

**Revivals And Church History :: Their is no such thing as "Cheap Grace"****Their is no such thing as "Cheap Grace" - posted by staff, on: 2011/9/26 19:05**

Repentance Salvation versus Saved by Grace

Hi All,
I have recently been thinking about grace and salvation.
The day I became a christian I didnt give a thought about turning from sin or a sinful lifestyle,I was just so happy I was saved and the knowledge Jesus existed.I accepted his free gift of salvation.
In the days afterwards and still I have wanted to turn and repent from my sins so I can please my father in heaven.
Why now are we adding the burden of repentance to salvation?
The bible says "eternal life is a gift of God".If we attach repentance in the sense of turning to a holy lifestyle or in the sense of turning from a sinful life,surely this is adding works to salvation.
I recognize that the aim and hope of all christians is to please the father by turning from sin and by being lead by the Spirit;I also recognise that we are to make disciples not just believers;I also recognise that sin has ill affects on the christian and the church and has to be dealt with for both to function properly but salvation is either a free gift or it isnt we cant have it both ways!
Their is no such thing as " Cheap grace" we are either except his grace or favour or we dont it a free gift from god that cant be earned by repentance or any other works least any man boast!
How can we have revival if we go away from grace!
Yours Staff

Re: Their is no such thing as "Cheap Grace" , on: 2011/9/26 19:39

"Their is no such thing as" Cheap grace"

AMEN!

Re: Their is no such thing as "Cheap Grace" - posted by Lkid, on: 2011/9/26 19:54

The full picture of salvation and the full gospel includes repentance from sin. When you repent you aren't working for your salvation. You are recognizing that you are a created being and were created by a Creator that is due worship and service and obedience. you are recognizing that until this point you have lived for yourself and rebelled against Him, as much as He has been revealed to you through nature and the word. Repentance simply means turning from something to something else. You are turning from a rebellious selfish lifestyle where you are the centre of the universe to God being the centre of the universe, and the one worthy of praise and worship and obedience. But salvation from sin and its consequences are still based upon grace because having recognized the situation and turning to God in our hearts, we then "stand still and see the salvation of the LORD". We believe in His work done on our behalf to justify us before God and sanctify us by and with His Spirit. Hallelujah! Repentance must come first as you must recognize there is a spiritual need of salvation first, then salvation can come. Some might say its all one event, but we must be convinced we are sinners and need salvation and turn to God for help, then we can be saved.

Lloyd

Lloyd

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Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2011/9/26 20:00

hi, repentance is not turning away from your sins for if you could do that you would not need a redeemer. it is however turning your life over to Christ and dying to self. it is the goodness of God that leadeth to repentance and it is all grace. i am a firm believer in amazing grace that does far more than we ask or think.jimp

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiisss (), on: 2011/9/26 20:30

Grace didn't come cheap, that is for sure. The grace of God -- the chance for sinful men to come to God -- came at the cost of His very Son's agonizing death upon the cross.

But while there may not be any such thing as "cheap grace," there is such a thing as "insulted grace."

Quote:

-----26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 11:26-29 KJV

26 For if we go on sinning wilfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.

28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 10:26-29 NASB

Sadly, there are so many people today who are living in sin and self-pleasure as they enjoy the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life, yet hide behind a sinner's prayer, a one-time decision to serve God, a spiritual apology or various religious acts and affiliation.

I wouldn't call it "cheap grace" at all. It is just that people continuously insult that precious gracious in order to live their lives the way they choose and still try to argue that they are "believers" at the same time.

Re: , on: 2011/9/27 0:31

Chris, if you don't mind me saying so - that was a Very good post.

As the word "obedience" is being lambasted in these last days, we are seeing the fulfillment of Matt 24:12 and the discarding of vs 13.

Thank you.

Re: - posted by TrueWitness, on: 2011/9/27 0:44

God's grace is free but it isn't cheap. It cost the precious life of our Lord Jesus Christ. So don't regard it as anything but precious and wonderful.

There are two preconditions to salvation: Repentance and faith (which must be confessed). The Bible says that both of these are gifts from God. Without God's drawing a person to Jesus and from there to repent of their sins and believe on Jesus to be saved, nobody would or could be saved. Do not confuse preconditions with "works". Because someone repents of their sins does not mean that they now earn or merit salvation. Jesus said that if you do not forgive others of their sins against you, God won't forgive you of your sins. Your forgiving others is a precondition to God's forgiveness of you.

It has nothing to do with works, earning or meriting forgiveness.

