

Our Salvation in Jeopardy

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Things seem to be heading for a showdown doctrinally as we enter into what many believe to be the last decade before the coming of the Lord.

One thing far sure, there is a political unrest, an uneasiness present in what otherwise is a sense of well-being because of America's ranking as a World Power. It is no wonder there is an uneasiness when a nation classified as Christian has to put something like abortion to a vote. And there will be no way our government can escape a curse if and when our leaders put their endorsement on human sacrifice under the guise of abortion as a "choice".

Abortion is just another way of saying, "HUMAN SACRIFICE" to the god of fleshly desires and promiscuity. The price of a so-called free life-style is being paid for by the blood of innocent babies, **AND THERE WILL BE A CURSE CONNECTED WITH IT.** We had better pray for our government and leaders because, when the devil gains this kind of control over a governing body, the devil has a history of using the governing body to bring persecution on believers.

When a boa constrictor holds its prey in its coils, the victim will struggle and then relax. Every time it relaxes from the struggle to get free, the boa constrictor tightens its coils until the animal is dead. In much the same way, if we Christians continue to let down our guard, we will find more and more of our religious freedoms taken away ... first, in the area of morals, and then, religious freedom of speech and assembly. Right now we can pass out tracts in Russian schools but we can't in America! As far as we believers are concerned, all moral issues should, have been settled by the Word of God.

Any time you see Christian groups, especially Holy Ghost-filled believers, excusing immorality by using grace as a reason not to be condemned over a promiscuous life-style, you are looking at step one of Satan's master plan to bring the Body of Christ to a state of lethargy.

The next thing you know, our government leaders will be considering legislation to press charges against us for not allowing homosexuals to teach our Sunday School classes or be our children's Boy Scout leaders.

Massacring hundreds of thousands of babies every year because our leaders claim they are not human beings since they are supported by a womb instead of a set of arms is just asinine.

If a person has been softened toward sin to the degree that their righteousness does not hit its boiling point so that their new nature demands vindication (at least in the area of praying against ungodliness), then that person really needs to shake himself. Satan's deadly coils may already be around him and Satan does not plan to let up until that person has no rights at all.

The Word of God says to hate sin and the very garment spotted by the flesh. One time I upset some people because I sort of bent my wrist and struck a pose trying to look like the paintings on the walls of Egyptian tombs in the pyramid, the one where the Egyptians had their wrists sort of bent with a

side view of their faces, while I jokingly commented that there must have been homosexuals in their day.

Some people got offended and said homosexuals sure would not feel welcome in my meetings. Isn't it funny that I can imitate all the old drunks I want to and ex-drunks do not run up to me afterwards and get offended because I was making fun of their former life-style and yet ex-homosexuals do?

What is a person like this defending? He should hate the lifestyle even more than someone who has never been affected by it. We need to meditate on how to be free ... **NOT HOW MUCH SIN GRACE COVERS!**

One thing for sure as the count-down begins for the returning of the Lord, the devil will make sure, as far as morals and holiness is concerned, that believers will have an increasingly difficult time of riding the fence.

The devil will use everything in his power, (legislation, laws, government), to impose compromise and immorality upon believers. You will either embrace change or take the persecution because there will be fewer and fewer laws to protect middle-ground Christianity.

The time to settle the issues of morals and holiness is now from the Word of God while our voice, our prayers, and our vote still mean something.

Our national pride was injured during the Persian Gulf War when the Kuwaiti government would not allow Bibles, public prayer meetings, or the name of Jesus to be mentioned because it was against their law. It is not as though our soldiers really cared. It is just that, as Americans, we do not like to be told what we can or cannot do. However, as a nation of believers, we should have been more deeply offended when one solitary woman, Madeline Murray O'Hare, took prayer out of public schools while we slept the sleep of indifference.

Usually there are tell-tale signs when we, as believers, are being led down the path of compromise. One such sign is when believers use "grace" as a catch-all covering for sin. In other words, they think all you have to be is born again, then after that, it does not matter what you do. Just thank God you are saved, then go about your business .. single bars, affairs, changing husbands and wives like garments because marriage is too inconvenient. Then, through grace, when the rapture takes place, they think they will receive a glorified body while kissing somebody else's wife. I don't think so!

GRACE FREES US *FROM* SIN, NOT *TO* SIN!

The word "grace" describes the favor God displayed towards the human race when He made salvation available to everyone who wants it by sending Jesus to the cross to die for our sins. "Grace" takes on its special meaning in portraying God's whole attitude towards us in that salvation had to be made a gift because it could not be earned. It does not matter how hard we try, how long we work, or how humanistic we become through good works, we cannot save ourselves. So then, "grace" gives us access to that which was otherwise inaccessible.

