

"GRACE is the Victory." *GRACE is the victory that overcomes the world, the flesh, and the devil.*

Last time, we looked at a list of things that we're supposed to 'put off' in our lives and finished up at the end of the paragraph in chapter 3 and verse 11. Immediately following the list of things to avoid, mortify & put off, we see the next topic on the agenda summarized in verses 9-10. put off the old man with his deeds; **10** And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: The next Topic is the list of WHAT to put ON....what the NEW MAN is supposed to look like.

COL3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **2** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. **3** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. **5** Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: **6** For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: **7** In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. **8** But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. **9** Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; **10** And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: **11** Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all. **12** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; **13** Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. **14** And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness. **15** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. **17** And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Today we'll pick up at vs. 12 and see the process by which we as Christians can have victory over our old man and all his evil wicked ways.

In Vs. 5-9, we're told to put a bunch of sins off, and in vs. 12-17, we're told HOW to do it. The old things are put OFF by the putting ON of the NEW things..... it's the REPLACEMENT PRINCIPLE.

PUT ON THE NEW MAN.....and thereby (by default) REPLACE the Old man, the natural fleshy man. (if you just quit stuff, you'll end up doing NOTHING)

Galatans 5: 16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

This verse in Galatians is exactly opposite of what my thinking was before I came to understand right division. If you quit ALL your bad habits, then you'll be able to start walking in the Spirit and be able to do something for God." **What is that kind of thinking? It's the LAW. It's focusing on FAILURE.**

By the way, that was the **intended purpose** of the law! ROM 3 knowledge of sin comes from the law.

ROM 7 Paul says I had not known sin, but by the Law. The law's purpose for us was to get us to IDENTIFY and see our FAILURE.

GAL 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [to bring us] unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are **no longer under** a schoolmaster.

GAL 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

You're saved NOW, you're not under the law anymore! Christ took care of your failures FOR YOU! When we focus on our failures, we are looking BACK, not PRESSING FORWARD in our newfound liberty. We're putting ourselves back under that schoolmaster that our Bible tells us we don't NEED ANYMORE!

THE GRACE RESPONSE TO SIN IS NOT SIN, CONFESS, REPEAT, THE GRACE RESPONSE TO SIN IS TO STOP IT!!!!!! Stop the sin by choosing to REPLACE the sins and selfishness with GOOD works.

When we CHOOSE to put more of our time, energy, money, attention into GOOD WORKS, we must (by default) TAKE AWAY from the resources that we were feeding to the OLD man and his BAD WORKS.

We can't just wake up one day and CHOOSE to be good. We have to get our "CHOOSE" fixed. How to fix the "chooser"?? We must **ROM 12:2** be transformed by the renewing of our mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. How do we get the transformation? THE WORD OF GOD! (1Thes 2) The Word of God is what produces the worthy walk

The WORD is what works effectually in those that believe it! The more of the Word you get installed in your inner man, the more it will work effectually IN YOU and give you the power to accomplish the worthy walk.

Belief and Faith in and continual **STUDY** of the WORD is the KEY to REPLACING the old man with the new. **2 TIM 3:15** And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **17** That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

There's a question though that we have to ask (and answer.) which is key to following the instructions given in Chapter 3.

WE AS BELIEVERS

We know that we (as members of the church, the body of Christ) are (ROM 5:1) at PEACE with God, and that (COL 2:13-14) He's forgiven us for ALL our trespasses and nailed them to His cross. We've (COL 2:10-11) been COMPLETED and placed **IN** Christ, the Head of ALL principality and power. He's cut off our body of sin and our wicked flesh through HIS operation. We're not worried about judgment or wrath a cursing from God because we know that (GAL 3:13) Christ was made a curse FOR US.

We're not trembling in fear about God punishing us for the sins we commit because we know that (COL 1:20-22) tells us that God punished the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins.

A lot of legalistic, pulpit pounding preachers have become case-in-point examples of **1 Tim 1:6** some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; **7** Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

GOD EXECUTED HIS HOLY JUDGEMENT AND WRATH FOR MY SINS WHEN HE EXECUTED MY SAVIOR!

If we stop believing in Him altogether, even THAT cannot take away our salvation.

1 Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, [yet] he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. (members on earth)

How can this be? Because we are NOT saved by anything we DID, **so it logically follows that we cannot DO anything to lose it.** By grace we are saved through faith!

EPH 1:13 CLEARLY states the process of salvation. We (#1) hear the gospel (1 Cor 15: that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the 3rd day), we (#2) believe what we hear, and then (#3) choose to put our complete faith and trust in that gospel. The Holy Spirit then (1 COR 12) baptizes us into the Body of Christ, and SEALS us until the day of redemption.

So we essentially are **FREE BIRDS** now. We've been set at liberty. We have a CHOICE whether or not to (COL 1) **walk worthy** of the Lord unto all pleasing, or to (GAL 5) use our liberty as an occasion to serve our flesh.

