

WHAT IS
**THE GREATEST
THREAT**
FACING
**THE GRACE
MOVEMENT?**

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The Occasion for the Treatise

Dear brethren, we who understand and enjoy the Holy Bible rightly divided—namely, the “Pauline” or “mid-Acts” approach to the Scriptures—are able to realize how the organized religious system is deliberately and fervently opposed to what we believe and support. At least to some degree, Pauline dispensationalism has delivered us from denominational bondage, the empty traditions and idle speculations of men. Illuminating us with brilliant spiritual light, it allows us to escape the pitch-darkness of pagan religion (especially that which masquerades as “Christianity” but is anything and everything but). How marvelous is the Bible when delivered dispensationally! Those Divine words “*rightly divided*” (2 Timothy 2:15)—the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery (Romans 16:25)—can also rescue from spiritual ignorance anyone and everyone who shares our sincere desire to learn God’s Word God’s way.

Irrefutably, dispensational Bible study is **absolutely critical** to avoiding spiritual impotence and defeat. Satan himself fights it as best as he can, for he is quite aware that dispensational Bible study is the only means whereby God the Holy Spirit edifies, encourages, and enlightens us. It is the key to unlocking the Scriptures, to understanding God’s will for this present age, for the world to see Jesus Christ as Father God Himself sees Him today. Satan’s evil world system indeed attempts to stifle that doctrine—via governmental and ecclesiastical oppression, discouragement, conflicting teachings, and so on. However, there is a more nefarious and extremely subtle method whereby the “Grace Movement” is under vicious attack. This Bible study, this treatise, will expose it, that it may be guarded against in the future.

This study is special for two primary reasons. Firstly, it has been released to commemorate six full years of “*For What Saith the Scriptures?*” Brethren, herein is the culmination of what we have covered thus far regarding Christian (grace) living. Secondly, this study is affectionately dedicated to our dear Christian brother—Dr. C. F.—whom our Lord Jesus Christ has used these past two years to be an invaluable spiritual counselor to me personally. A close friend of our ministry for four years now here on earth, we look forward to serving the Lord with this saint in the heavenly places throughout the endless ages to come!

With these opening remarks now expressed, we proceed to introducing the details concerning the greatest threat facing the Grace Movement. “*For What Saith the Scriptures?*”

I. INTRODUCTION

A. NEITHER A “FEEL-GOOD” ARTICLE NOR AN “EAR-TICKLING” STUDY!

Dear friends and brethren, it will be stated right from the onset. Surely, this will **not** be a popular or pleasant study. It bears repeating again and again: This will **not** be a popular or pleasant study! One fundamental role of a Christian’s ministry is to address controversial matters when they become recurrent and problematic. We **cannot** expect to be about our Heavenly Father’s will when we are ignorant of the very things that hinder it. In spite of the ensuing backlash, we must disseminate this article—**whatever the cost**.

Certainly, **none** of us are sinless (especially this author!). Let it be known far and wide that we are **not** looking for **perfection** anyway. However, we are seeking **purity**. Lest this author be (wrongly) accused of self-righteousness, he will remind people that he is simply repeating what the Bible says. He is hereby putting his brethren in remembrance of things forgotten or never realized. Someone must call attention to these problems if they are to be resolved, and if our testimonies and ministries are to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Applicable Bible verses must be **provided and believed** if we have any chance at rectifying the evils. It is this author’s task to **provide** the verses, and your responsibility as the reader is to **believe** them!

Several years ago, this author had a Christian friend who invited a denominational pastor to a “grace church” she had just recently started to attend. That pastor **refused** to visit the establishment, protesting with the following response: “Those people there use grace as a license to sin!” Later, this author researched the assembly—including personally attending services there on numerous occasions—and learned that the pastor’s accusation was **justified (!)**. Although the group knew about the Gospel of Grace, stood on the King James Bible, and defended Paul’s special apostleship, there was a glaring inconvenient fact. Indeed, there was more irresponsible activity in the “grace” church than at the denominational one!

When this author confronted the “grace” pastor and relayed the charge leveled against his assembly, he scoffed instead of lamenting or apologizing. His reply to this author was, “Give me a piece of paper and we will write out a license to sin!” Rather than reassuring this author they did **not** live so perversely there, the “grace” pastor sarcastically made light of the whole situation. He **gloated** in their debauched testimony! There was **no** shame. In the years following, the assembly waxed far worse doctrinally and behaviorally (resulting in two splits). It is a **sad** commentary, brethren, but we grace people often discredit and condemn ourselves. We are frequently a threat to our own belief system—and that establishes precisely this study’s uncomfortable theme.

Again, it is an understatement to say that writing and presenting this Bible study will **greatly** pain this author. For a year, he has thoughtfully and prayerfully drafted it,

editing and reediting it, adding and removing statements. Doubtless, it will grieve some hearts as their eyes fall upon these lines. It will cause them to realize they are not alone in their disconcertedness as touching the Grace Movement. Like this author has in recent years, they will begin to grasp the problem's severity. Others, however, like the aforementioned "grace pastor," will **not** care less. Unfortunately, this author fears that brother represents the majority of the audience now reading this treatise. They will utterly disregard the Christian counsel contained herein. They will mock this advice, dismiss it, blame-shift, and attempt to discredit this author and these charges. "No one is perfect, so Brother Shawn has no business dealing with this matter! He needs to stop dividing and judging brethren! He is self-righteous, a know-it-all, a heretic, an apostate, a traitor!"

Undoubtedly, blame-shifting will be used in an attempt to undermine the veracity of this work. This author will be accused of being a "self-righteous, egocentric, know-it-all" (it has already happened). He will be called more names, maligned, unjustly ridiculed. Rather than acknowledging their problem, the recipients of this work will overwhelmingly say the author is the problem. More of his brethren and "friends" will turn against him for this. At this point, it does **not** matter. He will love them still, and wish them all the best, but he **cannot** overlook the fact that they are inflicting great damage to our corporate testimony. Someone in leadership has to say something here—regardless of the blowback. So we here echo that ancient dictum, "*Let God be true, but every man a liar*" (Romans 3:4).

B. THE AUTHOR'S PERSONAL TESTIMONY

This author trusted Jesus Christ alone as his personal Saviour back in mid-1995, around age seven years. Over a decade later, two faithful brothers in Christ introduced him and his family to dispensational Bible study. The more he researched, the more pronounced his spiritual awakening became. As he began to leave his denominational doctrine and embrace dispensational truth, he became increasingly associated with the "Grace Movement." To say the least, he was **thrilled** to finally understand and enjoy God's Word after all those years of spiritual confusion and disagreement. He said to himself, "**Here** is where the truth is. **Here** is the key to properly interpreting the Scriptures. **Here** is the path to victorious Christian living. **Here** is how we address the contradictory Bible verses."

Eventually, however, the author had a **rude** awakening during his spiritual awakening. As he began fellowshipping with professing "grace believers," he realized their conduct was about the same or worse than the denominational people they criticized! In fact, they really had as much insight into Christian living as those religionists they critiqued as "deceived" and "non-spiritual." To say the least, this author was **stunned**. His denominational acquaintances were better representations of godly character and righteous living than the attendees of the "grace church." It became a stumblingblock, an occasion to sin. Over time, he honestly wondered if the "Grace Movement" was just another religious scam. Honestly, he thought about returning to his

denominational doctrine—or just throwing away the Bible altogether! After all, he was led to believe that if *these* people did not have the truth, then no one did.

Even when this author was new to right division, he could sense something odd among some of its adherents. He was not spiritually mature enough at the time, but now he can look back and realize what was actually going on. He encountered one crowd of “grace believers,” a group of preachers who had been in the ministry for 20 to 40 years. He also met another crowd of “grace believers,” a second group of pastors who had been in the grace ministry for just as long. Both groups passionately defended Christ’s finished crosswork as sufficient payment for our sins, both stood on the King James Bible, both held to Paul’s unique apostleship, both knew we were not Israel but the Church the Body of Christ, and so on.

Yet, these two groups were radically different. One group maintained outlandish beliefs, and behaved quite worldly. They were shockingly immature. The other group was more stable in their doctrine, seeming to have more sense and morals as touching Christian living. How could *both* groups hold to the same core principles and yet wind up so diametrically dissimilar? All those years ago, this author was unable to answer that question. Now, all those years later, he understands the phenomena he was witnessing, and how it has waxed worse.

As in denominational circles, so it is in the grace circles. A good many “grace people” are grace “in name” only. They really have no interest in letting God’s grace teach them how to live. They are shallow in their understanding of the Scriptures, but they have just enough facts to pass themselves off as grace people instead of denominational individuals. While identifying as “grace believers,” they are just as superficial in the Scriptures as the denominationalists they censure. They have the right doctrine, and yet still manage to be equally immature in the Word of God! Indeed, how strange! The Word of God is *not* the problem—*they* are the problem. They have quenched the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19) and thereby grieved Him (Ephesians 4:30). He cannot renew their minds because they are too busy entertaining nonsensical ideas. He cannot transform their lives because they are too entangled in childish desires.

When this author became a Pauline dispensationalist over a decade ago, he assumed “grace people” would be the most willing of all people to learn the truth of God’s Word rightly divided. After all, he had joined their movement because he realized they had learned things from Scripture that very few people were willing to hear and embrace. Unfortunately though, he was disappointed to discover another sad reality: **Many people within grace circles are willfully ignorant as well.** They scarcely know more than denominational people... and (worst of all) ignorance of Bible truth is their *preference*!! It has **nothing** to do with learning disabilities. It has **nothing** to do with no access to the right Bible text and correct Bible teaching. It has **everything** to do with **laziness/apathy**. They do *not* want to know anything. Numerous “grace” people come to mind as this author reflects on his experiences. The Scriptures predicted this nearly 20 centuries ago. Nothing surprises this author when he hears of more discord and absurdities within grace circles. Dear friends, neither should you be shaken either.

II. PERVERSION WITHOUT—PERVERSION WITHIN!

Long ago, when this author was entering dispensational circles, he saw what he perceived to be “champions of the faith.” These men claimed to stand for the truth, unashamedly declaring what the denominational preachers had hidden from the masses. Labeling themselves as “grace-oriented,” they claimed to love the Bible. “We are under grace and not law!” They defended sound Bible doctrine in their sermons and written studies. He greatly loved those brethren in Christ, and was ever so grateful that they had been faithful in proclaiming the truths of God’s Word rightly divided. How he constantly thanked God that He had given him the spiritual light that he had greatly longed to have.

In recent years, however, this author has seen a radical shift in even these Christians’ lives and ministries. As he got to know them better, personally and face-to-face, a good portion of these men turned out to be hypocrites. When it came to defending Bible doctrine—not just *talking about* defending it but actually *defending* it—they backed down. For people who supposedly “loved” the truth, they were quick to embrace and endorse error. This author was amazed to see these men—although decades older than him in the faith—were actually *weaker* in the doctrine than he was.

These brethren, these role models and mentors, **knowingly** became a massive stumblingblock to this author. They greatly damaged his Christian life and ministry. To this day, he has to prayerfully guard against bitterness. He must constantly remember to forgive them as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven us at the cross (Ephesians 4:32). However, the damage is done and irreparable. Despite knowing what they did, there was never an apology. Two years later, this author knows an apology will not be forthcoming. Their ministries are on the decline, they know it, and have chosen to do **nothing** to stop it. So as to protect his ministry, this author has permanently separated from them. He will **not** associate with people who have discredited themselves and pose a threat to his spiritual health and ministry. If he is **not** careful, they will corrupt him and he will pass on the depravity to those under his ministry (namely, you, dear readers!).

Yea, in recent years, it has increasingly come to this author’s attention that the Grace Movement is tainting its own testimony. Having witnessed its presence on social media (especially Facebook) during the last decade, he can say without a doubt that “grace people” (“grace brethren!”) have damaged his own ministry and other grace ministries. He states it with a **broken** heart, but it must be exposed if it is to be corrected. We Pauline dispensationalists **cannot** expect to have a meaningful, lasting influence on the world if we are operating apart from the Holy Spirit. Our Lord Jesus Christ cannot be glorified until we deny the flesh access and submit to God’s **grace**. There must be **genuine trust in God’s grace**—**not** just to be declared righteous before Him, but to be set apart for His purposes on daily basis.

Furthermore, it has been asked time and time again, “Why is there so much division and confusion among ‘grace circles’ on social media?” Of course, they claim to be “grace-oriented” but their groups abound with people arguing about all sorts of dumb

speculations. Once they get carried away, hundreds are discouraged and reject Bible truth entirely. Again, it is this author's firsthand experience that "grace people" themselves are often immature in the Word, having just as much difficulty identifying truth and discerning error as people in cults and sects. The doctrine peddled by so-called "grace people" is frequently quite childish and speculative, ideas this author never heard even in denominational circles. Surely, he is **not** alone in seeing the inconsistencies and conflicts. People in "grace groups" often have such a poor understanding of the Scripture. Again, how can they have the right doctrine and still wind up with nonsense? For the longest time, this author struggled to explain it. Then, he came across a helpful Bible passage.

In Acts chapter 20, the Apostle Paul spoke with the church elders of Ephesus. En route to Jerusalem, he would never again meet these saints on Earth. The Holy Spirit cautioned those Christian leaders to be vigilant for threats to God's ministry: "[27] *For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. [28] Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. [29] For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. [30] Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. [31] Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*"

There are **two threats** to God's ministry and doctrine. One is an **outward** danger—lost people attempting to corrupt the Christian assembly by deceiving them. The other menace is **inward**—professing believers **already in the church** who teach false doctrine so as to lead the masses away after them and out of the church. This author used to interpret that latter threat as Christians rising amongst Christians and teaching erroneous ideas. Surely, in church history, cults and sects **have** sprung forth from other Bible groups. However, there is something more specific. The church leaders who Paul is addressing have heard **grace** teaching.

