

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	13
Sunday AM Worship	21
Sunday PM Worship	17
Wed. Bible Study	16
Offering	\$1360

The New Testament Church

FOUNDER: CHRIST WHERE: JERUSALEM WHEN: A.D. 30 HEAD: CHRIST
MATT. 16:18 ISA, 21:3 ACTS 2:5-47 ACTS 2 EPH. 1:22

ORGANIZATION

PHIL. 1:1

ELDERS Titus 1:5 • 1 Peter 5:1-3 • Acts 20:28 • 1 Timothy 3:17
DEACONS Acts 6:1-6 • 1 Timothy 3:8-13
MEMBERS Acts 2:41-47 • Colossians 1:13 • 1 Corinthians 1:2

NAME

EPH. 3:15

CHURCH OF GOD 1 Corinthians 1:2 • Acts 20:28
THE BODY OF CHRIST Colossians 1:18 • Ephesians 1:23
CHURCHES OF CHRIST Matthew 16:18 • Romans 16:16
BRIDE OF CHRIST Romans 7:4 • Revelation 21:9

MEMBERS

EPH. 3:15

DISCIPLES John 15:8 • Acts 11:26
SAINTS Romans 1:7 • 1 Corinthians 1:9 • Philippians 1:1
BRETHREN Luke 8:21 • Galatians 6:1
CHILDREN Galatians 3:26 • 1 John 2:1 •
CHRISTIANS Acts 11:26 • Acts 26:28 • 1 Peter 4:16

CREED

JESUS CHRIST Matthew 16:16-18 • Matthew 10:32-33 • Acts 8:37

RULE OF FAITH & PRACTICE

IS THE WORD OF GOD

ALL POWER Matthew 28:19-20 • Romans 1:16 • Hebrews 4:12
CHURCH GOVERNMENT 1 Timothy 3:16-17 • 2 Peter 1:3
SEED OF KINGDOM Matthew 13:3 • Luke 8:11
SWORD OF THE SPIRIT Ephesians 6:17

WORSHIP

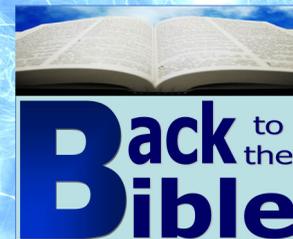
SING Eph. 5:19 PRAY 1 Thess. 5:17 TEACH Acts 20:7
LORD'S SUPPER Acts 20:7 CONTRIBUTION 1 Cor. 16:1-2

MISSION

SAVE SOULS Ephesians 3:10 • John 6:45 • 1 Timothy 4:16

WARNING

BE FAITHFUL Gal. 1:6-8 • Matt. 115:9; 5:13 • 2 Cor. 11:3 • Rev. 22:18-19
2 John 9



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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKK
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

LAW AND GRACE

Franklin Camp, deceased

A major problem in religion today is a misconception of law and grace. This has been a stumbling block from the time sin entered the world.

A failure to grasp the subject is fatal to the soul. Grace is the foundation of redemption. The one who errs here will miss heaven. (Ephesians 2:8-10).

A cardinal fallacy is the doctrine that law excludes grace. This position creates paramount issues. If grace excludes law, it excludes obedience. Law is essential to obedience. One must have something to obey. One cannot obey nothing.

The religious world generally denies the necessity of obedience in becoming a Christian. Some equate obedience with works that do not save. But James 2:14-26 – along with other passages – cannot be harmonized with the doctrine of "faith alone."

Others know obedience is essential, yet struggle in trying to exclude law, but not obedience. If grace excludes all law, no door is open for obedience.

Continued Inside

If law excludes grace, one of two things must follow: either there is no room for obedience, or if obedience is essential, one must explain what must be obeyed. One may say "commandments" must be obeyed, but this will not resolve the issue. A difference in "command" and "law" cannot be explained by those who reject law but want to retain commands. *"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord... Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect to all thy commandments"* (Psalm 119:1,6). Law and commandments are synonymous terms throughout the Bible.

Does grace exclude obedience to the commands of the gospel? The gospel has commands (1 Corinthians 14:37). God would not provide salvation by grace and give commands that conflict with grace.

Some say grace and commands harmonize. If grace and commands harmonize, grace and law also harmonize. The exclusion of law excludes commands. There is no way one can exclude law and include commands.

Denominational preachers try to avoid the problem by teaching obedience is not essential in becoming a Christian, but is necessary for the Christian. When pressed, they will deny that one's obedience has anything to do with salvation, but they refuse to teach their members obedience is not important. Thus, they find themselves in a strange situation – obedience is important, but not required.

Some say, "But a Christian will want to obey." Why obey something that has no relationship to going to heaven?

Let me raise some questions for those teaching that grace excludes law. Is grace no longer essential after becoming a Christian? When one is saved by grace, does he then live the Christian life by law without grace? Surely not. Does it not follow that one obeys after becoming a Christian and that obedience does not conflict with grace? When the Christian obeys, what is obeyed? If commands, it is law.

One not only becomes a Christian by faith, but the Christian lives by faith. (Galatians 2:11,20). One cannot live the Christian life by faith alone – that is, faith minus obedience. Then why think one may become a Christian by faith minus obedience?

No one denies a Christian must be obedient. (Hebrews 5:8,9). What does the Christian obey? Is it law? If not, what does he obey? If law, then law does not exclude grace. Christians are not sinlessly perfect. That kind of imperfection requires grace.

There is the second law of pardon for the Christian. I do not hesitate to refer to it as the law of pardon for a Christian. When a Christian sins, he must repent. (Acts 8:22). He must confess his sin and pray. (1 John 1:7-9; Acts 8:22).

Would one deny that a Christian must obey these commands? When one obeys them,

is it submission to law? Does one's obedience cancel out grace?

When one is forgiven, it must be in one of two ways – merit, or grace. Forgiveness by merit is an impossibility. Pardon is extended only through grace. When a Christian sins, repents, confesses it, and prays, he has submitted to law and receives pardon. Obedience is necessary, but it does not earn pardon.

If the second law of pardon does not conflict with grace, why would the first law of pardon—the one for the alien? Grace does not exclude law if correctly interpreted.

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“This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s character. Here paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand object; our good is its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is given you in life and will be opened in the judgment and will be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.”

.....
“Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:1-4).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- April 3 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class after Evening Worship
- April 10 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 pm Worship Service
- April 24 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell