat, etc., and yes they were sorry to have to do it, but if they did they knew it would buy them relief from the transgression. Thus they looked at their payment of the sin as a righteous work or act. They missed the whole point. They did not look at it with any hope to true forgiveness and change in character, but once again **relief**. Christ/Messiah was the hope of the law, the goal and aim of the law, but certainly not the end of the law as Protestants

teach. They (Israel) had no belief in anything past the actual work of providing the economic loss to cover the required penalty. It became a calculated thing to them. No belief, thus no hope in not committing it again and thus no faithful attitude or works attached to it. Thus dead works! Yet they came to magnify these dead works as righteousness in their thinking. The dead works became front and center as a prideful thing and thus was born the Pharisaical approach to it. They now defined what was important and what was not. Please keep in mind that the law of the sacrifices, not the necessity for them, was a juvenile application of the reality to come. Israel was to have used them to learn about the future reality, the magnification of them. As Paul tells us they were a tutor to guard Israel until the time of true belief and thus the time of faithful functioning with the onset of Christ/Messiah coming. He would magnify the extent of the purpose for them in the first place through His own sacrifice for the creation He loved. We can read about that in Galatians 3:21-25 and elsewhere. We then have a promise of a better covenant and a better tutor (the spirit of God/Elohim) to complete the purpose of the first marriage covenant and have the full number of the bride be determined so the plan of salvation can move onto the next phase. I have a reason for bringing this up here. Question; did Christ's sacrifice put an end to animal sacrifices as the Protestants claim? Be careful in your answering this. This is not a trick question but an illustration of how off base their doctrines are and how ignorant one is without the spirit of God/Elohim living and working in them. When Christ/Messiah returns He will activate them again. We can read about that in detail in Ezekiel 45:15 through 46:15. They are obviously not done away with. Remember Christ/Messiah magnified them, He met the goal or aim of them, but did He abolish them? Obviously not for they had and will have the same purpose in the millennium reign of Christ/Messiah. Remember Paul told us they were a tutor to guard Israel until the reality of their goal came which is Christ/Messiah. Did Israel do a good job learning? The answer is no, however some did as we can see from scripture but not nearly enough. The millennial rule is a time of the restoration of Israel to her rightful place among the nations as we have discussed at length many times in the past. God/Elohim is going to make her start once again from the beginning to get it right and to witness to the nations. So please do not jump on the Protestant band wagon about the law of the sacrifices being done away for they are clearly not. They in fact are going to be a central function in the worship at the Millennial Temple during the rule of Christ/Messiah the Word of God/Elohim.

We can never fall into that pit. We need to focus on the fullness of the truth that Jesus has delivered to us and not Jewish or Protestant fables. When the Father calls us, it is to true repentance not a hollow act of relief. If we break an eternal, holy, and spiritual law, one of the Ten Commandments requiring shed blood, we have come to the realization that it takes the death of the Creator to remove it. If not it will require our own death, the second death, the permanent death. That is a fearful thing. We thus realize we can't continue to practice the things which bring about the necessity for our Savior to have shed His blood for us, to pay the

penalty in our place. So thus we have a pattern of first belief in what the Father is teaching us about sinning, then hope that our transgression is being covered by Christ/Messiahs shed blood, and then the faithful works exhibiting the fact that we really get it and want to change our ways to Gods/Elohim ways. True repentance! Righteous works of faith! As a result we grow in His favor and acceptance. There is no turning back to dead works with no belief, hope, or faith in them. The world does not understand these things and can't for they are one of the mysteries of God/Elohim which can only be truly understood and carried out with the spirit of God/Elohim assisting us. Israel did not look for any such thing in the law. They looked at the works of the law themselves and made decisions based on that alone. Once again the law and Israel is a very big subject in its self so we will not go any deeper into it. Paul does an excellent job of explaining the relationship between the two in his writings. We should have a good understanding of these things, for we are to be stewards of the mysteries of God/Elohim.

Back to the subject at hand.