When Paul warns them that "*of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them,*" **he was actually indicating people within (!) grace teaching (!) would throw away grace teaching (!)**. That is, people **already in** the Grace Movement would abandon its tenets in favor of some other way of thinking and life. **Here is the greatest threat facing the Grace Movement: "grace" members undermining their own approach to Bible study and Christian thought!**

There are people lurking in our midst—whether true brethren or false we cannot say—forming **sub-groups within** the larger Grace Movement. They claim to be "grace" and "dispensational" but really are **not**. For example, one sub-group takes false teaching masquerading as dispensational Bible study and then uses it to discredit dispensational Bible study. While they exist in the form of church fellowships and home Bible studies, they primarily linger on social media (Facebook, for example) and prey on unsuspecting or naïve people. They sow discord with their petty, infantile, discussions. The Acts 28ers are

one of the primary culprits. Critics have used their warped view of dispensational Bible study to completely discredit any and all dispensational Bible study. (For more information, see our related, albeit lengthy, study linked at the end of this article. This was another perilous group this author nearly fell into many years back!)

In this study, we will pinpoint 10 specific areas in which “grace people” (either genuine or mere professors) are deposing dispensational Bible study and opposing grace living. Through their mindset and behavior, they are ***destroying the Grace Movement from the inside out!*** Some are totally unaware of what they are doing; regrettably, others know exactly the damage they are inflicting upon the message of God’s grace. To be sure, this author will raise some serious, **and founded (!)**, claims in this treatise—but they are made in love and ***not*** in malice. Not only does someone with influence in the grace community need to bring attention to this persistent difficulty, someone needs to remind the grace brethren of the doctrine that will bring about ***major reformation within the Grace Movement.***

A. ERROR #1: CARNAL “GRACE” BELIEVERS

This author has met some Christian men and women who truly love the Lord Jesus Christ and the message of His grace. He has had such sweet, heart-to-heart fellowship with them—as close to Heaven’s Bible conference as he has gotten thus far. They boldly stand for and defend the truth of God’s Word rightly divided. Also, their lives reflect what they preach. They are ***not*** perfect, but they are upright. They are maturing in grace doctrine, so fervently trying to teach it to others. Here are the “Thessalonians” and the “Bereans” of the 21st century. How we thank our Father God for them and greatly rejoice in our Lord Jesus Christ for them! Their ministries are so vital, ever so critical. The Body of Christ needs such strong leaders in both doctrine and conduct—**examples in grace teaching and grace living.** They do ***not*** merely ***talk about*** God’s grace; they let it ***impact*** their lives. They do ***not*** merely ***study*** the Bible rightly divided; they ***believe*** it rightly divided.

On the other hand, also in the Grace Movement, are the 21st-century “Corinthians,” “Philippians,” and “Galatians.” These “grace brethren” do ***not*** seem like they want to get along with anybody—Christians or lost people. They do ***not*** try to “*live peaceably with all men*” (Romans 12:18). To put it mildly, they have such rotten attitudes that it is **impossible** to fellowship with them. They are miserable, frustrated people because they are living contrary to the grace life. Their ministries are severely malfunctioning—if at all. It is ***not*** God’s fault. They have ***not*** followed His design for the edification of the believer. Instead of being spiritually built up in His doctrine—the principles of grace—they are living in the energy of their flesh. It shows... and **it turns people off to Jesus Christ and the message of His grace.** If this author were lost and/or denominational man, they certainly would ***not*** interest him in becoming a grace-oriented Christian!

As these many years have passed, this author still truly wonders just how many

people in the Grace Movement today have actually gotten beyond the first two verses of Romans chapter 6 in their Bible understanding: *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”* They continue in sin, as if they never were saved, as if they **never** heard **anything** about God’s grace or His rightly divided Word at all. If they are members of the Church the Body of Christ, they are dead to sin; however, listening to them talk, watching them go about their lives, you would never know it. They oppose themselves: they still live in sin. Under the control of their flesh, the Holy Spirit is not leading them. He is **not** regulating their minds and hearts, for they have quenched Him (1 Thessalonians 5:19) and now grieve Him (Ephesians 4:30).

They grew up in “grace circles.” Perhaps their parents were or are in the “grace ministry.” They themselves may be preachers or teachers. In public, they sing loudly and proudly about “grace” and “sound doctrine.” They attend “grace conferences.” They supposedly “seek the truth.” They announce to everyone that they are here to teach the Bible and only the Bible. They “love the Bible,” they say! They “believe the Bible,” they say! They are here to “expose Satan’s evil world system,” they say! They want to “warn people about the dangers of sin, religious tradition, and doctrinal perversion,” they say!

However:

- They may run away when you ask them if they have a Bible they can open and follow along with you.
- Their language can be quite un-Christian—**even in the pulpit!** For some years, this author had some “grace” pastor friends who had written questionable material on social media and spoken inappropriate statements from their own pulpits. They do not seem to mind telling obscene jokes. When this author objected, **he** was at fault. **He** was accused of being “divisive” and “dirty-minded.” They are stumblingblocks.
- Even among some “grace” people, there is a lot of “Doctor So-and-So said this,” “Brother So-and-So said that,” “Pastor So-and-So said this,” “Teacher So-and-So said this.” They are **no** different from the denominationalists they disparage.
- We would expect grace people to have more cohesion more unity. That, unfortunately, is often **not** the case. **Never** do we strive to be a **perfect** (sinless) people but we **do** endeavor to be a **pure** people. The Grace Movement on social media is rife with people who should **not** be in authority. There is **no** accountability for this corruption either. They have great spiritual influence over multitudes of people, and they themselves are **not** qualified to teach. Their shallow teachings sway the masses, hundreds or thousands of people assuming they are good spiritual advisers. (This author can say, having dealt with them firsthand, they are **not!!!**)
- They generate heat but little to no light: they engage in arguing, contentiousness, and obnoxiousness. **In fact, they are building up no one but themselves.**
- It does **not** bother them to date or marry unsaved people or denominational

people. In fact, some **within** the Grace Movement go on to marry denominational or feel-good preachers!!

- They have attitude problems. When you try to teach them the Bible, they attack you viciously for being a “know-it-all,” “goody-goody,” “legalistic,” “egotist.”
- They have their “cliques” or sub-groups, shunning you if you do **not** “tow the line” of the worldly grace people with whom they associate.
- This is going to be strong but it is worth saying. They have been attending services at “grace churches” for many years and never seemed to have learned one scintilla about decency. They do **not** exercise modesty in the clothes they wear. Actually, as a man, this author can make no apologies in saying some “grace” women dress whorishly. The Pentecostals—with all their strict apparel rules—are actually better reflections of God’s grace than these “grace” people.

The above bullet points are descriptive of people this author has personally encountered **within** the Grace Movement. It so pains him to say it, but it must be stated. Someone has to say something. It has to be exposed. Brethren, we must wake up from our spiritual stupor!!! There is so much worldliness **in our own midst**—and the only thing that seems to concern us is how evil **lost and denominational** people are behaving! We had better start behaving like the saved people we claim to be, instead of incessantly carping about lost people behaving like lost people. That judgmental spirit—with our one finger pointing at them—overlooks the fact that **three** fingers point back at us!

While it is a shame to admit it, this author cannot help but wonder how many people are attending grace assemblies and grace conferences just to have a good time. Are they going there to eat good food, or feast on spiritual food? Are they going to merely sing or are they going to study the Bible too? One woman, a Sunday school teacher, expressed to this author that her favorite part of a conference was... **the singing!** Another preacher announced that he was going to have a good time at a conference because of the food (a conference at which he knew was hosting a false teacher). This is **alarming!**

This author has a grace friend who attended a “grace conference” with his wife. The lady told her husband, “I would not mind it if we never came back here.” While he never told this author exactly what she saw or heard there (other than the disrespectful and aggressive pastor), this author knows that crowd well and was **not** impressed by what **he** saw and heard when **he** “fellowshipped” with those same preachers in previous years.

First Thessalonians 2:13 declares: *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”* God’s Word “effectually worketh” in people who **believe** it. That means they are **not** believing the Bible if their lives do not match the verses. If they claim to follow the Apostle Paul as he follows the Lord Jesus Christ, but their actions indicate otherwise, then they really do **not believe** Paul’s epistles. It really is that simple, friends!

Looking at denominational people, we have so much reason to believe they cannot help but sin. We could say the same when we look at some “grace” people. While this passage first and foremost applies to religionists, we find some members of the Grace Movement here as well.

Second Timothy chapter 3: “[1] *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. [2] For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [3] Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, [4] Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; [5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*”

“Boasters, proud, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.” This author has met such people not only in denominational circles but “grace groups” too! They all appear good—especially the “grace” ones—but they deny the power thereof. They have **no** desire for the Word to change them. They want to pass themselves as Christians in name only—grace in name only.

The following excerpt from Romans chapter 1 also describes them, although this is really about lost (heathen!) people who are under Satan’s control! Whether saved or lost, God gives people over to whatever nonsense they desire!

“[28] And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; [29] Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, [30] Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, [31] Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: [32] Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

When this author became a Bible-believing dispensationalist over a decade ago, he assumed that “grace” people would be the most willing of all to learn the truth of God’s Word rightly divided. After all, he had joined their Movement because he realized they had learned things from the Scriptures that very few people were willing to hear and believe. How wrong was that assumption! Again, there are innumerable willfully ignorant people **in grace churches!!** They scarcely know more than denominational people... and yet they go around “strutting” like they are better and more informed than other Christians. (We will talk more about this in our next section.)

Although having access to the right doctrine, the above saints in the grace community have **not** matured in that doctrine. They are near the bottom of the three-step method to spiritual maturity as found in Romans 16:25-26: “[25] *Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to (#1) my gospel, and (#2) the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, [26]*

But now is made manifest, and (#3) by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:....”

They are aware of Paul’s Gospel—and, presumably, they have believed Paul’s Gospel in the heart. Also, they know *“the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery.”* Perhaps they have believed some of this in the heart as well. However, they have **not** exercised enough or complete faith in grace teaching with respect to grace **living**. Grace is not alive in their **conduct**. It is incongruous—grace **in the head** but little to no grace **in the behavior**. They **talk** about grace, **sing** about grace, and **preach** about grace—but their **actions** do **not** reflect grace. Again, this is spiritual immaturity. Little children can **speak** and **sing properly**, but to **behave properly** is something else entirely.

B. ERROR #2: PRIDE, CONCEIT, AND “HEAD KNOWLEDGE”

Not only does the professing church abound with **ignorant** brethren, it is rife with **conceited** brethren. It pains this author to write that as well, but he has seen it firsthand many times over. There is even such pride in some (though **not** all) “grace assemblies”—the same, if not worse, than denominational groups. When you listen to certain “grace preachers,” you can hear their arrogance. Their congregations are filled with people who copy their attitude. For years, this author was so puzzled, but now it is so clear to him. Their whole problem is “head knowledge.”

To these individuals, the pinnacle of Christian living is knowledge. They **know** about Paul’s special ministry, they **know** we are under grace and not law, they **know** we are not Israel, and they **know** we are living in the mystery program and not the prophetic program. To some degree (?), they can draw the Bible timeline. However, we recall the warning in Scripture that knowledge puffs up. Intellectualism is **not** Bible-believing Christianity! It seems like some are just showing off, trying to gain attention, start a war, and so on. They are actually **not** attempting to help anyone understand the Bible.

We turn to 1 Corinthians 8:1: *“Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. **Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.**”* The idea of *“puffed up”* is a balloon inflating with air. We have heard of someone “getting a big head,” pride magnifying the person above anyone and everyone. They sit as a god—like the college professor too ignorant of the fact that he is deficient in numerous areas of life and study. Yet, the degrees of this “enlightened one” qualify him to speak authoritatively about **every** topic imaginable (or so **he** believes). The conceited individuals in Christendom (and we can find them in grace circles) do **not** speak **“for God”** but **“as God.”**

Let it be clearly understood: the zenith of Christian living is **not** knowledge. **The highpoint of Christian living is we, by faith, letting God’s grace work in and through us.** Grace edification is **not** (!!!!!) about engaging in mental gymnastics and memorizing quick facts so we can then argue with denominational people. Unfortunately,

this author has seen it firsthand among many so-called grace people. They are far from gracious in dealing with weaker brethren. They are anything but charitable when handling lost people. Again, they have an “attitude problem,” being aggressive and obnoxious.

Once, this author sat **privately** with a “grace preacher” who had just delivered a **public** sermon that strongly exhorted people to continue in sound Bible doctrine. The author attempted to warn his preacher friend of a certain false teacher lurking within the grace community. While this author was calm and polite throughout, the preacher (three decades older than this author in the faith and ministry) grew more irritated and began hurling accusations **at him**. It was most unexpected. This author was charged with being “full of himself” and “legalistic” with the doctrine. The preacher contended that **the author was wrong** and **the false teacher was not as perverted as presented**. In that intense meeting, the author was surprised to hear that grace preacher **defend** doctrinal error. The “sound doctrine” (!) preacher proceeded to mishandle the Bible right across the table from this author. **Amazing!!**

In fact, it was later learned that that preacher had an emotional attachment to the false teacher, which is why he was so defensive. This author was castigated for exposing that “pet” false teacher. Without a doubt, that episode is something this author will **never** forget. (There is a tragic twist to this true story: This author would later learn his long-time preacher friend and mentor was standing silently behind him, never saying a word throughout that horrific ordeal as that fellow preacher attacked him for upholding the truth.) **How disturbing is the thought that these three men are leaders within the Grace Movement!**

During the last five years or so, this author has heard of “established” men in the Grace Movement departing from sound Bible doctrine. These church leaders—whose ministries he grew up under—are now so far gone doctrinally. What happened to them? Personally, he believes the ugly sin of **pride** is behind most if not all of these apostasies in grace circles. **Dear saints, we need to especially be on guard against arrogance.** Like denominationalists, it often seems like dispensationalists are merely out to argue and prove how much they know. Again, charity does **not** drive them to do what they do—**egotism** does! They are **not** holding to the truth to **help** others; they want to prove their “seniority” over everyone or “superiority” to everyone. They believe they are better than the denominationalists. Here, we see the Bible’s warnings brought to pass. “*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall*” (1 Corinthians 10:12). While a strong accusation, this author cannot see how it can be viewed any other way.