The question is WHY? **WHY BE GOOD?** WHY PUT OFF THE OLD AND PUT ON THE NEW? **We're off the hook, we're redeemed w/ our sins bought n' paid for and SEALED until the day of redemption! We're HOME FREE as it were.....** So WHY? What's the Point?

(EPH 2) Why should I live MY life for Him? Why should I clean up my act when I'm guaranteed Heaven?

Answer Q w/ a Q. Whoever told you that YOU have a life? Where you came from: **EPH 2:2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: **3** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

We were working for our own desires and on the fast track to hellfire. Then....verse 4, see the intervention of the Gospel. **4** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, **5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **6** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: Then, verse 10 **EPH 2:10** says For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we **SHOULD** walk in them.

WHY SHOULD I LIVE A HOLY LIFE FOR HIM? BECAUSE ((I)) DON'T HAVE A LIFE ANYMORE. MY (Steve Yoak's) LIFE IS OVER. The life that I HAD (that I controlled) was headed for hell and that life ended the moment I trusted Christ's payment for my sins. **GAL 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

THE ONLY LIFE THAT I HAVE **NOW** IS IN AND THROUGH HIM. God doesn't have a wonderful plan for MY life, He's got a wonderful plan for HIS life, (the life HE created in the New Creature) and He expects me and each and every believer to GET WITH THE PROGRAM!!

People who get saved tend to keep their old agendas, desires, goals for carnal things and just try to 'sanctify' them and put the 'God Stamp' on them. Not setting affections above, but still on you!!!

What's God's Will????? God's will (simply) is 1)Souls Saved, 2)Saints Edified, and 3) Being thankful while you're doing it.

****We are Purchased Property**** 1 COR 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

We used to follow our own agenda, work for ourselves, BUT NOW we have a new job.

PHIL 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. **14** Do all things without murmurings and disputings: **15** That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye **shine as lights in the world;** **16 Holding forth the word of life;**

Why be good? Because we are NOW become Christ's representatives to this lost and dying world. It's NOT about us being good for OUR sake, (our getting rewards or avoiding punishments) it's about us being good for our Savior and His Gospel's sake!

2 COR 5:19..... and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. **20** Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Why be good? Why not go wild with our liberty? LOOK at the awesome responsibility we have!

Why be Good? We are God's light-bearers, we are entrusted with and responsible for the job of ministering the Word of Life!

The question REALLY should be: **Why in the WORLD would we choose to BE BAD???**

In Titus 2 we're told to live righteously, soberly, and Godly. (Function?) Titus 2:10 that we may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

Adorn the doctrine: *Remember OUR life is irrelevant*..... <example> Publisher's Clearing House Million Dollar Giveaway. **When we choose to engage in sin and self-service and wickedness, going back and digging up that nasty dead flesh, we are becoming the obese, smelly, toothless, nasty representative..... and we've got a LOT more than a million dollars to give. We've got ETERNITY to give.**

We in the Grace movement are often accused of being "Antinomian" I submit to you that we (who know our sins are all paid for) and understand Grace and Liberty and our responsibility as the light bearers should live FAR HOLIER lives than any legalist out there.

Why? People who function legalistically are always determining the maximum that they can get away with without getting in trouble. GRACE doesn't focus on the minimum needed to stay out of trouble. GRACE & LIBERTY does NOT focus on avoiding failure, rather, Grace and Liberty focuses on finding every possible way to achieve SUCCESS!

How WELL can I represent my Lord? How can I adorn my Saviors' doctrine better? We Non-Legalists should be MORE careful, MORE concerned with our manner of living than ANY legalist because we understand that the **ME & I** has been taken out of the equation and the only thing left is HIM. *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:*

I know Grace Doctrine and Liberty works and legalism fails because I've seen and tried both in my life and seen how legalism FAILS and GRACE is victorious.

***Personal Testimony of the Word working effectually for me. Trying to kick the smoking habit for years.

"I" wasn't the reason I quit. The Word worked in me to see a good reason to quit.... My Savior. I saw that me smelling like the 'Marlboro Man' was getting in the way of the message that I'm entrusted with.

I saw that my behavior was not only NOT adorning the doctrine, but it was in many ways IMPEDING the doctrine.

(W.H.O.) 100 people die per minute. How much more careful would we be about our testimony and how much more committed to the gospel and our ministry would we be if our spiritual eyes were opened and we could see the hundreds and thousands and millions of people marching and falling headlong into the lake of fire? How much would it CHANGE our priorities and passions?

We should be redouble our efforts to serve our Savior and commit ourselves to walk WORTHY of our new vocation, doing ALL WE CAN to be wellpleasing to Christ and to present (as best we can) our Savior and the Gospel of the Grace of God to hell-bound folks?

We need to understand that it's REAL and ACT ACCORDINGLY, and let GRACE have the VICTORY in our lives, equipping us to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil and make WHATEVER difference we can in stopping the flow of souls into that horrible pit..