Remember our calling unto Christ is initiated by the Father to see if we can be compatible with His Son and be able to remain faithful for eternity. This calling is all about a father seeking a bride for his son after the biblical pattern of Abraham doing so for Isaac. We do not have a say in the selection by the Father for reasons unto Himself, He chooses to call specific individuals for that purpose during this timeline in the plan of salvation. We do not know what His ultimate determining criteria's are other than us being weak and base. But we do know that scripture teaches us He does everything with a purpose; decently and in order, for He is not the author of confusion. So this initial calling by the Father is truly a wonderful gift to us. If we respond to it He leads us by His spirit to grow in it as we discussed earlier, this is the first favor and acceptance we are exposed to. The parable of the sower can describe this initial process well. We are to eventually produce fruit in it, but remember a lot of growth is required before fruit can be produced. That is a simple pattern in creation. **The first fruit is repentance anchored in belief not grief.** Not all will do that for it will take works to truly repent. That's right, works in the form of righteous behavior. That in turn is very compelling to Christ our potential Husband. What do we repent of? Dead works! Ungodly behavior! What makes us favorable in the eyes of Christ? Righteous behavior, which is confirmed through visible works. How else would we be able to truly show our repentance from our old dead works worthy of death? When Christ/Messiah sees that we are genuine in our desire to change in character He extends to us the gift of His sacrifice in full measure to wash all of our past sins from before Himself and the Father. All gone! Our behavior under the calling of the Father was acceptable to Him, the Son, and we received favor in His sight. We receive His favor and acceptance on top of the Fathers favor and acceptance. Much is expected of us after that. We are to grow in both the gift we have been given, along with the knowledge of Christ/Messiah. We are to suffer with Him just as He Himself suffered. We are to walk just as He walked. We are to grow in that gift or

enhancement of what we already possess. The parable of the talents found in Matthew 25:14-30 teaches us how we are to function in works. We are expected to increase what is gifted to us. That involves work, hard work. After two individuals here in Matthew 25 accomplished that He tells them, "Well, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." However to the one who used lots of excuses for not growing in what he had received he gets this rebuke, "You wicked and lazy servant, you knew (not able to plead ignorance) that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. Therefore take the talent from him and give it to him who has 10 and cast the **unprofitable** servant into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

God/Elohim expects a return on what we have been given. It is not a coincidence that this parable follows directly after the one about the 10 virgins. John sums this process up in a beautiful way with its basic components spelled out in 1 John 2:3-6.

"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says I know Him (remember we are to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior) and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him, (That is really big and we sure have a willing part to play in it) But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God/Elohim is (being) perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

If we do not do righteous works we are not going to continue in the favor and acceptance of God/Elohim which is the favor and acceptance of both the Father and the Son! There is no way around it. It takes obedience from us to maintain our part in the agreement, in the covenant They make with us. Remember a covenant is an agreement between parties. God grants us forgiveness and offers us the gift of salvation. Remember what we read in Hebrews 5:9, "and having been perfected, (verse 8) He became the author of eternal salvation TO ALL WHO OBEY HIM."

That dear brethren is how the bride, the wife, makes herself ready by righteous acts (works), Revelation 19:7-8. We can read that same process throughout the entirety of the scriptures.

Protestant theology hates the epistle of James for it can't be twisted as easily as Paul's. James 2:20-24, "But do you want to know, oh foolish man, that faith without works is dead! Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar! Do you see that faith was working together with works, and by works faith was made perfect! And the scripture was fulfilled which says, Abraham believed God/Elohim, and it was accounted to him as righteousness. And he was called the friend of God/Elohim. You see then that a man is justified by works and not by faith only."



Oh No! Trouble in graceland!

Why do the Protestant theologians and preachers hate James' writings such as this one? Because, they always attempt to say the opposite by quoting such verses as Galatians 2:16 out of context to skew the truth.

“Knowing that a person is not justified by the works of **that (not the)** law, but by faith in Jesus Christ/Messiah. So we too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of **that** law, because by the works of **that** law no one will be justified.”

