

The Truth About Grace

(Notes from the Finis Jennings Dake Annotated Bible)

The Truth About Grace (1 Thessalonians 3:5)

Why would his labor be in vain if there was no possibility of Satan tempting Christians, causing them to fall and be lost? Surely Paul understood the grace of God and its limitations to those who refuse to obey the gospel, for he used the word 110 of the 156 times the Gr. charis (grace) is found in the N.T.

It is true that grace cannot be withheld from man because of demerit, lessened by demerit, or be mixed with the law of works; but this does not prove that there are no conditions men must meet in order to get the benefits of grace. Not one scripture teaches unconditional grace, or that God gives grace to men who disobey the gospel. If so, then God is under obligation to save all, even sinners who disobey if He saves even one (Rom. 2:11). God is under obligation to saints only when they walk in the light and remain true to the gospel (1 Jn. 1:7). He is not under obligation to sinners until they come to full obedience of the gospel. Grace teaches men to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly, righteously, and godly here and now (Tit. 2:11-12). If men do not obey its teaching grace can go no further. Anyone May:

1. Receive grace in vain (2 Cor. 6:1)
2. Frustrate it in his life (Gal. 2:21)
3. Fall from it (Gal. 1:6-8; 5:4)
4. Fail of the grace of God (Heb. 12:15)
5. Turn it into lasciviousness (Jude 4)
6. Sin in spite of it (Rom. 6:1)
7. Continue or discontinue in it (Acts 13:43)
8. Minister it to others (1 Pet. 4:10)
9. Grow or not grow in it (2 Pet. 3:18)
10. Receive or reject it (Jn. 3:16; Rev. 22:17; Heb. 12:15; Jas. 4:6)

30 Things Grace Can Do: It Can

1. Save the world (Gen. 6:8; Eph. 2:8-9)
2. Give one all good things (Ps. 84:11)
3. Bring men to repentance (Zech. 12:10)
4. Impart great blessings (Acts 4:33)
5. Bring salvation (Tit. 2:11-12; Eph. 2)
6. Impart faith (Acts 18:27)
7. Justify (Rom. 3:24-25; Tit. 3:7)
8. Overcome sin (Rom. 5:20)
9. Reign in life if permitted (Rom. 5:21)
10. Make one God's elect (Rom. 11:5-6)
11. Give boldness (Rom. 15:15)
12. Make partaker of Christ (1 Cor. 10:30)
13. Give power (1 Cor. 15:10)
14. Inspire liberality (2 Cor. 8:1-2, 6-9; 9:8)
15. Give endurance (2 Cor. 12:9)
16. Call men to the ministry (Gal. 1:15)
17. Impart riches (Eph. 2:7)
18. Inspire singing (Col. 3:16)
19. Give seasoning to speech (Col. 4:6)
20. Give strength (2 Tim. 2:1)

21. Teach (Tit. 2:11-12)
22. Give aid in suffering (Heb. 2:9)
23. Help in time of need (Heb. 4:16)
24. Give stability (Heb. 13:9)
25. Give life (1 Pet. 3:7)
26. Help render true service (Heb. 12:28)
27. Become abundant (1 Tim. 1:14)
28. Bring hope (2 Th. 2:16)
29. Give ability to preach (Eph. 3:8)
30. Change lives (1 Cor. 15:10)