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2011/9/27 17:17

Hi All,
I agree with Jimps view here when it comes to grace.
The problem as I see it is that we are now expecting too much from potential new christians. To be saved by grace through faith is not enough for us.
We have to recognise our condition (god drawing) and turn (repent) to Jesus for Salvation. The person is then saved. It would be great if they then went to church and continued to grow in a church environment but it may not happen. Turning from sin may not last that long in some cases.
They may then return to a sinful lifestyle for what ever reason and may not be regular church goers who knows but they are still saved and God will continue to work in them.
We who are in the church then condemn them forgetting that we are saved through grace. We hint that these people are not really saved instead of praying for them to be restored to God,
yours staff

On the term "cheap grace" is a contradiction in terms and should not be used. It is akin to name calling in my opinion. Sin is a problem in the church but we cannot attribute that to the way a person came to christ as we know their is only one way to come to Christ.

Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2011/9/28 4:15

I actually don't understand this question:

"Why now are we adding the burden of repentance to salvation?"

Acts 2:38 Â Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 3:19 Â Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

as others said before, meeting scriptural conditions for salvation is the absolute minimum response to grace. Without it people still make positive confessions about "being saved" and "having accepted a free gift", but according to scripture there is no salvation without repentance. It starts on a personal level with repenting to become real within a person.

If you take out the 'repent part' you are without the Holy Spirit in the first, and still in your sins in the first and second verse above.

In that respect there is no "Cheap Grace" but there is certainly something you find mostly in America, a preference for human methods "that work", so maybe it should be called "Americian grace" because it's a local invention, just like a fast "Las Vegas wedding".

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2011/9/28 6:11

Hi,
What I mean is we have to repent by turning to Christ and be baptised and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost but we cant possibly guarantee that after becoming saved we then dont return to sinful lifestyle which is what some people think is repentance.
Also your comment about a "minimum" response to grace hints that there should be more than meeting scripture. There is no minimum or maximum conditions, just grace.
(as others said before, meeting scriptural conditions for salvation is the absolute minimum response to grace.)
I do recognise that in particular America may have a problem with false confessions but we cant add or take away to the qualification it takes to be saved as an answer to this problem,
yours staff

Re: - posted by mikey2, on: 2011/9/28 9:05

You can say a lot of people meet "scriptural" conditions, but God knows if we have met the "heart" conditions. He knows what really takes place in the heart and that is what He responds to, not what falls of our lips, necessarily.

Repentance is a way of life for the Christian. Always turning away from all that is not of Him and turning to Him. That is a daily lifestyle.

Mike

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2011/9/28 17:29

Hi Mikey,

I agree with god looks at the heart.

Repentance is a way of life for a christian and we should always turn away from all that is not of him but if we are being honest that doesnt always happen and with some christians that only comes with maturity,
yours Staff

Re: - posted by mikey2, on: 2011/9/28 19:28

Yes, I agree. I did not say it always happens. I actually think we fail more than succeed, but in our failure, we learn many things. Humility and God's ways. His ways are the only ways! The tree of life is the only tree we can eat of. The tree of k knowledge of good and evil will kill every time. The spirit give life, the flesh profiteths nothing. Not even a little bit.

Mike

Re: - posted by passerby, on: 2011/9/29 4:37

Don't make the words of Christ and the apostles invalid with logic. Logic is not everything, be a fool and obey Christ_ rep ent and sin no more.

Pro 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2011/9/29 6:57

Wordly Saints by Greg Gordon

Cheap Grace

Since the inception of the Church, the Gospel of Christ preached with the requirements of repentance and discipleship. Presently, the "High-Calling in Christ Jesus," has never been offered at such a low level. Forgiveness without repentance, discipleship without obedience, salvation without sanctity, confession without consecration. Such terms as: Introspection, counting the cost, godly sorrow over sin, repentance from dead works, are all foreign to this church age of cheap grace. Dietrich Bonhoeffer states the problem with this startling phrase: "cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner." This statement brings with it the gravity of the situation we find ourselves in. An unholy church is of no use to the world or to God.