The same Greek word is used in James and Galatians for justified, and is tied to work. It is #1344 dikaios. Vines says that it primarily means to deem to be right, and signifies to show to be right or righteous. So what is right in the eyes of God/Elohim? Righteousness or right works. What are they predicated on? His commandments, for they define right from wrong. We are talking about His spiritual, holy, and eternal laws, not the additional physical ones or as some call ceremonial or ritual given to Israel in the wilderness or the “add on ones” given in Judaism. We can also add the national laws as well which were also given at Sinai. Not all the laws given at that time are binding on us who are under the second marriage covenant agreement. That is simple common sense. For instance we no longer have to build an altar to conduct animal sacrifices; we no longer have to bring firstfruits to the Levites. However we are still to follow all the moral laws such as a man not being sexually intimate with another man or with a beast. We can read up on all these in Exodus 20-23 and elsewhere. So when it says that no man is justified by works of the law under the terms of the second marriage covenant what is Paul talking about here in Galatians the second chapter? He is talking about self-righteous behavior under Judaism and in particular the Circumcision Party doctrine of the necessity of circumcision to be able to be acceptable to Christ/Messiah (Galatians 2:11-12). There is no such requirement under the terms of the second marriage covenant and thus no justification, let alone truth in it. Thus it has nothing to do with the favor and acceptance (grace) God/Elohim gives us in His sight. The only shed blood involved in the second marriage covenant for justification is that of Christ crucified. No animal blood, or for that matter no human blood through circumcision is of any value as to justification, let alone life. I hope you realize the Circumcision Party used that angle of shed blood to try and lead brethren away from the truth of God/Elohim unto another Gospel. With that they throw women under the bus as the saying goes because they were not privy to circumcision.

Another favorite of the graceland folks is Romans 6:14, “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” So what favor and acceptance are we talking about here? The first favor and acceptance or gift given by the Father, or that which came through Christ, which allowed the Father to be able to have contact with us? To me it is very

simple. That which came through Christ's sacrifice and applied to us is "on top of" what the Father started in us. **Please remember when Paul refers to the law and grace he is talking about the penalty of the law.** Christ died for us to pay the penalty on our behalf. That is a wonderful truth under the terms of the second marriage covenant. He extends that favor and acceptance and gift to us if we do what? Repent and be baptized. That's works folks, righteous works in the sight of God/Elohim and necessary for us to be included in the second covenant agreement. Without repentance there is no forgiveness and thus baptism into the death and the life of Christ/Messiah. We would not be able to receive the assistance of His spirit dwelling in us on a daily basis without doing so. This is only the start however for Paul clearly teaches in this same context in everything he writes about on this subject. That's the door in, then there is the need to resist sin and we can only do that with assistance from God/Elohim, for Satan is much stronger than we are if we are standing alone, thus we are given the spirit of God/Elohim as a helper. Look what Paul goes on to say in support of this in verses 16-23, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience (of what?) to righteousness? But God/Elohim be thanked that though you were slaves to sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine (doctrine is very important) to which you were delivered (trusted) and having been set free from sin you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of unrighteousness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness so now present your members as slaves of righteousness or holiness (that's works folks) for when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin (by Christ's sacrifice being applied to us) and having become slaves of God/Elohim, you have your fruit (something you produced from works) to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God/Elohim is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I hope I have been able to give an account for part of the hope which is in me, in a simple and easily understood way. We need to be diligently on our guard against such doctrines as Protestant grace. It is designed to subtly separate us from the fullness of the truth in Christ/Messiah which He has made available to us through His death on our behalf so the Father could work with us in the hope that we will be eventually born after His kind and then able to marry His Son as the second Eve and then be able to unite with His Son, the second Adam, and in turn be fruitful and multiply in His household. That is an absolutely awesome calling and such a special thing in the eyes of God/Elohim. Satan is fully aware of our potential in this timeline of the plan of salvation and will do anything he is allowed to do to terminate our participation in it. So please let's be diligent in the gift we have been given and grow in it.