30 Things Grace Cannot Do: It Cannot

1. Set aside forever all condemnation for future sins (Jn. 5:14; 8:34; Rom. 6:1-23; 8:12-13; Gal. 5:21; 2 Cor. 5:10)
2. Set aside failure of saved men to meet the many conditions of salvation (1 Jn. 1:7; Rom. 6:1-23; 8:1-13; Jas. 5:19-20; Gal. 5:19-21; Col. 1:23; 2:6-7)
3. Cancel free moral agency (Col. 1:23; 1 Jn. 1:7; Rom. 6:16-23; Rev. 22:17)
4. Keep men saved when they sin (Rom. 8:12-13; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21; 6:7-8; Jas. 5:19-20; Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-29; 2 Pet. 2:20-21)
5. Cancel the death penalty when saved men break the law (Rom. 6:16-23; 8:12-13; Heb. 10:26-29; Jas. 5:19-20; Ez. 18:4, 20-24; 33:12-13, 18)
6. Make God a liar who said every man that sins must die (Ez. 18:4; Rom. 6:16-23; 8:12-13; Gal. 5:19-21; 6:7-8; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rev. 21:8)
7. Cancel the law of confession of sins before they are forgiven (1 Jn. 1:7, 9; Rev. 2:5, 16; 3:19; Lk. 13:1-5; Acts 2:38)
8. Forgive future sins, for transgression and confession are necessary before forgiveness (1 Jn. 1:9; Rev. 2:5, 16, 22; 3:19; Lk. 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; Mk. 6:12; Rom. 2:4-6; 2 Cor. 7:10)
9. Cancel responsibility of saved men concerning sin (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; Gal. 5:19-21; 6:7-8; Rom. 14:12)
10. Be responsible should saved men backslide (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rev. 2:5; 3:2; Jas. 5:19-20; Gal. 5:19-21)
11. Free saved men from condemnation for future sins unless confessed (1 Jn. 1:7, 9; Rev. 2:5, 22; 3:2; Jas. 5:19-20)
12. Permit God to forgive unconfessed sin (2 Chr. 7:14; 2 Cor. 7:9-10; 1 Jn. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:25; Rev. 2:5; 3:2)
13. Bind men so that they cannot sin if they choose to do so (Rom. 6:16-23; 8:1-13; 1 Jn. 1:7; Heb. 6:4-9; 10:26-29)
14. Guarantee any man eternal life if he refuses to obey (Jas. 5:19-20; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20; 9:27; Ez. 33:12-20)
15. Force obedience (Rev. 22:17; Jn. 3:16-20; Rom. 6:16-23; 8:1-13; Gal. 1:6-8; 5:4; 6:7-8; 1 Jn. 1:7)
16. Make any man a child of God in the sense Jesus was (Jn. 1:14, 18; 3:16)
17. Force God to continue blessing any man who sins (Ez. 18:4; Rom. 6:16-23; 8:1-13; Gal. 5:19-21; Jas. 5:19-20)
18. Make the sins of the saved different from the sins of the unsaved (Rom. 6:16-23; 8:12-13; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21; Col. 1:5-10; 2 Pet. 2:20-22)
19. Condemn sinners and excuse saints who commit the same sins (Rom. 6:16-23; 8:12-13; 14:10-12; Gal. 5:19-21; 6:7-8; Ez. 18:4, 24-28; 33:12-16; Rev. 2:5, 16, 22; 3:2)
20. Operate in the life of a free moral agent without his consent (Jn. 3:16-20; 7:17; 8:34; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rev. 22:17)

21. Impart eternal life to men who serve sin and Satan (Mt. 6:24; Rom. 6:16-23; 8:1-13; Gal. 5:19-21; 6:7-8; 1 Jn. 3:8)
22. Keep man from moral falls if they willfully sin (Rom. 6:16-23; 8:1-13; Heb. 6:4-9; 10:26-29; Ez. 33:12-20)
23. Force God to go contrary to His own program of grace (Rom. 1:16; 1 Jn. 1:7; Heb. 3:6, 12-14; 10:26-29)
24. Cancel the law of sowing and reaping (Gal. 6:7-8; Rom. 6:16-23; 8:12-13; Ez. 18:4, 24-28; 33:12-16; Rev. 2:5-22)
25. Guarantee unconditional favor to anyone (2 Cor. 6:1; Gal. 1:6-8; 2:21; 5:4; Heb. 12:15; Jas. 5:19-20)
26. Guarantee unforfeitable life without conditions being met (Rom. 6:16-23; 8:12-13; Gal. 5:19-21; 6:7-8; Jas. 5:19-20; Heb. 10:26-29; note d, Jn. 6:27)
27. Guarantee sinlessness to men unless conditions are met (1 Cor. 3:16-17; Rom. 6:16-23; 8:12-13; Gal. 5:16-26; 6:7-8; Heb. 6:1-9; 10:26-29; 12:14-15)
28. Encourage anarchy in God's government (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:16-23; 8:12-13; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21; 6:7-8)
29. Force God to be lenient with rebels (Ez. 18:4; Rom. 6:23; 8:12-13; Gal. 6:7-8)
30. Give any man a pardon that guarantees him salvation and eternal life regardless of how he lives in sin and rebellion (Ex. 32:32-33; Ez. 18:4; 33:10-20; Rom. 6:16-23; 8:12-13; Gal. 5:19-21; 6:7-8)

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