Let us recognize, as Bonhoeffer did, that "cheap grace is the deadly enemy of the Church." We are living with an epidemic of cheap grace in the Church. Flippant confession, shallow consecration, superficial surrender, and discipleship that does not follow are just some of the sure signs. This is a Christianity that is costless! We need a generation of those that are willing to "count the cost" with wholehearted devotion to God with absolute obedience to Christ. Duncan Campbell said: "A baptism of holiness, a demonstration of godly living is the crying need of our day." But alas! today thousands of pulpits are pounding out the message upon their hearers "forgiven" yet without the exhortation "walk ye in it." Most in the Church are utterly confused about the practical godliness, obedience, and good works which the Scriptures mentions readily. The plain fact is that the Scripture speaks of those that are wicked and righteous, ungodly and godly, sinners and saints. And the distinction of those groups are based solely on their actions; not their intellectual assent to truths about God. Christians are saved by faith but if that faith does not result in a changed life it is not saving faith but clearly shown in Scripture as the "faith of devils." Bonhoeffer, echoing the worldly churches cry, said: "he must not strive against this indispensable grace. Therefore -let him live like the rest of the world!" God forbid! Christ did not die on the

cross for a worldly Church or for worldly Saints but for a "glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing ; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

Holy Sinners

Holy Sinners! is the plea that is heard to cover up the prevalent sin and ungodliness in the Church. Christ does not come into our unregenerate, sickly, impure hearts as many contemporary theologians say. He gives us a new heart to dwell in wherein is found holiness and righteousness. Sinners saved by grace? Yes, surely that is our position from whence we have been saved. But now Saints perfected by grace should be our present day standing. Nowhere in the New Testament did the Apostle Paul call the Church sinners, but rather granted them the title "Saints." A Holy Church is God's blessing to the world; an unholy Church is God's judgement upon the world. Christian obedience is not legalism but rather a suitable response to true grace and true religion that is from above. David Smithers speaks to the condition of the church steeped in cheap grace and a lack of holiness: "Many within the Church today feel as if they are drowning in a river of empty words and hollow promises. Demoralized by superficial religion, their hungry hearts are crying out: Where is the real Church, mighty in truth and power? There are many who can give us a moving definition of revival, but where are the men who can move the Church with a demonstration of revival? Proverbs 27:7 tells us that, "To the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet." Sadly, multitudes of hungry and disillusioned souls are seeking the bitter bread of a godliness that denies power, or a form of power that denies godliness. Oh, how we need the reality of revival, a revival that will restore the Church to Her former apostolic beauty of purity and power. Nothing less than this reality will prepare us to face a dying world and the coming King."

Examples of True Christianity

In a day and age that needs desperately to see true Christianity and costly grace we must look back to those that have gone before us and see their examples. David Smithers gives us illustrations through these three men: Brainerd, Wesley, and Vassar, clear pictures of those that have "counted the cost":

"David Brainerd consistently and fervently interceded for the lost souls of the American Indians. Often he would travail with such earnestness that when he rose from his knees he was covered in sweat and could hardly walk straight. Like the persistent widow in Luke 18, David Brainerd's prayers were finally answered. Entire camps of Indians were converted by the power of God as he proclaimed a message of repentance and grace. "Old men and women who had been drunken wretches for years, and little children not more than six or seven years of age appeared in distress for their souls. There was almost universal praying and crying for mercy. Many could neither go nor stand." The countless hours spent in prayer and fasting, his faithfulness in spite of physical weakness and having to endure the most terrible hardships, were now rewarded openly. The fire of the Lord fell. The remarkable thing was that all this happened at a time when he confessed that his hopes were at their very lowest. He had seriously entertained thoughts of giving up while on the very brink of glory and blessing. Brainerd now saw a remarkable change in the lives of the Indians. He recorded in his diary, "I know of no assembly of Christians where there seems to be so much of the presence of God, where brotherly love so much prevails." David Brainerd poured a lifetime of holy passion, prayer and preaching into four short years. He ministered from 1743-1747, dying of tuberculosis at the age of 29, "Brainerd once wrote in his diary, I longed to be a flame of fire continually glowing in the divine service and building up of Christ's kingdom to my last and dying breath." That prayer was abundantly answered."

"John Wesley pleaded with men to repent and by faith make peace with God or suffer in an everlasting hell. People who had entertained false hopes of salvation had their religious masks torn away by his plain preaching. Wesley believed that those who failed to warn the sinner and backslider, themselves stood under the judgement of Christ. He was determined to declare the whole counsel of God, offering the love of God in Christ and giving warning of the dreadful consequences of rejecting the gospel. Wesley wrote, "Before I can preach love and grace, I must preach sin, law and judgement." Wesley, as well as the other early Methodist preachers, was both a bold advocate and a living example of sanctification. Wesley preached with unceasing zeal that complete holiness was the primary fruit of a vibrant faith in Christ. Counseling another minister, Wesley wrote, "...till you press believers to expect full salvation from sin, you must not look for any revival." If John Wesley were to make an anonymous visit to the Methodists of today, it is doubtful whether many of its churches would welcome him. They would most likely resent his fervent zeal and enthusiasm. When he was eighty-three he made a note that he was regretful that he could not write more than fifteen hours a day without hurting his eyes. Wesley faithfully preached almost up to the very day he died. Truly his vigor and zeal in old age were the reward of his faithful stewardship of time. He seemed to consider every thought, word and deed in light of eternity. "Amid all his arduous labors, his innumerable engagements, his coming and going, Wesley lived a hidden life of intimacy with God. When worn out with overwork he often found new strength in answer to prayer." It was Wesley's strict habit to daily spend one hour in prayer in the morning, and then another hour in the evening. John Wesley shook the world by his preaching because he first