The Holy Spirit warned us of the ugly sin of pride when He moved the Apostle Paul to pen 2 Timothy chapter 2: “[24] *And the servant of the Lord **must not strive**; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, [25] **In meekness [not in pride!!!]** instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; [26] *And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*”*

Proverbs says a great deal about pride: *“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate”* (8:13). *“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom”* (11:2). *“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom”* (13:10). *“In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them”* (14:3). *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall”* (16:18). *“A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit”* (29:23).

It is easy for Christians—especially King James Bible, Pauline dispensationalists—to believe they are “special” or above everyone else. It is the *“holier than thou”* attitude of Isaiah 65:5 (also true of ancient Israelites). Dispensationalists can think themselves better than other members of the Church the Body of Christ. Some among us have become so fixated on pointing out the doctrinal faults of denominationalists that we are becoming less and less aware of **our** slippage in doctrine. We have grown comfortable with error in our midst, much like ancient Israel in her self-righteous attitude when she looked down upon the pagan Gentiles while they the Jews were guilty of the **same** sins (Romans 2:17-27).

Our dispensational brethren have Bible knowledge that very few do, so they slide into the mentality that perhaps God favors them over their brethren in Christ. They are “conceited,” to say the very least. **Never** can they grasp that one **within** their group is a false teacher. This, frankly, is the **wrong** way to conduct our lives and ministries. It shows us how the flesh even destroys what is good, **all while appearing to be good**. Israel did it with God’s Word, and the Body of Christ is doing it now with God’s Word.

Another way of describing this egotistical condition is, “It goes to their head.” They are proud, conceited; they think they are something they are **not**. Having such a high opinion of themselves, when it is actually nothing but a delusion! They need to realize they are **not** God, only God’s **children**; they are **not** the final authority, but they **have** the Final Authority (King James Bible in English). They are accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ; people are **not** accountable to them! As someone once rightly observed, “Christians have been called to be ‘fishers of men’ but some want to be keepers of the aquarium!” That bossy attitude is nothing but our sinful flesh, and it surely does **not** belong in God’s family or ministry (Matthew 20:25-28; 2 Corinthians 1:24; 1 Peter 5:3)!!

Let us be honest, friends. We who are saved by the blood of Christ are **no better than lost people**. They too can trust Christ and receive the **same** inheritance as we have. When we get that pharisaical attitude, that judgmental spirit going, we are following ancient Israel. **They possessed the Bible and thus had the right doctrine, but they lived worse than the Gentiles (those who did not have the Bible)!!! How they refused to see their own faults. They thought it better to defend themselves than uphold the doctrine!!**

We turn to Romans chapter 2: *“[17] Behold, thou art called a Jew, and restest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, [18] And knowest his will, and approvest the things*

that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; [19] And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, [20] An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law. [21] Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? [22] Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? [23] Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? [24] For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.”

The nation Israel was indeed set apart from the Gentiles around her, but she too was a group of sinners. Her people became so infatuated with their special privileges that they utterly forgot why God had even set them apart. They were given God’s Word, **not** to selfishly hide it or harass people with it, but to be a channel of blessing and spiritual light to the Gentiles (Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 2:1-5; Isaiah 60:1-3; Zechariah 8:20-23). Instead of worshipping the God who gave them the religion of Judaism, the Israelites began worshipping the religion itself. Such disaster led to their rejection and crucifixion of Jesus Christ their Messiah-King!

Let us return to 1 Corinthians chapter 8, knowledge puffing up: *“[1] Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. [2] And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. [3] But if any man love God, the same is known of him. [4] As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. [5] For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) [6] But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

“[7] Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. [8] But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. [9] But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. [10] For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol’s temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; [11] And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? [12] But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. [13] Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”

Two Christians are in this passage—a spiritually-mature one and spiritually-immature one. The first has a mature understanding of the Bible rightly divided, but he does **not** use that knowledge charitably. He is **not** behaving so as to seek his weaker brother’s edification. In fact, he is conducting himself so that he negatively influences that weaker brother. Sound Bible doctrine is meant to **help** people **not hurt** them. If that

doctrine is not used charitably, it will be destructive. The mature Christian knows God's grace permits him to eat the meat even though it was offered to an idol. Idols **cannot** spiritually contaminate meat, and meat offered to idols **cannot** spiritually contaminate Christians. Eating that meat is **not** equivalent to idolatry itself. However, the weaker Christian does not know or understand this. The stronger brother can now boast to the younger brother, "Ha, ha, God's grace lets *me* eat it and *I* will eat it, ***whether you like it or not, whether you believe it is right or not, whether you agree with it or not!***" See, friends, we can mishandle God's grace and use it to destroy people, including fellow Christians. Again, this is the flesh, and it corrupts even that which is good.

Then, in the passage, we have the Apostle Paul, the stronger brother, commenting on the matter: **God's grace prohibits us from eating that meat if it will serve as a stumblingblock to the weaker believer.** If a Christian has not yet grasped the truth about idols not contaminating the meat, the stronger brother is **not** to force through peer pressure the weaker one to go against his conscience. The mature brother runs the risk of being prideful toward the immature brother. All of this is said to make the following point: If our knowledge of the rightly divided Scripture is **not** under the control of the Holy Spirit, there is no charity. We are **not** walking in love, but walking in selfishness. We are seeking to further **our** agenda, to exalt **self**. Again, we remind ourselves of ancient Israel in Romans chapter 2 growing just as prideful. If we are not careful, Satan will take us down using this as well. As Bible history testifies, it is a highly effective tool of the evil world system.

We the Church the Body of Christ have been given God's Word, **not** to keep it to ourselves and make ourselves look smarter than everyone else. God gave us His Word that we may teach it to others. "*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*" (2 Timothy 2:2). Again, Israel **possessed** God's Word and yet (1) failed to live up to it, and (2) lived worse than the nations who did **not** have it. They became conceited. They believed God set them apart because they **deserved** it. They "merited" that position, or so they assumed. Unfortunately, most of the Body of Christ—and even a portion of the Grace Movement—is headed for that spiritual destruction (if not already there)!

One terrible experience this author had with a fellow "grace believer" is especially noteworthy here. She was a young person, someone who attended "grace" church services and conferences for many years and yet was still so weak in the Scriptures. This author was willing to teach her because she appeared to be "teachable." Over a period of a few months, during dozens of phone calls, the one-on-one Bible studies continued out of love for the Lord (and love for her too, actually). However, he could sense the fellowship was gradually deteriorating. It became apparent that she was **not** willing to be taught. Having an "attitude problem," she accused the author of being a "know-it-all." Silence prevailing, that "friendship" fizzled out a year ago. (And, how "kind" she was in her parting words, "I will pray for your ministry!")

This author cannot read hearts but he can say what was on his heart concerning the above scenario. It had **absolutely nothing** to do with proving how much he knew (he

actually does **not** know what he ought to know!!). He truly attempted to help her in her Christian walk and understanding, but it was **not** appreciated. This author does not know everything, but he does consider it a privilege to study the Bible and try to assist people in doing the same. It is his good pleasure to share His Father's words with those who want to learn something eternally valuable. He spent many years confused in denominational circles, and he so passionately wants to help people escape such nonsense if they want to!

It would seem that those "grace brethren" accusing fellow Christians of being "know-it-alls" are **they themselves too fixated on intellectualism**. It is psychological projection, hypocrisy, blaming others for doing the very things they do! To them, it is **not** a time to glorify Jesus Christ with doctrine. It is a time to complain about and protest learning. What better way to excuse ourselves from the responsibility of learning and thinking than to vilify the teacher of being a "know-it-all?" In that case, perhaps we can free ourselves from Bible study because "God is a know-it-all" too?!

Personally, this author believes the vast majority in the grace community has just learned facts. They have heard Bible truths for so long that such doctrine no longer effects them anymore. It was mindless repetition, no different from Roman Catholics reciting the rosary or Muslims memorizing the Quran. It is an **intellectual** exercise. Paul is our apostle. We are saved by grace through faith in Calvary and not by our works of righteousness. The Church the Body of Christ is not the nation Israel. We are in mystery and not in prophecy. Heaven and Earth are the two distinctive realms of creation over which Jesus Christ will rule forever. Water baptism is not for us. We are not under the tithe but give willingly. We do not observe the Saturday Sabbath. (While these are **all true, they are superficial if existing solely in the head and not believed in the heart!**)

C. ERROR #3: SELF-PROMOTION

The Oxford English Dictionary defines "self-promotion" as "the action of promoting or publicizing oneself or one's activities." For over 10 years, this author has seen innumerable "dispensational" articles and videos posted online to social media. Some of that material was quite helpful in his own spiritual edification. Yet, in retrospect, he can only wonder who was (and still is) posting that material just to gain attention, to advertise self. Why does he say this?

As he began to personally engage with some of these so-called "spiritually-minded" individuals, they were **not** as doctrinally stable as they first appeared. They boasted about **not** attending denominational churches but they really had little to no understanding of grace/Christian teaching themselves. While conversant in condemning tradition, they were ignorant of truth! How they "loved" the grace of God, but knew so little of it! They knew Paul was their apostle, but they were so unfamiliar with even simple Pauline truths. It was startling to say the least! Now, it makes sense to this author.

“Look at me, look how spiritual I am! I know Paul is my apostle, I know I am a member of Christ’s Body, I do not believe in water baptism, I do not believe in tithing, I do not exercise spiritual gifts, I use the King James Bible, I do not observe the Sabbath, I am under grace and not law, blah, blah, blah!” When it came to actually **teaching** others about these matters though, they were clueless. They were just as shallow as the people they were avoiding! These individuals are **not** out to help anybody in their spiritual walk, but rather themselves. They want **attention**. Feigning expertise, they advertise knowledge. (This is often people in social movements—“Look at how brave I am in defending that belief,” “Look at my fervor in holding this position!,” “I am taking on the world, following something so few believe!”) They want to show how much they know. They want the praise of men. They want to have a good time—and their careless handling of the Scriptures shows us God’s Word and the precious souls in the audience suffer for it.

The Lord Jesus Christ did **not** attract attention to Himself; He avoided publicity as much as possible. Matthew 8:18: “*Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side.*” Matthew chapter 9: “[26] *And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land. [27] And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us.*” Luke chapter 5: “[15] *But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities. [16] And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.*” If the Lord avoided praise, rather giving credit to His Heavenly Father, how much more should we, dear friends?!

It will come as a shock to most people reading this, friends, but grace living is much more (!) than pointing out the theological faults of others. It is easy to go around saying, “Look, **this** is false, **that** is false!” What requires the greater effort is discovering **what is truth**. Not only do we identify error, we should find **the truth**. Too many Christians worry about avoiding deception but make no effort to locate the truth. Remember, identifying and accepting the truth is the best way to avoid error!!

This author can recall attending, long ago, a “grace Bible conference.” While delivering his sermon, one speaker made an announcement. All current or aspiring grace preachers and teachers present were to stand. Once these men rose from their seats, the speaker urged the congregation to give them all a round of applause. This author thought about standing, but decided against it. Even though he was a baby Christian at the time, such ovation seemed to him like nothing more than flattery—stroking egos and drawing undue attention to mere men. **Shame** on those older men for not having enough sense to see they were setting up a stumblingblock for this author and the 100 other individuals present!

At another “grace Bible conference” many years back, this author remembers various preachers and other people huddled around a particularly frail and elderly woman. She was the widow of their late mentor and Bible teacher. These individuals treated her like a celebrity—or even a goddess. If they had a red carpet on hand, they

likely would have rolled it out and heralded her arrival with trumpet sound! We would expect this at denominational churches, but never in a million years would we be on the lookout for this at a “grace” place!

There are grace people—yes, this author would even say they are saved (members of the Body of Christ) and they are aware of the Apostle Paul’s distinctive ministry—who are ***not*** what they appear to be. They are “goody-goody,” conceited, far too much infatuated with themselves. What sound Bible doctrine they have, it is ***known*** in the ***head*** but ***not believed*** in the ***heart***. This mental assent, or intellectual agreement, has ***not*** assisted them in their Christian life. They have memorized Bible facts but have ***not*** exercised personal faith in them. It is “grace” in ***name*** only when it should be in ***practice*** as well. They are out to get attention, to be praised of men. It is ***nothing*** but the flesh of man; the Spirit of God is ***not*** involved.

D. ERROR #4: OBNOXIOUSNESS AND LOGOMACHY

Frankly, some Pauline dispensationalists are downright hateful. It pains this author greatly to write that, but he is loyal to Jesus Christ alone and ***not*** to fellow Christians. These people to whom he refers have a ***major*** “attitude problem.” You converse with them long enough, and their hostility becomes more apparent. Charity is ***not*** driving them. They are irritable, perhaps even bitter. Whatever attitude they have, they need to ***drop*** it... and ***quickly!***

On the surface, they hold the right doctrine... to some extent. Nevertheless, upon closer inspection, they have quirky ideas that are either unscriptural or anti-scriptural. Even if they understand Paul’s special ministry and they see we are under grace and not law, they still threaten the Grace Movement because they are ***teaching and preaching the right information with the wrong spirit***. To them, it is amusing to stir up controversy and pick apart other people’s beliefs. They take great pleasure in being sinful under the guise of having a so-called “Bible ministry.” We must ***always*** be careful here, dear friends. If it happened among Christians 20 centuries ago, beloved, it can and does happen even now.