Where some people miss the boat is by somehow developing the attitude that the reason they are "saved by grace" is because they cannot quit sinning anyway. That is where this mystical "grace" that supposedly covers anything and everything comes into play. They think that they don't have to quit sinning because, after all, God knows they can't. But, now they can go to Heaven anyway because Jesus died for them and paid the price for the sins they have told themselves they cannot stop committing, and this is what makes it "grace". WRONG!

What God did was give us access to that which was inaccessible, because, as sinners, we could not give ourselves a new nature ... but God could. But, the whole point of giving us a new nature was not to excuse us from sin, but to FREE US FROM SIN!

So, this brings up a question ... when does a person actually cross the line that causes them to lose their salvation? In other words, if, while in that condition they were to die, would they really be lost for eternity?

The strongest argument for "grace" as a covering for sin is the difference between RELATIONSHIP and FELLOWSHIP. Relationship between God, the Father, and you is supposed to be the same as a relationship between you and your child. In other words, in the same way your child is yours by reason of birth, you became God's child by reason of birth when you were born again. The argument goes on to say, would your son be any less your son because he broke fellowship with you through disobedience? Of course not, you are stuck with him because he was born your son. Then they go on to say, you are no less God's son because you have broken fellowship with Him. You will still go to Heaven, so, even though you are running around to gay bars, committing adultery, and selling dope, don't worry about it, you are just out of fellowship with God, but you will still go to Heaven.

If this was the case, the whole human race would be saved by virtue of God creating us as His children. It would not matter what Adam did because it would all be classified as broken fellowship and would be excused under the supposition that God created us, we are all the children of God, and so He is responsible for us.

The fact of the matter is, we had choices to make before we were saved and we have choices to make after we are saved. We are free-will moral agents. The right to choose will be ours as long as we live.

Our children became our children not by their choice but by our choice. They did not have any say-so whatsoever as to whether or not they should come into existence. They will always be our children by right of creation because we brought them into this world. Just as the whole human race will always be a creation of God because He created them, in that sense, no matter where they spend eternity, He will always be known for fathering them by virtue of creation whether they spend eternity in Heaven or Hell.

It was GRACE that caused God to send Jesus to the cross to die for my sins, but it is my choice whether or not I accept Him. It is my choice as to whether or not I serve Him after I accept Him and I choose to serve Him. To say I cannot is to make Him a liar.

When a person begins to cross the line that puts his salvation in jeopardy is when he wants to cover a

promiscuous life-style with the Word of God to get it to say that sin is ok when it is not.

God will walk through Hell with a person loaded with faults who is actively going on with God and desires freedom because sometimes it takes a while to get free from different things that have us bound, but do not make the mistake of thinking that God condones any kind of unrighteousness underneath the guise of GRACE. He doesn't. That kind of thinking is deception.

Even when a person uses the repentance that God has provided for us as believers when we fail, it is not designed as a safety measure against Hell. In other words, repentance is not something you pack in your overnight bag for a night out on -the town so that the next morning you can get it out of your bag, along with your Tylenol, and take two Tylenol for the headache and one repent-pill for the sin.

Repentance is not repentance unless a person is truly sorry for his sin and wants to be free. If you think repentance was designed to cover premeditated sin, you had better think again.

Real repentance is when a person is at least willing to turn from sin and will begin to do those things that will eventually bring deliverance. Repentance is not just taking a pause in a busy schedule of sin to utter a few words for the sake of fire insurance. REPENTANCE MEANS TO TURN.

This is why I John 1:6-10 says: *"If we say we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."*

I John 2:1-2 says: *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is a propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." First of all notice that John is talking to believers. In the first verse of the second chapter he said, "These things I write unto you, my little children, that ye sin not."*

So in the sixth verse of the first chapter when he said, "If we say we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and the truth is not in us," he was talking to us, the believer. In other words, if a person walking in darkness (sin) says, "My promiscuous life-style makes no difference, I AM IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER", John says, "he lies and the truth is not in him."

John goes on to say in the eighth verse that, if a person living in this condition (that is - sin, immorality, a promiscuous life-style, homosexuality, etc.) says he has no sin, **THEY DECEIVE THEMSELVES AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN THEM.**

The ninth verse goes on to say if we will recognize these things as sin, and confess them as sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us. Confess means to reason one's actions out in accordance with the light of the Word, and then come into full agreement with God that the things that we are confessing should be totally eradicated from our life. Then God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to

cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Thank God that He not only made provision for the whole world, but He also made provision for us, as believers, when we fall into sin. Based on these scriptures, you can see where it would be a mistake to use "grace" to cover a promiscuous life-style. I know I would hate to be the preacher or evangelist responsible for the thousands of believers who started their journey into sin and never came out because I had said it was all covered under "grace".

Again let me say, **GRACE FREES US FROM SIN, NOT TO SIN!**