In summation, my understanding of the Biblical doctrine of grace is as follows. Grace is the process of a gift given by God/Elohim. It starts as a gift of favor and acceptance with expectations for continuance placed on the recipient. It is based and sustained on an agreement with the recipient to maintain it and to grow in it throughout the lifetime of the relationship centered around it. The basis of the agreement is for the recipient to believe in and walk in the household rules of the Father. As in any gift it can be withheld or withdrawn by the giver. The favor and acceptance bestowed upon us comes through both the Father and the Son at this time under the terms of the second covenant. It is termed in scripture as “grace on top of grace” or favor and acceptance, on top of, favor and acceptance. It first comes from the Father in His calling to us as He draws us unto His Son. If we are willing participants in it He will see that we have at our disposal what we need to come to belief and a deep repentance and acknowledgement of our part our past sins played in the necessity for the death of the Creator, Jesus the Christ/Messiah, the Word of God. At that time we are offered the gift of Christ/Messiah’s favor and acceptance of us into a marriage agreement through His shed blood and resurrection being applied in Their fullness to us. Our personal vow is to remain faithful to Him, our Lord and Savior by walking in the works of the household rules of Father God/Elohim. It is up to us if we grow in this gift of favor and acceptance by fulfilling our part of the agreement.

I asked the question in the sub title of this article; “Can you earn favor in Gods/Elohim Eyes?” The answer is categorically yes we can and need to. And once again this is not talking about the offer of salvation but about something much, much, more in this calling to be the bride in the household of the Father. This is the King of the Universe calling us to occupy the third most important function in the household. It is a qualifying calling, and stringent process, which He feels we can do with His help. Now that is an act of faith on His part and it starts in His belief in us. Grace on top of grace is a doctrine we should not be ignorant of at this time or phase in the plan of salvation in which an eternal function is being filled. We did not go looking for this job opportunity. We did not see an advertisement for it posted anywhere and then go and fill out an application or send in a resume to it. The King of the Universe said I want you to apply!!! He came to us!!! That should bring tears of joy to all our eyes, pure jubilation! Please do not let anyone steal that crown from you. You may say; but I can’t do it. You are absolutely right; you can’t do it yourself. That is a no-brainer as the saying goes. So get that thought or better termed excuse removed from your thinking process and get to work being yoked to Christ/Messiah.

If we do not grow in the initial favor and acceptance of the Father then we will be disqualified as an applicant for the position of the bride. That does not mean for salvation regardless of what some of the spiritual butchers proclaim. If we do however grow in the Fathers favor and acceptance it will be because we have been pleasing to Him for we will have come to believe

that He is, and that our works show that we really desire to move forward in our repentance process in having our past sins completely removed by the blood of our future Husband/Savior. We want to receive the fullness of it so we can have the ability to sustain our efforts through the gift of the spirit of God/Elohim. That is part one of favor and acceptance. Now part two.

If we are pleasing to Christ/Messiah He agrees to apply the fullness of His innocent shed blood to us. He makes this choice. This is His phase of favor and acceptance on top of favor and acceptance. We then enter into this second phase of the “interview process” one might say. We receive the fullness of His favor and acceptance, as well as His knowledge of truth, which are both required to assist us in our growth as a candidate to be His bride. Both He and the Father need to be sure we will be faithful to our household responsibilities for eternity.

That my dear brethren is a summation of favor and acceptance on top of favor and acceptance. Our part of the process is predicated on our continuance in righteous works. If we do not grow in and maintain our part of the agreement we will be disqualified from it. Please remember 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 in this context for Paul sums such things up in verse 27; “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” and 2 Corinthians 13:5; “Examine yourselves (not someone else) whether you are in the faith. Prove (or test) yourselves (not someone else for that is between them and the Father). Do you not know that Jesus Christ/Messiah is in you? Unless indeed you are disqualified.” We will be, and are being judged for this function offered to us at this time by our own individual works. Our Father said I think you can meet the requirements, our Husband/Savior has said I think you can meet the requirements also. Now it is up to us to continue in the process and focus on righteous works which are pleasing to the both of Them and through such They will know we have what is necessary to remain faithful for eternity. Paul tells us in Galatians 6:4-5; “But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load.”

What I do when I read the translation of *chen* and *charis* as “grace” in scripture is to use one of the other definitions of it in place of “grace” such as: favor, gift, acceptance, joy, benefit, etc. because of the wide spread acceptance of the deceitful Protestant doctrine of grace. Also more often now when asked if I am “Christian” based on ones curiosity of my keeping of the Sabbath and holy days and such, I answer; “I am a member of the body of Christ.”

Our Peace we give to you.

Brian and Linda

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