Turning to Philippians chapter 1, we let the Apostle Paul speak: “[14] *And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. [15] Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: [16] The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: [17] But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. [18] What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.*”

It is most regrettable, but this author has met ***fellow Christians (even “grace” ones!)*** who “*preach Christ even of envy and strife, of contention.*” They do ***not*** want to lead anyone to the truth. Instead, they enjoy arguing, bullying, and ridiculing. They seek to be the center of attention. To them, Christianity and spirituality are nothing more than the

enumeration of Bible facts and Scriptural ideas. In their lives, however, they do **not** practice the grace teaching they demand others embrace. While they deride the denominationalists for their defiance to God’s Word rightly divided, they themselves have conduct **not** grace-oriented.

On one occasion, this author had an online “grace” “friend” who attacked him numerous times in a most uncouth way. After she read one of his Bible articles that contradicted her alleged “grace” beliefs, she “let him have it.” She called him various names and even began harassing his mother online! The lady shared dozens of “grace” Bible videos and studies online, so on the surface she resembled an upstanding Christian. However, she turned out to be nothing but a hypocrite. She was **only** interested in fighting with people—and was willing to use “grace” to do it! She was about as willing to see Bible truth as the people she denounced in denominational circles.

Many years back, this author also had another online female “grace” “friend.” She ranted and raved about all sorts of ideas, but had very little light on anything. In fact, she admitted her outbursts were “rants.” He attempted to teach her—without success. Eventually, he lost contact with her, having grown sick of her “generating heat” but providing no understanding to anyone she was reaching on social media. She would condemn others of being ignorant of the Scriptures and she herself was equally guilty of it. Whatever she was doing was **quite the “turn-off” to him**—not to mention to the poor lost and denominational people watching and reading her nonsense!

Galatians chapter 5 says we grace believers should live for others, be peaceable, be gentle, be soft, have self-control, and so on: “[13] For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. [14] For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. [15] But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. [16] This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. [17] For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. [18] But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

“[19] Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, [21] Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. [22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Verses 19-21 are often real life—whether denominationalists or “grace” people. To sin in private is one matter, and to err in secret is one issue; to broadcast your folly online, to advertise it for all the public to see, is **downright stupidity**. It sounds harsh, but it must be said. Listen to what the Holy Spirit wrote to the Galatians, and notice how these verses speak to the very issues we are describing. We would expect dispute, bickering,

division, incontinence (lack of self-control), commotion, pride, and viciousness to be at a minimum in “grace circles.” They are allegedly under the control of the Holy Spirit, not the law (the flesh)! We are shocked to see the opposite, conditions really no better than those in denominational groups! **Our Christian sisters need to be extremely careful here. Their emotions will run wild if they are not careful!! Be extra cautious here, brethren (and particularly sisters)!!!**

What profit is there in grace teaching if it is not believed and applied to life? That was the case of the Galatians. They heard the Apostle Paul verbally (audibly) lay out the principles of grace teaching (see Romans chapters 1-8). He even wrote this epistle to them. They had the opportunity to hear the truth—and they *did* hear it. However, they *never* put it into practice. In fact, because of false teachers in their midst, the saints at Galatia preferred the Law system (see Galatians 4:21), thus necessitating Paul to write to correct them and remind them again of grace teaching! If we have Christians operating in the energy of their flesh, that means they are not operating in the realm of grace teaching. They can even claim to be “grace believers” and still be ignorant of grace. They do not know what they are even saying.

Every Christian leader—preacher, Bible teacher, evangelist, deacon, and so on—would do well to become familiarized with the guidelines found in the “Pastoral Epistles.” These four Books—1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon—have been rightly called “the handbooks for the local church.” Therein, we find Divine counsel as to how the ministry should be established and maintained.

There are great threats to God’s work, and Satan often gains a stronghold in the slickest of ways. Chiefly, there is counterfeit (or false) teaching. Instead of grace-oriented doctrine, it is legalistic (law-oriented—performance) and/or humanistic (man-oriented—philosophical). Other useful tools Satan uses to thwart God’s ministry include: foolish and unlearned questions, petty disagreements among brethren, bitterness and grudges, intimidation, spiritual immaturity, discouragement, selfishness, formalism/ritualism, pride, greed and materialism, carnality/fleshliness among church leaders and common members, and persecution (from other believers, the government, or lost people). Satan has a whole arsenal of weapons... and here the professing church is clueless to 99 percent of it.

In 2 Timothy 2:14, we read of the following advice: *“Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.”* We here find the “charge” (or order) to behave a certain way so as to prevent the Adversary from gaining a particular advantage. We are to *“strive not about words to no profit.”* In Greek, “strive about words” is **“logomachein.”** As you might have guessed, **“logos”** carries the meaning of “thought, word, saying;” **“machomai”** is “war, quarrel, dispute.” That is to say, “striving about words” refers to “word-fights” or “heated debates.” (We actually have a rare English word derived from that Greek term—logomachy, “an argument about words.”)

Yet, is it not good to “defend the truth?” Hold it, friend. Read the entire verse: *“Of*

these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.” There is “no profit” in such word-wars. Actually, the audience will be “subverted”—spiritually overturned, demolished, apostate (the Greek is “*katastrophe!*”). It was nothing but a “flesh parade:” there was destruction instead of edification. God the Holy Spirit was not involved; it was sinful man operating under the guise of “godliness.”

Brethren, may we exercise **great** discernment in this regard, lest we fall into such a trap!

E. ERROR #5: THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND

We touched on this earlier, but we will return to it. What this author discovered over the years is that the men he had assumed were sound in the faith with respect to grace teaching, were ***not*** as theologically stable as he thought. Publicly, they spoke quite highly of sound Bible doctrine. However, in private, he discovered firsthand that they were not as dogmatic. They were involved with all sorts of ridiculous ideas, idle speculations, and conspiracy theories. This is where they spent considerable time. Eventually, they slipped off into worse and worse teachings, having never returned.

Even when this author was new to right division, he could sense something odd all those years ago with respect to certain leaders in local grace churches. He was not mature enough at the time to pinpoint the exact problem, but now—a decade later—he can look back and see what was going on. It is a problem that continues even now. He met two crowds of grace preachers, all of whom had been preaching for 20 or more years. Both groups passionately defended Christ’s finished crosswork as sufficient payment for our sins, both groups held to Paul’s unique apostleship, both groups knew we were not Israel, and so on. But, these two groups were radically different from each other. One group of “grace preachers” was overwhelmingly immature—they acted like the world and held to some outlandish beliefs. The other group of “grace preachers” was more stable in their doctrine—they had more sense and morals concerning Christian living.

How could **both** groups hold to the **same core principles** and yet wind up so **unfathomably different**? We would think that—after 20, 30, 40 years of being “grace pastors,” and studying the Bible rightly divided for decades—they would **all** be solid theologically and practically. No, they would not be sinless, but they would all have the right doctrine, communicate it with the right spirit, and have assemblies we glowing testimonies. **Instead, only half of those men were established in the faith.**

Again, just like in denominational circles, so it is in the grace circles. Many people are “grace” in name only. They really have **no** interest in letting God’s grace teach them how to live. They are shallow in their understanding of the Scriptures, but know just enough to pass off as a grace person instead of a denominational one: the problem is ***not*** the Word of God. **They** are they problem. They have quenched or hindered the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). He cannot renew their minds (Romans 12:1-2) because they

are too busy entertaining nonsensical ideas. He cannot transform their lives because they are too caught up in childish desires and petulance. They have been conformed to the course of this world. They have **not** been faithful in retaining or keeping **pure** grace teaching.

No, we are **not** talking about sinlessness in the grace ministry. We are speaking of Christians who are **examples**, lights in this dark and ignorant world. (Philippians 2:15-16: *“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; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”*).

Instead, we see numerous spiritual babies in the grace **pulpits**—and that is exactly why we see countless spiritual babies in the grace **pews**. That is spoken in love, **not** malice. It has to be said. Largely, these men have not matured in the rightly divided Word themselves, so we should **not** expect them to bring others to spiritual maturity either. Yet, this is ironic, because here is the **very crowd** that constantly berates the Body of Christ for being silly in doctrine and conduct. To adopt a cliché here, “The pot is calling the kettle black” (psychological projection, hypocrisy). We have to correct our minds and behavior if we are to have a more positive impact in the world!!

On more than one occasion, this author heard a grace preacher announce from the pulpit: “The more you study the Bible, the more you can go out on a limb.” What he meant by that was that additional study of the Scriptures would allow you to adopt views of which others would likely be critical. That is, we could acquire, discuss, and hold **extreme** positions on topics. ***Certainly, dispensational Bible study is rare, but if we are willing to accept all extreme positions, we automatically open the door for speculations, wilder and wilder ideas simply to be different from everyone else.***

The above perilous route is similar to the tales that Charismatics tell when they share their experiences. Every story has to be more fabulous or exaggerated than the previous because the ones that went before were so impressive. One storyteller must “outdo” the other! The Bible is no longer the issue, but rather our “special” insight becomes the issue. “Let us see if we can come up with something new, something no one else has thought of before.” Instead of plain reading of Bible texts, now we strive to concoct explanations that no one else has offered. **How dangerous—and this is going on in a least one major “grace” assembly!!!**

Strangely, one grace preacher constantly emphasized the foolishness of contemporary Christian music with its beats and dances. At his Bible conference streamed online, however, he allowed someone to get up in front of the audience and sing and sway to a certain tune (**twice!**). For those few moments, the grace conference bore a striking resemblance to a worldly concert or Pentecostal revival! The “mover” or “wiggler” himself was **from** a grace church, he was standing **in the midst of** a grace church, and yet clearly did **not** have enough sense to know self-control and decency are hallmarks of true Holy Spirit filling!!! First Corinthians 14:33,40: *“For God is not the author of*

*confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.... Let all things be done **decently and in order [!!].*** Galatians 5:22-23 again: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, **temperance [self-control!!]:** against such there is no law.*”

There are so many people who love the praise for being “grace and not denominational,” but they really do **not** practice grace in life. It is merely a set of Bible facts. To them, grace is **not** a life to be lived but rather a doctrine to be taught. This is downright wrong. **Grace is a doctrine to be taught so that it may be a life to be lived.** They have **not** matured. This author has personally met “grace” preachers in this sad state, and he nearly wound up stumbling with them down that wayward path. Like the Pharisees of ancient Israel, they are “*blind leaders of the blind*” (Matthew 15:14), as qualified to teach the Bible as denominational people are!

This author can recall **three sex jokes** that one preacher told from his pulpit on at least three separate occasions. The man has been in the grace message for many, many years (several decades), so he should know better than to engage in such raunchiness. Never once has this author heard such foul words from any denominational pulpits! Brethren, if we have preachers being such poor examples of grace living, we need not wonder why the congregants are equally carnal.

Once, this author had two “grace” pastor “friends” on social media. He had met one in person at a Bible conference; the other was a mutual friend. When this author issued one of his ministry updates online several years back, he had informed people to pray because he was giving marital advice to a couple (the husband had asked him for Christian counsel). The first preacher friend commented, “Shawn, have you ever been married?” He told this author he had no business giving marital advice—even if it was just sharing Bible verses with the couple. The second preacher chimed in with his “two cents.” He said he agreed with the first pastor, “Unmarried people should not give marital advice.” It is **highly noteworthy** to mention here that neither “man of God”—both married—**ever bothered** to offer to counsel with the struggling couple. The only advice they could offer this author was that **he** was **unqualified** to offer advice. Frankly, that is nothing but utter stupidity.* They are not qualified to offer him ministry advice, and he did **not** bother to take it either.

(*If unmarried men cannot issue marital advice, then the following holds true as well: heterosexuals **cannot** give advice to homosexuals, men **cannot** give advice to women, non-inmates **cannot** offer counsel to prison inmates, the non-mentally ill **cannot** counsel with the mentally ill, et cetera. This is downright ludicrous, not meant to make sense. Again, it is stupidity, plain and simple. It is easier to criticize what someone else is doing than actually do it yourself! Those “grace” preachers had no interest in seeing that married couple straighten out their matter.)

This author is **not** accountable to those men! Those preachers were **bullies**, intimidated by him (a younger man, someone half their age). Despite what they said, they could not have cared less about that married couple using the Scriptures to resolve their

issue. It is nothing but the flesh—and this author was quick to disassociate with those two preachers, break off all contact with them. Such men are as useful to God’s work as denominational pastors. They have no desire other than to pick fights with anyone they can find (including people who are trying to share the Bible). Of course, they advertise themselves as “grace, grace, grace!” We say, “**disgrace, disgrace, disgrace!**”

F. ERROR #6: CURIOSITY SEEKERS AND SOCIAL CLUBS

This author remembers one man who hopped from religious group to religious group. He would attend grace conferences, but only because he wanted to hear an alternative view of Scripture. Then, he would spend the rest of the year at Baptist meetings and Charismatic gatherings. He would argue with Roman Catholics as well. This author dealt with the man firsthand, but finally came to the conclusion the man was willfully ignorant. He was someone interested in comparing religious dogma, not actually seeking to locate and believe the truth. While he did not know sound Bible doctrine, he enjoyed listening to people from a variety of belief systems. We cannot help but wonder how many people in “grace circles” are hanging around just to learn “new material” to add to their collection of religious ideas. They are listening for things they agree with, not necessarily willing to embrace a **consistent** dispensational approach to Scripture.

While a disturbing thought, this author cannot help but wonder how many people are attending grace assemblies and grace conferences just to have a good time. Are we going just to hang out with friends and talk about politics, the weather, sports, and other trivial matters? Are we going there to flaunt our Bible or theological knowledge, or to genuinely **impart** God’s knowledge? Are we going there to eat good physical meals, or to feast on spiritual food? Are we traveling there to merely sing or are they going to study the Bible as well? Are we going to conferences as Bible students, or are we going as mere tourists on vacation?

G. ERROR #7: WILLFUL IGNORANCE

Long ago, this author remembers attending a grace conference. There was a man sitting next to him, and he had been attending services at this local church for some time. Whenever the preacher would give a reference, the man would flip through the entire Bible and never find the verse. Once this author noticed that, he offered to help him locate the verse. The author turned to the verse and gave his Bible back to him. He struggled to find the second verse, and again the author helped him. When a third reference was given, the author offered to help him but he refused. He put the Bible away because he was tired of looking for verses! From there onward, he sat and just listened to the preacher.