shook heaven and hell with his praying. His preaching had a sense of eternal urgency because he had touched eternity on his knees.Â”

Â”John Vassar's prayer habits made him a man of great faith. "He did not believe simply in the God of ages ago. He believed in the God of today. He could not be persuaded that the wonder working Spirit finished His operations at Pentecost. He could not be convinced that the supernatural was no longer to be looked for. He would get a church or a schoolhouse open, and then invite people out. Almost invariably a revival would commence. Often God would triumph gloriously. Converts would be multiplied. There would be apostolic work because it was underlaid and pushed with apostolic faith." John Vassar's zeal and consecration were so intense that it often astonished and offended those who called themselves "Christians". "Despised, rebuffed, and persecuted he held right on meekly and joyfully, in his simple and faithful way with his little worn New Testament in hand and his single eye fixed on Jesus. Coldness and insults were nothing to him, save that they made him sad for other's sake. No harshness could quench the ardor of his affection." Uncle John Vassar's life displays for us the balance of zeal mixed with mercy and passion mixed with patience. Many within the modern Church have strayed, believing that they can choose between such things, pursuing one virtue while neglecting others. If our churches are to meet the needs at hand, we must, like John Vassar, first be lovers of Jesus given to constant prayer. Second, we must receive joyfully ALL that the Master has laid before us, absolute holiness and joy, purity and patient love. The Church must become one with Christ, balanced with both His goodness and severity.Â”

Unbelieving Believers

We hold a belief that changes nothing, but claims everything. Â”If Christianity is to make any headway in the present time, it must be proved to be more than a theoryÂ”, stated the late Hannah Whitall Smith. What can bring death to this pattern of unbelief in this generation? What can relieve us of our sickly condition? Unbelief has us captive in chains; the church is gagged and bound as risen Lazarus, it needs release in this final hour! We serve unbelief; our minds passive to its rule and reign over us. Can you hear Jesus saying Â”O ye of little faith.Â” Faith is the enemy of unbelief. By the way we are living we show forth our unbelief unashamedly. Â”Help thou mine unbeliefÂ” needs to be our desperate cry. We are in captivity in our lukewarm, unbelieving, content, faithless age. And each age is marked by the testimony and witness of those that are righteous and serve God. Will God look through the annals of time and see our current generation as one that was characterized as Â”unbelieving?Â” God pleads with this generation in the words of the prophet Jeremiah: Â”O generation, see ye the word of the Lord.Â” We need to come back to apostolic belief in the word of God and the working of God by the Spirit of God. This is an hour of urgency and the church as never been so complacent.

This is a crisis hour. Will you count the cost today? The Apostle Paul urgently pleaded with the Church two thousand years ago: Â”it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent...Â” If the night was Â”far spentÂ” two thousand years ago, dear brethren, surely it is nearer than we can imagine. If we knew the time and the hour, if we were awakened to the nearness of the end of time, if we realized how time is being devoured from us, then we would repent. Christ reproved his followers of the nearness of the hour and time of visitation. Shall He have to repeat Himself again to this unbelieving generation of believers? Revival is not an option, its our only hope. But with the way we are living we are saying that we are content to live without revival. Surely only a revival of religion will sweep away this heresy of cheap grace and lack of holiness in the Church?

Re: Their is no such thing as "Cheap Grace" - posted by lylewise, on: 2011/9/29 10:51

I see repentance as the continuous ongoing adjustments made to a ship that has been graced with an onboard compass. How many vessels are placed in harms way that do not faithfully use it? How many more are guaranteed loss not having one at all.

Re: - posted by Elibeth, on: 2011/9/29 10:53

Thank you Greg,
I appreciate the Purenness of Truth in your word and how you are able to express it.
I wish I were able to express what the Lord is teaching me .
I will prayerfully try in the only way I know.

When we realize Grace is: 'The Devine inflence upon the heart and it's reflection in the life,' then it makes it more understandable.