“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant” (1 Corinthians 14:37-38). Surprising as it sounds, many a souls in the Grace Movement—as with souls in denominational circles—are actually

content in their ignorance. They can be warned dozens of times and still wind up down the wayward path. You can beseech them not to be stumblingblocks to you and other Christians around them, and they could not care less. **They will do what they want to do! (Let them have their way!)**

H. ERROR #8: FABLES, ENDLESS GENEALOGIES, HERESIES, WILD SPECULATIONS, AND OTHER NONSENSE

Several years ago, when this author was still quite a novice in dispensational Bible study, he and his family watched one of their first online grace Bible conferences. How stunned he was when one “grace” preacher/speaker opened his message on Hell by relating the following tale or “true story.”

Allegedly, a man undergoing heart surgery actually “died” and went to suffer in Hell for a time. When he awoke from the operation, he told his physicians all about his experience, begging not to be sent back there. The preacher believed this story was an excellent way to begin his message—but not before he relayed another fable. He told his audience that scientists could hear volcanoes emitting sounds. (Being a geologist, this author knows volcanoes are vents to earth’s interior, and shifting molten rock below will cause tremors/earthquakes and ground deformation. This would easily explain such noises.) The preacher, however, claimed those sounds were the cries and moans of souls suffering in Hell! **Amazing! Absolutely shocking to hear such nonsense from a “grace” pulpit!!! But there is more.**

When this author contacted the host preacher about his guest preacher’s heretical sermon, the host preacher downplayed the matter. “Shawn, he did not say people have a second chance once they go to Hell. I talked to him about his sermon afterward.” (But the patient did go to Hell and come back, right? That means he was lost, unsaved! He returned from Hell and said he did not want to go back there! Does that not sound like a second chance to escape Hell?! No one in the Bible goes to suffer in Hell and escapes!) Moreover, that host preacher told this author he could not understand why this author refused to watch anymore of that conference.

This, my friends, occurred at a **grace** church at a **grace** conference. Heresy and apostasy were evident—and that was many years ago!! This author later learned both of the above pastors had other nonsensical ideas not even worth repeating. Again, here are leaders *within* the Grace Movement... they are not *outside* the grace community but are leading it!!

At another “grace” Bible conference long ago, this author spoke with one of the guest preachers. The preacher had introduced a heretical idea into the group, and this author endeavored to assist that brother in correcting his erroneous view. In private, this author warned the preacher that he was teaching heresy. The preacher seemed unconcerned, and was likely embarrassed. He *chuckled*. To him, it was a light-hearted moment, a ridiculous charge. He then **misquoted** a verse to support and sustain his

view. The author did **not** bother speaking anymore. He left that deceived man in his ignorance. Again, **this** preacher is a leader **in** the Grace Movement! (Add to this the fact that many of the “grace” speakers of the conference—at least a half-dozen men—held to that same heretical view and reiterated it in their sermons!)

This author once had a young lady friend in the grace ministry. Despite her background, she waffled in spiritual ignorance. Recognizing the danger, he attempted to help her recover herself from her errors. Alas, she was swept away with wild ideas, especially conspiracy theories, and began encouraging others to follow her down that spiritually-destructive path. Here is yet another tragic example of an ignorant Millennial—and now a corrupter **in** the Grace Movement! She inflicted great damage on herself and others, likely never to be set right again.

It is most regrettable, but some grace preachers and teachers are focusing on all sorts of weird ideas—namely, conspiracy theories, philosophy (human wisdom), and other speculative topics. They waste precious time in the pulpit talking about space aliens, UFOs, claiming the Bible teaches a “flat earth,” and so on. Certain days are reserved for such church sermons too!

Such information is **rubbish**. According to the Bible, it will profit **nothing** in eternity. It all amounts to wood, hay, and stubble—to be burned up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The Corinthians had to be rebuked for this very reason, and Paul could write that to all of Christendom and even a large section of the “grace community” today!

First Corinthians chapter 3: “[10] *According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. [11] For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; [13] Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. [14] If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [15] **If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**”*

Read 2 Timothy 4:3-4: “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*” This is **not** simply **Christians** as generally believed; it is **grace** Christians as well. People **in** the Grace Movement will apostatize, just as those within “Christianity” (denominational circles) will wax worse and worse spiritually. Having once vehemently denounced false doctrine, **even grace people (!)** will become lackadaisical. Doctrinal deviations will no longer bother them. They have become apathetic, and for whatever reason, no longer care if sound Bible doctrine is maintained. Unfortunately, they have fallen into a compromise mode.

I. ERROR #9: STUMBLINGBLOCKS

This author has *not* been in contact with some “grace brethren” for several years—and there is **absolutely no loss** on his part! To no avail, he made every effort to get along with them, but it was spiritually destructive to him to continue being in their midst. Heresies were *not* addressed and carnality was *not* corrected. We have already covered this to a large degree, so we will not linger here for very long.

Since there was persistent sinfulness, the best action to be taken was **separation**. He does *not* regret leaving them in the spiritual filth and folly they preferred. Truth be told, they were hindrances to his Christian growth and life, willing tools of Satan, negative influences on his ministry, and he had to cut off contact with them or run the risk of faltering himself and destroying his own ministry. That is most unfortunate, but that is the way it must be because that is what **they** want.

We have better things to do with our time than try to reform people who have no interest in improving. How we want to submit to the Holy Spirit, and we need to avoid people who will interfere in our achieving that goal. Above all, we serve the God of the Bible, *not* them!

J. ERROR #10: SOCIAL-MEDIA COMMOTION

Without a doubt, social media has been both a blessing and a curse to the Grace Movement. One of the primary examples is the website or platform known as Facebook. Back in mid-2007, this author started his ministry there. At the time, he was a college student and he geared his efforts toward reaching his peers (young adults, late teens into 20s). Eventually, within a few years, Facebook branched out from being exclusively for college students to include anyone and everyone around the world who was interested in joining. Members were no longer required to be in or necessarily associated with university/college networks.

People from all ages all around the globe have since joined Facebook. The influx of the billions-plus new people has introduced additional voices “teaching the Bible” there. Now, people of various ages and innumerable backgrounds are creating, joining, and interacting with others about a wide variety of topics. Among these “groups” are people claiming to be “Christians” but are anything but, and passing themselves off as “dispensational” but are anything but. Practically anyone (pre-teens to centenarians) can post anything (text, videos, pictures) without any approval and they have an audience of hundreds to thousands—even tens of thousands or millions, or even billions—of viewers and readers. This is quite dangerous concerning spiritual matters because not everyone is qualified to teach Scripture. Without the lack of accountability, the Word of God is being greatly twisted—and this would include people claiming to be “grace-oriented.”

At this very moment, there are many millions of people reading and watching all sorts of nonsense being passed off as Bible teaching. (Not only on Facebook, but Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, et cetera, all have similar pitfalls). There are people

passing off denominational teaching as “grace teaching.” The Bible students can spot the error—but the vast majority does **not** have a clue. Very few are skilled enough in the Scriptures to identify false teaching. What a tragic reality that is! “If they talk about the Bible, they must be telling the truth.” “If they talk about the Lord Jesus Christ, the dispensations, the Apostle Paul, the King James Bible, they are telling the truth.” Only naïve people make these assumptions; only babes in the Word believe this to be true.

Rather than having **one** teacher, online groups can have **several** people posting material and then hundreds arguing using their unique denominational doctrines. These endless discussion forums are **nothing but confusion and theatrics**. This author began to recognize this as problematic some years ago. He thus began to remove himself from those groups. When he posted his material in those so-called “Bible” or “dispensational” groups, people would use church traditions to argue with him. When he contacted the “grace” moderators or administrators of those groups, these men thought **nothing** wrong and did **nothing** to remove the troublemakers. Those people were about as interested in learning the Bible dispensationally as a rock! Eventually, this author realized it was a waste of time: he moved away, and never returned.

Recently, a brother in Christ voiced his concern about our sisters in grace becoming so emotional and argumentative on social-media websites. Dearly beloved, we need to exercise great caution here. It does **not** take long for one person’s flesh to stir up everyone else’s flesh in a group or discussion forum. If we cannot stay **civil**, then it is best to stay **silent!** If we cannot stay **civil**, then it is best to stay **silent!** If we cannot stay **civil**, then it is best to stay **silent!** If we cannot stay **civil**, then it is best to stay **silent!** If we cannot stay **civil**, then it is best to stay **silent!** If we cannot stay **civil**, then it is best to stay **silent!** If we cannot stay **civil**, then it is best to stay **silent!** If we cannot stay **civil**, then it is best to stay **silent!** If we cannot stay **civil**, then it is best to stay **silent!** If we cannot stay **civil**, then it is best to stay **silent!** (Has this been written enough?)

As noted earlier, years ago, this author knew a man who would attend grace conferences—and Baptist ones, and Pentecostal ones. While he did not know sound Bible doctrine, he enjoyed listening to people from a variety of belief systems. It is fearful to think, but this may very well describe most people on social media in their “dispensational” and “grace” groups! We can see why they appear to be grace-oriented but then go off onto tangential topics most bizarre. Now we understand why they are “grace group” members but then constantly debate and deny Bible verses. They are curiosity seekers, investigating “interesting” dispensational Bible study, but really have no desire to believe what they have uncovered. Who among these groups is passing along information just to argue? We can only wonder!

III. THE REMEDY

Here, dear friends, is the most important part of the study. All that awful news had to be delivered. ***In order to fix a problem, we have know exactly what is the problem.*** With the difficulties now exhaustively and conclusively defined, we can proceed

to remedying them, making them right. (That is, we will correct them—*but only if we want to!*)

A. CORRECTION #1: SEPARATE FROM SIN AND THE WORLD!

“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Colossians 4:5-6).

This author has been part of the grace community for nearly 13 years now. He can look back over that decade-plus with a renewed mind and see what spiritual madness he was leaving (denominationalism). However, he can also see the various pitfalls into which he almost fell as he was coming into the right division crowd. Most of the so-called “grace believers” he met in his early days—and now, in recent years—were just as immature in Christ as the denominational brethren from whom he had recently separated. In the words of one lady, “They act silly” (referring to a grace church this author had also attended). He left those groups behind, and you should do the same! Had he adopted their ways and limited insight into the Scriptures, he would not be where he is today and this ministry (and thus you) would have surely absorbed the error as well.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:8-10). No commentary is needed here. These verses are straightforward.

Romans chapter 13 says about victorious Christian living: “[12] *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. [13] Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. [14] But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*” It is sad to say, but as denominationalists do, so many grace people “*make provision for the flesh*” **and they do it without any public shame**. For a saint to sin *in private* is one matter, but for that saint to transgress **for all to see** and then think nothing evil about it, that is ineffably awkward and immensely disastrous on so many levels.

As Paul prayed for the Philippians in chapter 1, so the Holy Spirit prays for us today as other members of the Church the Body of Christ: “[9] *And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; [10] That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; [11] Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.*” Nothing needs to be explained here. It is straightforward.

We should be reverential and upright in our Christian walk, as described in Philippians chapter 2: “[12] *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my*

presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. [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; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”

Second Timothy chapter 2 says of grace and modesty (especially for women, but also for men): “[8] *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. [9] In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; [10] But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*” Grace women need to be particularly careful here, because this author can testify to the fact that some of them are more interested in flaunting themselves than actually reflecting God’s grace. They have a public reputation for indecency instead of good works. This should ***not*** be. They should have more spiritual sense here than denominational women with their dress code!

Again, it does ***not*** make sense for saints to sin, but we can be quite flagrant about it. Those in the Grace Movement should be ***the very last people*** on Earth to advertise their faults—placing on social media indecent photos and vulgar videos. There is no shame, and likely not even any awareness of it anyway. They broadcast the fact that they are blending in with the world. No, brethren, this should ***not*** be!

While our grace brethren have separated themselves from the religious system—and announce it loudly and clearly (“We are ***not*** religious, we are ***the least*** religious people there are!”)—they are usually still largely joined to the world in another sense. They know grace but do ***not*** think like grace. They know grace but they do ***not*** practice grace. Instead of going inclining toward the “ascetic” end of the spectrum of the flesh (strict, religious living), they fall toward the “lascivious” end of the flesh (loose, wild living). God the Holy Spirit wants ***neither*** our “good” nor our “bad” deeds. Instead, He desires ***the life of Christ*** being exhibited in and through us. Our performance (strictness or looseness) is ***not*** the issue; ***Christ’s*** works are the issue.

If this author’s Christian life depended on these “stumblingblock brethren” within the Grace Movement, it would have been destroyed numerous times over by now. Mankind will ***indeed*** disappoint us. ***Never*** have unrealistic expectations of anyone—preacher, priest, pope, evangelist, best-selling author, theologian, Bible teacher, celebrity, or even this author! The flesh is weak, whether in a saved person or a lost person. We need to keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. However, someone once said, “We can be garbage-can Christians if we want to be!” Indeed, a good many “grace” Christians have joined the ***denominational*** Christians in this regard, thus ***also*** dishonoring the name of Jesus Christ, ***also*** watering down the gift of God’s grace, ***also*** refuting the system of dispensational Bible study, and ***also*** discrediting the apostleship of Paul.

Long ago, a brother in Christ (now in Heaven) lamented: “I went into the *world* and found the *church*; I went into the *church* and found the *world*!” In light of what has been discussed in this study thus far, we are able to offer a more sobering observation: “I went into the *world* and found the *grace church*; I went into the *grace church* and found the *world*!” It is true: the flesh is oftentimes unbridled even among *grace* people, to the point where they appear to be *lost* people. Again, dear brethren, is it any wonder why our opponents complain, “You Pauline people use grace as a license to sin?!” This is harsh, but it must be mentioned because our critics are not usually throwing out *baseless* accusations here. Those grievances, sad to say, often have some foundation. While it is and can be said of certain unfortunate souls within the Grace Movement, may we be vigilant with the sound Bible doctrine so it **may never** be true of us.

Christ died to free us from our sins... **whether or not “Christians” act like it.** Similarly, the grace message is true... **whether or not “grace people” act like it.** We must look past the hypocrisy and immaturity. Our faith is not built upon people, **especially grace preachers and grace teachers.** They are fallible men, *never* to be seen or worshipped as gods. **None** of them are exempt—**none** of us are excluded—from the possibility of heresy or apostasy. Again, 1 Corinthians 10:12: “*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*” Now, let us be clear once more. We are not talking about being sinless. What we **are** talking about is a steady maturation in sound Bible doctrine. This is greatly lacking among the majority of grace assemblies and grace people this author has come into contact with over the last decade.

This author has been a saved man for almost 25 years now, but if he were lost, the above conditions would drive him as far away from Jesus Christ as he could possibly go. He would have **no** interest in entertaining the nonsensical ideas they embrace and behaving foolishly as they do. He has not been a denominational person in nearly a decade, but if he were, these carnal grace believers would be the very reason why he would **remain** in his former denomination. Their “grace” system has produced a life that he can do without, and it has resulted in a mindset that he does not envy. In fact, there was more exemplary behavior in the denominationalists he saw than in many of the “grace” people he saw.

We are reminded of the Holy Spirit’s mourning in 1 Corinthians chapter 3: “[1] *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. [2] I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. [3] For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*” This could be easily written to far too many “grace” groups and people.

My dear brethren, we need personal or individual accountability here. Unless we admit our faults, we do **not** have any hope in rectifying them. Pretending like nothing is wrong, diminishing the severity of the carnality and looseness of many members within the Grace Movement, will do more harm than good. Blaming this author of being “too critical,” being “self-righteous,” being “legalistic,” will **not** wish away the problems besetting the grace community and the doctrine it allegedly believes. We **must** swallow

our pride and acknowledge our errors (doctrinal and practical, what we believe and how we behave). The grace of God is **not** merely something to **believe**; the grace of God is **a life to be lived!**

Titus chapter 2 could not be clearer in this regard: “[11] **For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, [12] Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; [13] Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; [14] Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. [15] These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.**”

Brethren, we must **stop (!)** “sitting on the fence.” Either we believe the principles of grace, or we do not. We need to **quit** going around declaring we believe in grace and then acting like the world. If we do not believe God’s grace is a way of life, and merely something to make others submit to, we need to come out and just say it. We need to **stop** pretending, living and speaking like hypocrites. If we say we are grace-oriented, we need to **act** like we are grace-oriented. Unless we reform, we are no different from the denominational systems around us that we frequently censure and supposedly avoid. People will have no desire to leave their cults and sects and step into the light of God’s grace. How dumb it is for “grace” people to live like the world and then moan, “No one wants to listen to us! They do not like the Bible! They want nothing to do with Jesus Christ! They want religion instead of grace!” (There is **no** mystery here, friends! If someone behaved stupidly and offered this author to join their movement or belief system, he would have that same adverse reaction as well!!)

Carnal believers—even grace believers—must learn the truths of Romans chapters 6–8. Read this excerpt from chapter 6: “[22] *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. [23] For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Alas, the fleshly Christians in the Grace Movement are exactly like Paul in Romans 7:14: “*For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*” They are living in chapter 7 when they should be living in the reality of chapter 8!

See the first 10 verses of Romans chapter 8: “[1] *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. [3] For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: [4] That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

“[5] *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. [6] For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. [7] Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for*

it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. [8] So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. [9] But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. [10] And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”

Now, we turn to Corinthians chapter 10: “[1] Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; [2] And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; [3] And did all eat the same spiritual meat; [4] And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. [5] But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

“[6] Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. [7] Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. [8] Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. [9] Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. [10] Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

“[11] Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. [12] Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. [13] There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. [14] Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.”

The Old Testament Scriptures are a sad commentary on this reversion of Israel. Although they physically escaped Egyptian slavery (sin, Satan, the world), Israel never left Egypt spiritually. They were ungrateful to God for the great deliverance He wrought on their behalf. How they longed to go back to Egypt! The Corinthians are being warned that they are repeating this error—preferring the world and sin instead of God and His grace. Such a rebuke could be written to the professing church today, and members within the grace community as well!

B. CORRECTION #2: HAVE HEARTS OF FAITH AND HUMILITY!

“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:11-12).

The grace saints we have discussed here have knowledge (albeit shallow), but they

lack wisdom and understanding. Firstly, they have an awareness of some sound Bible doctrine, but they do **not** have wisdom or any capacity to apply it to life. Secondly, they do **not** have understanding, an ability to grasp a concept or doctrine to a high enough degree to see how it fits with other ideas (the overall picture). The Spirit of God does **not** work through head knowledge; He works exclusively through **heart faith**. “*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness*” (Romans 10:10a). That means people can know the right doctrine and still be lost. It can also mean Christian people can know the right doctrine and still wind up in the flesh. We should **never** confuse head knowledge with heart faith; otherwise, we will be “**grace** believers” in **doctrine** and **lost** people in **conduct**.

We have to take what we know from the rightly divided Scriptures and apply it to life by faith. This is **not** mental gymnastics but heart faith. This is **not** prideful (**head**) knowledge but beneficial (**heart**) doctrine. It is charity, prudence, and humility! We **must** walk in the light that we have. How will this come about? We must **stop** walking in pride. There are many among us in the Grace Movement that are aware of doctrine but have not applied it to life by faith. This must be corrected now, before we further damage the message of God’s Grace! Brethren, it is quite serious and thus quite urgent!

Philippians chapter 1: “[1] *If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, [2] Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. [3] Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. [4] Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. [5] Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: [6] Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: [7] But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: [8] And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*”

We look at 2 Timothy 2:24-26 once more: “[24] *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, [25] In meekness [not in pride!!!] instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; [26] And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*”

The vast majority of Christians—including grace people—are unaware that we are in a spiritual battle. Bible study and Christian living are nothing more than “fun and games” to them. They have **not** armed themselves with “*the whole armor of God,*” and—if not yet, then eventually—they stumble and fall into Satan’s policy of evil. **God is not to blame. He already warned us, and we ignore His words at our own spiritual peril!!!**

Ephesians chapter 6: “[10] *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. [11] Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. [12] For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against*

principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. [13] Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

“[14] Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; [15] And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; [16] Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. [17] And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: [18] Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; [19] And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, [20] For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

C. CORRECTION #3: CHARITY, NOT SELFISHNESS!

“Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth” (1 Corinthians 8:1b).

We must have charity, ***not*** just knowledge. First Corinthians chapter 13 is actually a rebuke of Christians who were living selfishly. Let us read the whole chapter first:

“[1] Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. [2] And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. [3] And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. [4] Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, [5] Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; [6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; [7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

“[8] Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. [9] For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. [10] But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. [11] When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. [12] For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. [13] And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

This chapter sits in the section of spiritual gifts (see chapters 12 and 14). The Corinthians were abusing spiritual gifts, exercising them to draw attention to themselves. While they had an outward appearance of spirituality, they were participants of a “flesh

parade.” It was “grandstanding,” “showboating,” “impressing,” **nothing more!** Nothing but a fabrication, God saw it as the spiritual circus that it really was. Instead of genuine spirituality, Corinth abounded with artificial “grace.” It was their flesh driving them... although they no doubt were giving “God” the credit as the denominationalists do today! It was **not** the Spirit of God operating there. There were fakers in Corinth, pretending to be servants of the Lord when they were nothing but servants of sin. This is true of most professing Christians and even a good many grace people fall under this category.

Paul thus wrote to the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians chapter 5: “[14] *For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: [15] And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*” Charity is love in action, seeking the other person’s highest good. That was **not** the case of the saints in Corinth. They loved and lived for **self!** Grace teaches us that we “*should not henceforth live unto [ourselves], but unto him which died for [us], and rose again.*” We should love and value the Lord and seek to glorify Him by serving **others (instead of self!)**. As lost people, we loved sin. Now, as saints, we should set sin aside and walk in the Spirit. This principle is most logical, but rarely actually applied by any Christians (denominational or grace).

Romans chapter 12 instructs us: “[9] *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. [10] Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;...*” We shall **not** be hypocritical. Our love for the brethren will be genuine, **not** faked. We shall hate that which is evil—evil actions and evil doctrine. We shall hold fast to that which is good and we shall never let it go. We shall see to it that others are put ahead of ourselves. ***This is Christian living; this is Christ’s very life*** (Philippians 2:3-5).

D. CORRECTION #4: STRIVE NOT!

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

The Holy Spirit knew the local church leaders would especially struggle with pride, so He included these admonitions in this Pastoral Epistle. However, all Christians would do well to guard themselves here!! You have been warned here too, dear friends, so if you ignore this counsel and continue with your pompous attitude, you will have no one to blame but yourselves when you fall. This is said gently, tenderly, and advisedly. **Watch out!**

Ideally, we expect the grace community to be more cohesive and united. However, that is **not** reality. We often very much resemble the denominationalists with all their stupid divisions and arguments. Emotions are running high, and little to no light is

offered. What results is nothing but frustrated people seconds away from tossing out the Scriptures entirely. This author knows how pride so often pervades the grace community. As one grace pastor warned many years ago, “Be careful with dispensational Bible study. Otherwise, you will think you are ‘the big stuff on the block,’ having a massive ego, claiming to have all the answers and above challenge.” (Many years later, this author personally witnessed that dear brother fall into that very trap, nearly pulling him down as well. How quickly and ardently this author attempted to reform that brother—to no avail! This author fervently hopes and intensely prays that sad outcome never happens to **him!**)

Again, if we are to avoid that hideous sin of pride, we listen to and believe Proverbs: “*The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: **pride**, and **arrogancy**, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate*” (8:13). “*When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom*” (11:2). “*Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom*” (13:10). “*In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them*” (14:3). “*Pride goeth before destruction, and an **haughty spirit before a fall***” (16:18). “*A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit*” (29:23).

“*I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord*” (Philippians 4:2). While the precise nature of their disagreement is kept secret, the matter surely involved pride to some degree. It was so distracting to God’s ministry in Philippi that the Holy Spirit through Paul literally named the two Christian sisters and begged them to get along. For the sake of God’s grace, the grace community needs to reform itself. If Jesus Christ and His finished crosswork at Calvary mean anything to us at all, we will do what we can to guard against ridicule as much as possible. That means we will be careful how we represent the Lord and His Word. Church leaders should be particularly mindful of this.

If it is not the right doctrine communicated with the right spirit, it will be nothing but wood, hay, and stubble at the Judgment Seat of Christ. As concerning the “contentious brethren” in the Grace Movement, those who labor to fight and anger people with the truth everywhere, are just as ungodly as those teaching false doctrine. It is **not** sound Bible doctrine working in **any** of them—only the world, the flesh, and the Devil!

First Corinthians chapter 3: “[9] *For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building. [10] According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. [11] For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; [13] Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. [14] If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [15] If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*”

Colossians 3:23-25: “[23] *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; [24] Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. [25] But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.*” Second Corinthians 5:9-10: “[9] *Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. [10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*”

Gold, silver, and precious stones are what we seek to have at the Judgment Seat of Christ. **Only** that doctrine and service which the Lord approves will be accepted of Him. It will be the right doctrine operating in the heart of faith, lives and ministries built on that. It will **not** be the flesh, the world, the Devil, the pleasing of fellow men (denominational or “grace”), the mental gymnastics of theologians, head knowledge, church tradition, hunches, speculations, philosophies, and so on. Such is **worthless**—wood, hay, and stubble.

E. CORRECTION #5: HOLD LEADERS RESPONSIBLE!

*“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; **and avoid them.** For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple”* (Romans 16:17-18).

Dear brethren, we have to be more cautious concerning whose ministries we sit under—and this includes people who identify as “grace” believers. If these men and women have been warned, and they continue to behave contrary to God’s requirements for Christian leaders, they need to be **promptly removed** from their leadership positions. The congregations need to reevaluate where these individuals are leading them, even in the name of so-called “grace,” and deal with them. We handle this in Christian love, absolutely, but we **must** handle it. That is our God-given task. We hold leaders to a higher standard, and grace church leaders should be the purest people we know. No, we are **not** looking for **perfect** people. We are looking for **pure** people. The **Lord’s** ministry is on the line!!!

Listen to what 1 Timothy chapter 3 says about the “*bishop*” (pastor): “[1] *This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. [2] A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; [3] Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; [4] One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; [5] (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) [6] Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. [7] Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*” As we have seen in earlier pages, some local “grace” churches would be **without a pastor** if

they actually followed the qualifications listed here!

Not only are there denominational churches ignoring Titus chapter 2, some “grace” churches are not obeying these verses either: “[1] *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: [2] That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. [3] The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; [4] That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, [5] To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. [6] Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. [7] In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, [8] Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.*” In fact, verse 8 is **often** the case—evil things **can** be said of the “grace” community like it can be said of the denominational community!

We must “*mark*” the immature brethren who refuse to reform, and ***not*** give them a public platform to speak. They should ***not*** be allowed to teach Sunday school. They should ***not*** be permitted to preach at our conferences. We should **stop** sharing their social media posts (videos, written studies, audio sermons, et cetera). We need to **quit** distributing their books, tracts, and all their printed literature. According to 1 Timothy 5:22, we had better be careful who we ordain in our churches and conferences: “*Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.*” They must be shown that the Body of Christ will ***not*** tolerate perversion—even if it masquerades itself as “grace.” We need to deal with corruption in the grace community before the denominationalists do it for us (and then we ***all*** are discredited)!