Before we even knew God, He began to DRAW us by His mighty Spirit.
(as we cannot even come to God except He DRAW us) This is GRACE.
If we continue in this GRACE, He will continue to reveal to us , and give us

the power to do whatever He is leading us to do.....Being.." led by the Spirit of God"

GRACE has come to us to do a work.
The WORD says Jesus was FULL of GRACE..
He said `It was the Father that did the works'.
He said `He only did what the Father will for Him.'
God was DRAWING Him by this GRACE and He was obeying.

Yes, IT IS a FREE gift to us ...and WHAT A GIFT !, I must say.
Because, we have NOT the strenght on our own to die to our will, and to do his will,(to follow Him). Because the flesh works against the WAY in which He wants us to go.

Only through `This GRACE can we have peace .'

Paul was always praying this `Grace and peace ' to the saints in that day.

So...Grace and peace to us all',
in a most loving spirit,
Elizabeth

Re: - posted by beekpr, on: 2011/9/29 11:59

Thank you, Greg!

I joined this forum a few months ago,hoping that I could find fellow believers who shared my passion to see revival in the sickly Christianity in the western world. I am not a theological student.....rather a farmer who has spent a lifetime prayerfully reading the Word and meditating on it while I worked in solitude. What I find in the glorious gospel presented in the Scriptures seems so far removed from what I hear from popular evangelical "theology" that I wonder sometimes if persecution needs to burn down our institutions with their "sin-friendly" written volumes to bring us back to the simple Word!

It is a breath of fresh air to hear of someone who believes in the Truth that sets us free from the power of sin by bringing the power of the Living God into our lives!

Re: - posted by staff, on: 2011/9/29 19:06

Hi Greg,

I was lead to the lord with the plain message showing me I was a sinner and my need for a savior,if i had been told about discipleship and all that involves etc I would probably not have come.I wasnt asked did I know the costs involved,I wasnt asked to lay down my life for him as he did for me or nor should I have been.

As grace pertains to intial salvation there is no inferior or superior grace,no lower or higher grace or no cheap or expensive grace.We are saved by grace through faith,it is a gift of God.Their are two positions here in grace or not in grace.This gift is a once off deal it doesnt loose its value over a period of time.

By using the term we are hinting at least that people who stay in a sinful lifestyle for a season or longer are not saved.The problem we have is not that grace is not sufficient to cover all sin it clearly is ,the problem is that instead of saying preachers are not "preaching discipleship and holiness" from the pulpit we say attack grace and say preachers are "preaching cheap grace".Which despite the list including Wesley who as far as I know didnt use the term cheap grace,it is unbiblical term in my opinion.I understand what people are trying to get accross when they say the term.They want to say christianity without a cost!Their is a cost for the christian who stay in sin in this life and in eternity so it is not costless.Perhaps when we are trying to convert people we should tell them to count the cost of staying a sinner! Whoever preaches from the pulpit that god does not want us to become holy or that becoming holy is not important is clearly wrong .

Say what you really want to say "costless christianity" but lets not deminish or belittle grace by saying you can have a ch

eap form of it.
yours Staff

Re: Their is no such thing as "Cheap Grace" , on: 2011/9/29 19:37

This is directed toward no one in particular....

Guess what? There actually is such a thing as a false convert and a hypocrite, but there is no such thing as "cheap grace."

In the Gospel we are called to repent and turn from the false god we trust in (whatever god that may be) and turn to the One True and Living God as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. The God who Saves by Grace.

Walking with this God will absolutely slay you. You will have to count the cost because everything you trust in (money, success, country, family, a good name, religious works, church affiliation, prayer life, your own repentance etc.) will be put on trial sooner or later. Do we really believe in a God who loves us with an Everlasting Love, a love that had no beginning and has no end? We are loved by God without condition....that is God loves us Unconditionally! We are loved simply because we exist!

I absolutely believe in repentance. So repent and believe the Gospel! God loves you right now, just as you are. All that was necessary to reconcile us back to right relationship with our Creator was accomplished in Jesus Christ, and was already in the mind and heart of God from Eternity. (The Works were finished from the foundation of the Earth)

Do you believe that?

Do you believe the Gospel? Have you truly repented and turned from the false god you trust in and turned to the true God, Jesus Christ?

Then I have a question for you? Why are you not at rest?

Re: - posted by jimp, on: 2011/9/29 23:08

hi, when was the last time you heard an invitation that asked you to come and die.you have as much life as a christian as you have died. we are to die daily and as bro len used to say even moment by moment. this is real repentance.jimp