If the fleshly church leaders refuse to vacate their pulpit or teaching position, and no one in authority at that place will take a stand for the truth and remove them, then you, brethren, **must leave the assembly and never return. That goes for any and all “grace” assemblies!** If you stay, your Christian life will ***not*** survive. Your doctrinal integrity will be lost if you keep associating with that crowd! If they want to ruin their testimony—whatever they have left—and if they want to destroy the edification process—whatever they have left—then they may very well go on their way. We will ***not*** stop them. We will ***not*** join them either!

F. CORRECTION #6: CAST OFF CHILDISH PLEASURES!

“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22).

The Corinthians had the Word of God: they possessed the very mind of God in the form of Bible manuscripts (1 Corinthians 2:16). Yet, they were completely unequipped to handle the simplest of life’s issues. Why? They had not bothered to **believe** that Divine revelation so God the Holy Spirit could work in them. What a real pity! They were too busy focusing on fleshly motives and activities that they could ***not*** submit to God the Holy

Spirit working in and through them. First Corinthians chapter 6: “[2] Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? [3] Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?... [5] I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren?”

This spiritual impotence is not only true of Christendom as a whole—with all its tens of thousands of denominations and sects—but also of many members of the “grace” community! They sit in a judgment seat condemning religionists and yet they are on the same childish level doctrinally and practically! They struggle to make even the most basic decisions in life and ministry. Oftentimes, they are as skilled to do God’s work as denominationalists. Verses 19-20: “[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.”

Brethren, our primary goal in attending grace conferences is ***not*** to “go on vacation,” be entertained, eat delicious food, or engage in idle chitchat with old friends. While there is nothing wrong with any of these activities, they are ***not*** priorities in God’s work. If we place emphases on these, we make ourselves no different from the shallow, foolish denominationalists we claim we are ***not***. **Learning the Holy Bible rightly divided should be our chief interest in attending grace conferences.** Mature Christians look beyond temporary, worldly pleasures, and see great value in Bible study. Music is important, but singing is ***not*** to be preeminent at grace Bible conferences. Eating physical food is necessary, but that is ***not*** our main interest there. The same can be said with meeting friends. **Grow up!**

G. CORRECTION #7: BE NOT LUKEWARM OR APATHETIC!

“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;...” (Ephesians 5:14-18).

If we have **no** interest in believing and teaching sound Bible doctrine, we need to come and just declare our heart’s attitude. We have people paying “lip service” to grace teaching, preaching long and hard about it, and yet they do ***not*** practice it in their lives. They encourage us to fight against false teaching, but they themselves refuse to do it because it will cost them their position (popularity, for example). It is **better** for them to announce, “I do not believe in grace!” This way, at least no one attaches God’s grace to their fleshliness, confusing the Lord’s work with their flesh’s work.

Rather than people being thankful for our ministry, grateful for the help we have given them in understanding the message of grace, they have accused this author of being

a “know-it-all.” They can sing about “grace,” attend Bible conferences that are supposedly “grace-themed,” but they unapologetically mistreat their fellow grace brethren in Christ. They do **not** make it a habit to practice grace. They are **not** charitable. To them, “grace” is an abstract concept that they want others to learn rather than a way of living for them and everyone else. In fact, this author actually regrets meeting some “grace brethren.” They are **not** what they appeared to be, and they served as a major stumblingblock before him. This is most unfortunate, but it has to be said.

This author has met people his age (in their 20s or 30s) who have grown up in the Grace Movement. They have spent their entire lives (or almost) attending local grace churches and conferences. This author, by contrast, has spent roughly one-half of his life in grace teaching. Sometime back, he was surprised to meet these people and learn they were **not** as enthusiastic about the doctrine as he was. To them, it seemed like “just another religious or theological system.” In other words, we can grow so accustomed to grace teaching that it loses its profoundness with time. **We have to guard against this, brethren. We must guard against this, brethren!**

H. CORRECTION #8: SEPARATE FROM DENOMINATIONAL ERROR!

“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen” (1 Timothy 6:20-21).

Indeed, doctrinal chaos and confusion are **not** limited to denominational circles. As we have seen, they have crept into Grace Movement. The pastors and teachers who should have prevented it have oftentimes been the very catalysts to introduce it. Sadly, they have not “kept” (guarded) the doctrine as God the Holy Spirit instructs us. Brethren, we **must** be willing to let go of our denominational baggage. We **cannot** spiritually afford to keep the garbage teaching that we acquired before we came to grace teaching. There **must** be a **continual** purging of our minds—and that **only** comes by taking in more sound Bible doctrine. We should **not** be halting the process by hanging on to error. There are grace people—and this author who has met them—who refuse to give up “grace traditions.” They have their own denominational biases **within** the Grace Movement—and then they carp about people who blindly follow religious tradition!

Romans 16:17-18 tells us exactly what we are to do with people who are teaching false doctrine—even if they are professing “grace” people! “[17] Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; **and [!] avoid [!] them [!]**. [18] For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” We should **avoid** all types of denominational teaching, including whatever religious traditions are kept **within** the Grace Movement. If it is not the pure Gospel of Grace (1 Corinthians 15:3-4), **leave it**. If it is a combining of Peter’s ministry with Paul’s ministry, if it is legalism mixed with grace, if it is Israel and the Body of Christ confused,

if it is prophecy and mystery together, **leave it! Leave it! Leave it! Leave it! Leave it!**

Second Corinthians chapter 6: “[14] *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? [16] And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [17] Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, [18] And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*”

We now consider 1 Timothy 6:3-5: “[3] *If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; [4] He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, [5] Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: **from [!] such [!] withdraw [!] thyself [!].***”

The “*wholesome words*” are not only the verses that teach Paul’s special apostleship. They are **also** the specific doctrines that Paul teaches with apostolic authority. Emphasizing Paul’s apostleship is of no avail if we do not listen to what Paul says about **Christian conduct**—how we should treat our brethren in Christ, how we are to contend for the faith without being contentious, how we should be meek and **not** proud, how we are to defend sound Bible doctrine and **not** compromise with any false teachers (including professing “grace” people!).

Second Timothy chapter 3: “[1] *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. [2] For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [3] Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, [4] Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; [5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from [!] such [!] turn [!] away [!].***” Not only is the world better conforming to the pitiful conditions of this passage, the denominational churches and more grace churches are becoming increasingly aligned with them as well. The backstabbing, pride, lack of self-control, lies, worldly pleasures, and so on, can be found far and wide even in the grace community.

Second Thessalonians chapter 3: “[6] *Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that ye withdraw [!] yourselves [!] from [!] every [!] brother [!] that [!] walketh [!] disorderly [!], and [!] not [!] after [!] the [!] tradition [!] which [!] he [!] received [!] of [!] us [!].** [7] *For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; [8] Neither did we eat any man’s bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: [9] Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.*”*

I. CORRECTION #9: CEASE BEING STUMBLINGBLOCKS!

“Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way” (Romans 14:13).

We looked at this Bible text earlier, but we will re-read it. The Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul penned in Corinthians chapter 8: *“[9] But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. [10] For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol’s temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; [11] And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? [12] But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. [13] Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”*

Paul was a model Christian, a mature brother in Christ. Whether concerning eating meat offered to idols, or any other activity in life, he limited his freedoms in order **not** to cause a weaker Christian to stumble in sin (verse 13). He was under grace, and yet he selflessly restricted his behavior because he had his weaker brethren in mind. **Brethren, how much better off we the grace community would be if we followed this simple guideline and thus avoided selfish living!! May we never say, or may we stop saying, “I am under grace so I can live however I want!”**

J. CORRECTION #10: SOCIAL-MEDIA CAUTION!

“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant” (1 Corinthians 14:37-38).

Long ago, this author read an online post that a pastor friend had written. The man—who did not go into much detail—was greatly exasperated and was withdrawing from social media for a few weeks. He had “debated” to such a degree that he now had to put distance between himself and internet acquaintances. This author contacted him, after having previously cautioned him concerning earlier “squabbles.” At last, the pastor confessed, “You warned me to stay away from that particular man, and how right you were! He does not want to hear the truth after all!” All that drama could have been avoided had that pastor friend simply *“let him be ignorant”* (1 Corinthians 14:38)!

How sad it is that grace people are getting so engrossed with social media that they are driven away from the websites entirely, while the false teachers remain and continue to spread their nonsense! Brethren, we are certainly encouraged to teach sound Bible doctrine, but we must part company with the fools. Furthermore, rather than we leaving social media, we need to “un-friend” or “block” people so they can no longer distract us. If they have made it clear they do not want to hear, then we need to leave them alone. We should remain online, however, and continue with our posts so others can be reached with the truth.

One fact we need to recognize and always remember about Facebook groups is that friends can add friends to those groups without their knowledge or permission. This would explain why people in those groups argue. They had no intention in joining, but once someone added them, they began receiving notifications about new posts (texts, videos, pictures). Now we see why they were not as receptive as we first assumed. Someone added them in hopes of correcting them—exposing them to discussions—but they were **not** ready to hear the truth. They fight against it instead! We need to identify these individuals and leave them **alone**. They will distract and waste our time.

IV. CONCLUSION

This author is **not** the first to call attention to these matters, and he will surely **not** be the last. Many, no doubt, have witnessed in the Grace Movement the very things just painstakingly outlined. Some have actually **left** the Grace Movement entirely—or are soon to do so—because of these very issues. (This author almost did many years back!) In fact, they may have thrown away the Bible completely. “Angry with God,” they no longer have interest in attending any church anywhere at any time. Who is most responsible are the **leaders** in the Grace Movement who did not do enough to keep their assemblies doctrinally pure and functionally alive!!

Dear brethren and friends, this treatise was written with a **broken** heart (an understatement). To be sure, what we discussed here is **not** a pleasant subject to write about or even read about. Regardless, it **had** to be written. For a whole year, this author prayerfully and carefully thought about how to address this topic with as tactfully as possible, while also bearing in mind the fact that it is eternally advantageous to tell brethren the truth and offend them, than to give them a lie and receive their favor. We strive not to have “*the praise of men*,” but “*the praise of God*” (cf. John 12:43)!!

The Apostle Paul had to write a stinging epistle to Corinth concerning their numerous problems—and one was how they ignored an erring brother in Christ. Second Corinthians 7:12 says, “*Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.*” Paul was **not** endeavoring to assassinate someone’s character. He cared greatly for the saints in Corinth. This author has written this study in the same spirit. It is written in love, that his grace brethren in Christ turn their lives and ministries around. While some have done **irreparable** damage to their testimonies, it is **not** too late for others. We can still salvage what is left of the Grace Movement and ensure that godly doctrine and behavior continue for the future generations. Make the doctrine “*adorned*” **not** scorned (Titus 2:10)!!

“*Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind*” (2 Timothy 1:6-7). Many years earlier, Paul had ordained that young man Timothy into the grace ministry. Now, the evil world system

has “beaten down” Timothy. He is so discouraged, intimidated into silence. No longer preaching sound doctrine, he cowers in fear. The Holy Spirit speaks to Timothy through Paul’s farewell epistle: “Timothy, Paul is going away, leaving Earth. Nevertheless, be strong! Remember that intense fire that once burned in you when you first came into the ministry? It is now a few glowing embers flickering intermittently! Wake up, Timothy! Wake up! Get that fire going again, let it rage and burn like never before!” That would be the Holy Spirit’s very words to us right now, as the professing church waxes worse and worse, and the grace community flounders and slides as well. *“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity”* (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

Saints, we had better be in **fervent** prayer for our brethren in the Grace Movement, as well as pray for ourselves (lest we also become slothful and begin to join them in their slumber). These disobedient souls may be our brothers and sisters in Christ, and we love them as Christ loves them in and through us, but that does **not** mean that we have to associate with them. If they are corrupt in doctrine and/or conduct, they will negatively influence us. That is made abundantly clear in Galatians 5:7-9 and 1 Corinthians 5:1-13. *“Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?”* If we are ignorant in this regard, our Christian testimony will pay **dearly!**

Grace teaching is **still** the answer to the world’s problems, and the church’s problems. If we are loose in our doctrine and/or lax in our conduct, we will participate in the very apostasy predicted in 1 Timothy 4:1-4 and 2 Timothy 4:1-4! Some in the grace community have already done this. We should pray for the grace brethren who are stuck in their spiritual ruts. However, this author has learned firsthand some of them are **quite content** where they are. They could hear a dozen rebukes and still go on their merry way in their doctrinal error and practical iniquity. They are **not** taking their Christian lives seriously. They are poor reflections of God’s grace, they know it, but they could **not** care less. No wonder nobody wants to listen to them! If we are not careful, we surely will wind up in that same predicament!

Rest assured, this study was **not** intended to publicly shame anybody, as all identities were concealed. God forbid! Here is the author’s **final** attempt to show any and all wayward grace brethren how to **recover themselves** out of the snare of the Devil. This work is to call to their attention the information of which they are ignorant—hopefully it is unintentional ignorance and **not** willful! We hope and pray it is **not** deliberate! It is this author’s job as a Bible teacher to make people aware of God’s truth and Satan’s devices, and he is bound to fulfill that task here.

Again, some in our midst are a poor reflection of God’s grace, and that is just all there is to it. We should **not** soften it, deny it, or ignore it. It has to be addressed now, or it will wax worse and worse, and hasten more and more apostasy. We **cannot** take this lightly. There **must** be faith and repentance (change in mind). We have to **stop** thinking lost people so we can **stop** acting like lost people. If the grace community does **not** get its act together and start thinking and behaving decently, we are going to further solidify Satan’s influence in the world.

Friends, you were undoubtedly surprised to learn that the greatest threat facing the Grace Movement is ***not*** denominationalists and it is ***not*** Satan. **We ourselves** threaten the very movement of which we are a part. The self-destruction of the grace community simply hastens the evil world system that will ultimately lead to the Antichrist. Without grace teaching and grace living, this world will become an even darker place. As the Dispensation of Grace continues running its course, racing to its conclusion, the world is preparing for the Antichrist and his lies. What are we doing? Are we encouraging people to come into God's grace, or are we repelling them with our hypocrisy and nonsense?

Christian people often say, "Oh, look at how terrible the world is! So many people believe so many lies and behave most foolishly! They are lost and going to Hell! They need to come to Christ!" It is sad to say it, but **Christians** overwhelmingly need reformation themselves. While it is most regrettable, a large part of the grace community could use a good doctrinal and practical purging. They know better than lost people and denomination people to some extent—but still have little godly character and righteous living to show for it.

Our Christian life **cannot** operate on the basis of ***ignorance***. It **cannot** operate on the basis of ***foolishness*** either. Also, it **cannot** operate on the basis of ***superficiality***. **None** of us are perfect, but we as Christians should be maturing. Our lives should be better off now than when we first trusted Christ. (Are they? For most, that is ***not*** the case.) Our Bible comprehension should be greater now than it was when we first heard the Gospel. (Is it? If we are like the majority, our answer is in the negative here as well.) Denominational people are overwhelmingly the same or worse, since they lack the sound Bible doctrine needed to have victorious living and have Bible understanding. Unfortunately, as we saw in this study, we can lump a frightening number of "grace believers" in with them. They have the right doctrine, but have ***not*** exercised heart faith. It is intellectualism, head knowledge, but **nothing** applied to life by faith in the heart (wisdom).

To some degree, these wayward grace brethren know what their problem is. We cannot read their individual hearts—only the Lord can—but we undoubtedly touched on their issue somewhere in these pages. They should take the sound Bible doctrine just outlined and evaluate themselves, and then use it to correct their thinking (repentance) so they can reform their behavior. If they truly love and want to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, they will give attendance to these guidelines. They will love His Word and obey His Word, in order to be a better reflection of God's grace. Again, just to be clear, we are ***not*** looking for sinlessness. We are looking for ***exemplary Christian behavior in the Grace Movement***. We should be lights in this dark world. It really is that simple, brethren; it really is that simple, friends. Sin makes it ever so complicated but how easy it is to grasp if we sincerely want to get it!

Just as all professing "Christians" are not genuine Christians, all professing "grace believers" are ***not genuine*** grace believers. That is harsh, but it must be said. Our

goal in this study was **not** to judge who is saved and who is lost, who is walking with the Lord and who is not. However, *“the spiritual man judgeth all things”* (1 Corinthians 2:15), and the Lord has **already** determined (and we can study His Word to discover) what behavior is acceptable and what doctrine is correct. That which does **not** match His standards is unacceptable and incorrect, Satan’s policy of evil. Whomever they are, saved or lost, the defiant people described in this dissertation are **bad** influences to say the least. Their doctrine is **not** Christian. It is **evil**. Their behavior is **not** Christian. It is **evil**. If we continue associating with them, we **will** adopt their mindset and their ways. **Be careful!!!!**

Listen to the advice of 1 Corinthians 15:33-34: *“[33] Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. [34] Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”* The operative expression is *“for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.”* Some of the Corinthians saints learned this “the hard way.” They did **not** have God’s mind like they should have, so they were woefully ignorant of what was really going on in their midst. That could be written to the professing church as a whole—as well as a large part of the grace community! We **should** take this seriously, brethren. We **must** take this seriously!

Galatians 6:1-2 instructs us: *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”* **This author, on the authority of these Scriptures, fervently urges any and all of his wayward grace brethren to correct their erroneous thinking and reform their reckless behavior before more damage is done to their individual testimony and our corporate testimony.** We have no one to blame but ourselves when people protest, “Grace is a license to sin! I do not want to be a Christian, because Christians trust Jesus and then continue living worse than I do and I am not even a Christian! My legalistic church causes me to be more ‘Christ-like’ in my behavior than you ‘grace people!’”

Denominationalists are often hypocrites. However, it has become apparent in recent years that a large part of our grace community abounds with hypocrites as well. We cannot look down upon denominationalists because there are people **in our midst** who are equally foolish in doctrine and behavior. It is a chronic problem that has been around for decades, so it will not disappear overnight. Yet, we can improve it over time if we will listen to the Holy Spirit’s words quoted in this treatise.

The unruly “grace” individuals mentioned have associated with worldly people and they themselves are thus worldly. They are carnal (fleshly) and not spiritual: they are **not** filled with the Spirit of God. They need to listen to Ephesians chapter 5: *“[14] Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. [15] See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, [16] Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. [17] Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”*

Doctrinal perverts, departures from grace teaching (apostasies), and wolves in sheep's clothing **within** grace circles, these are to be expected. They existed back in New Testament times—even as the Apostle Paul was in his dying moments!

“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme” (1 Timothy 1:18-20).

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us. This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes” (2 Timothy 1:13-15).

Demas had once been a valuable ministry coworker—a “fellowlabourer”—of Paul (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24). The last commentary on Demas came when Paul was awaiting execution. *“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia”* (2 Timothy 4:10). Unfortunately, there are many such “Demases” today—and, yes, they too were once mighty vessels of the Lord **within the Grace Movement**. Now, they are worldly, engaged in outlandish doctrine and sinful behavior, following Satan with such glee and without apology. Some remain in the Grace Movement and continue to damage it internally. May this **never** be true of us, dear friends.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils” (1 Timothy 4:1). In order to “depart from the faith,” they had to first be **IN** “the faith.” This is **not** only applicable to **apostate denominational Christians**, it is characteristic of **defecting grace believers** too.

We would do well to notice Paul's farewell advice to the Ephesian church leaders in Acts chapter 20: “[29] For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. [30] Also [!] of [!] your [!] own [!] selves [!] shall [!] men [!] arise [!], speaking [!] perverse [!] things [!], to [!] draw [!] away [!] disciples [!] after [!] them [!]. [31] Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. [32] And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” No doubt, there are false teachers **outside** the Grace Movement. There are plenty **inside** the Grace Movement as well. This author has met them personally, attempted to reason with them, to no avail. We had better follow verse 32: “the word of [God's] grace” is the only set of information that will guard us against these Bible corrupters!

Doubtless, God's Word as quoted in this work convicted and offended. Concerning a great many readers, this will be written off as nothing but a “rambling, divisive,

legalistic diatribe or rant from the pen of a self-righteous author.” The content of this work will **not** be addressed, and the carnality described in this work will not be reformed. Having **no** eyes to see, **no** ears to hear, and **no** hearts to believe, they (like lost people) will go on their merry way doing what they want to do. May they enjoy that life they have chosen! We remember: *“If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. **But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant**”* (1 Corinthians 14:37-38).

For the brethren who have “heard” the alarms here, and actually love the Lord and His Word, who are familiar with the worldliness in the grace community and have been discouraged by it, they will give the verses provided in this work careful and prayerful consideration. They will guard themselves against the workings of Satan their adversary, separating from whatever doctrines and individuals that disagree with the Word of God’s grace to us in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dearly beloved, in case you have not noticed, spiritual winter is nearly upon us here in America. After decades of prevailing Christian voices in society, the United States is already reaping the bitter and rotten harvest of apostasy. Anti-Bible culture is increasingly dominating, gaining more momentum these recent years, and the floundering of the Body of Christ can no longer be hidden. For decades, vain denominationalism was passed off as true Christianity. Now, people whose lives were based on such “Christianity” are faltering. There is no power of God to withstand the cultural revolution because there is no pure Word of God in those souls to withstand that revolution. It happened in ancient Israel 600 years before Christ, as found in Jeremiah 23:1: *“Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scattered the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.”*

Parents of each successive generation have become more and more slack in educating their own children as to basic morals and ethics. New generations of biblically-ignorant Americans have already reached adulthood and are gradually taking over leadership positions within our nation. Whereas the Baby Boomers (born 1946–1964) grew up with some Scripture, Generation X (born 1965–1976) grew up with even less, the Millennials (born 1977–1995) grew up with far less, and Generation Z (born 1996–present) know practically nothing about the Bible. The nation and society in which this author’s parents grew up (the Baby Boomers) are gone forever. An entire new society is here, and over the course of the next 50 years (if the Lord so chooses to tarry), it will become rapidly paganized. It is true that America is the world’s leading “Christian” nation, so once America reaches that bottom, we cannot fathom to see where the world will be by the time this author’s generation passes off the scene (circa 2060s, 2070s, and 2080s).

Amidst it all is the Grace Movement, slipping gradually as well... right as you read this study. Certainly, the Grace Message will exist for as long as the Dispensation of Grace lasts. No matter how grim the conditions are, it is this author’s **firm** belief that the Grace Message could potentially endure for another 2,000 years if necessary. **Never, ever** is God’s Word in danger of being lost. What is in jeopardy is our corporate testimony, the

Grace Movement's witness of sound Bible teaching and good works. Apart from that testimony, we have no demonstrable proof that: (1) grace is preferable to law, (2) what we believe is true, and (3) the Bible can be understood and enjoyed. Brethren, if we lose that testimony because of rampant doctrinal error and pervasive foolish living, **it will be our own fault**, and we would have **no** right whatsoever to complain, "No one wants to listen to us!"

Our grace brethren in Christ described in this study have **not** guarded their testimony. They are **not** taking their calling seriously. We **must** take grace living and grace ministry seriously. This is **not** a game, dear friends. This is **real** life, and this is eternity. **Eternal** souls are at stake! Can we not seek to bring them to Christ? Is it so difficult for us to be vessels of God that they may see the light of His grace? Wake up! Wake up! Wake up! Our **grace** calling is a **grave** calling. It is **solemn**, it is **weighty**, it is **important**. **It is ETERNITY, dear friends!** Appreciate its significance! This is **God's** ministry! Take it seriously! There is truly **no** greater work than this!

V. APPENDIX: SUPPLEMENTAL VERSES

Again, never do we strive to a **perfect** people—**sinless**—but we do strive to be a **pure** people—**saintly**. Several large passages in the Apostle Paul's epistles deal directly with the problems described in this study, and how victorious Christian living can be achieved. These verses will be presented now, needing no comment (for they simply supplement what has already been written previously). What is important is that these verses **believed** so they can make a difference in our life and correct that which is wrong in our thoughts and deeds.

GALATIANS 5:13-26

"[13] For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. [14] For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. [15] But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. [16] This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. [17] For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. [18] But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

"[19] Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, [21] Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. [22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. [24] And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. [25] If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

[26] Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”

EPHESIANS 3:14-19

“[14] For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15] Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, [16] That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; [17] That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; [19] And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

EPHESIANS 4:12-32

“[12] For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: [13] Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: [14] That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; [15] But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: [16] From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

“[17] This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, [18] Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: [19] Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

“[20] But ye have not so learned Christ; [21] If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: [22] That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; [23] And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; [24] And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

“[25] Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. [26] Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: [27] Neither give place to the devil. [28] Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. [29] Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

“[30] And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. [31] Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking,

be put away from you, with all malice: [32] And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

EPHESIANS 5:1-21

"[1] Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; [2] And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. [3] But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; [4] Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. [5] For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

"[6] Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. [7] Be not ye therefore partakers with them. [8] For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: [9] (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) [10] Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. [11] And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. [12] For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. [13] But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. [14] Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

"[15] See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, [16] Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. [17] Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. [18] And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; [19] Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; [20] Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; [21] Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

"[9] For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; [10] That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; [11] Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; [12] Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: [13] Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: [14] In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:...."

COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

“[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.”

1 THESSALONIANS 1:3-10

“[3] Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; [4] Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. [5] For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. [6] And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost. [7] So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. [8] For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. [9] For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; [10] And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12

“[1] Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. [2] For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

“[3] For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: [4] That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; [5] Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: [6] That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. [7] For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. [8] He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

“[9] But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. [10] And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; [11] And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; [12] That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:4-22

“[4] But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. [5] Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. [6] Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. [7] For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

“[8] But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. [9] For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. [11] Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. [12] And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; [13] And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

“[14] Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. [15] See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. [16] Rejoice evermore. [17] Pray without ceasing. [18] In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. [19] Quench not the Spirit. [20] Despise not prophesyings. [21] Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. [22] Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-16

“[1] Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; [2] Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; [3] Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. [4] For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: [5] For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

“[6] If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. [7] But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. [8] For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. [9] This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation. [10] For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

“[11] These things command and teach. [12] Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. [13] Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. [14] Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. [15] Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. [16] Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:14-26

“[14] Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. [15] Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. [16] But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. [17] And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; [18] Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

“[19] Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. [20] But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. [21] If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work. [22] Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. [23] But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

“[24] And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, [25] In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; [26] And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

What is the greatest threat facing the Grace Movement?

A *more appropriate and revealing* question is,
“**Who** is the greatest threat facing the Grace Movement?”

The answer:

**WE OURSELVES,
BELOVED!**

Hence, we had better heed the counsel in these verses!

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Colossians 2:6-8).

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”
(1 Corinthians 15:58).*

“Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory” (1 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 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” (2 Timothy 3:15-16).

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth” (2 Corinthians 13:8).

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).

Also see:

» What is “Acts 9/28 Hybrid Theology?”

<http://forwhatsaiththescriptures.org/2015/10/25/acts-9-28-hybrid-theology/>

» What are some tips for faster spiritual growth?

<http://forwhatsaiththescriptures.org/2019/12/13/faster-spiritual-growth/>

» Is it normal for me to be “too busy” for daily Bible reading?

<http://forwhatsaiththescriptures.org/2019/02/25/too-busy-for-daily-bible-reading/>

» What is the difference between apostasy and heresy?

<http://forwhatsaiththescriptures.org/2019/05/28/apostasy-heresy/>

» “But what if they read the Bible at my church?”

<http://forwhatsaiththescriptures.org/2018/02/24/they-read-the-bible-at-my-church/>

» Should we hate the denominational people who misled us?

<http://forwhatsaiththescriptures.org/2017/12/08/should-we-hate-denominational-people/>

» Are we merely interested in breaking up churches?

<http://forwhatsaiththescriptures.org/2017/12/13/are-we-merely-interested-in-breaking-up-churches/>

» Must one be a “King James Bible Pauline dispensationalist” to have eternal life?

<http://forwhatsaiththescriptures.org/2017/07/17/king-james-bible-pauline-dispensationalist-to-have-eternal-life/>