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Under Grace But Not Law?

By Ernest Loomis

Who would ever have thought that the words of the apostle Paul in Romans 6:14 where he said "... ye are not under the law but under grace;" would ever have been used to lull unlearned and unsuspecting hearts into believing that we have no law under Christ, only grace. It is being done by flesh-loving and permissive philosophers of our time in an effort to reject Biblical authority. It doesn't take a highly educated person to understand that where there is no law, there can be no transgression of law, as Paul declared in Romans 4:15; so if it were possible to prove there is no law under Christ; that would also prove that one could not sin or transgress under Christ. Neither does it take a highly educated person to understand that any rule of conduct or principal to be observed, any established regulation, any ordinance or any command to be followed is law and we do have such under Christ.

Study carefully Romans 6:12-18. The law of which Paul spoke in verses 14-15 was the law of Moses and Paul was contrasting that law with the law of grace and truth which John said came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17). Paul emphasizes the fact that one yields to sin, or righteousness, and by doing so has obeyed either the law of sin unto death, or the law of obedience unto righteousness (Romans 6:16-18). To further emphasize the fact that we are under law, Paul wrote the church at Corinth and admonished them to "all speak the same thing", which would of necessity suggest a standard or rule of authority to guide them (1 Corinthians 1:10). He further stated that the Gentiles

were without the law of Moses, but "... not without law to God, but under the law to Christ". (1 Corinthians 9:21). He also said, "...let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing" (Philippians 3:16). We must conclude then that even under grace, there are rules, regulations, law if you please, to guide mankind.

It is understood by every careful Bible student that Christ fulfilled and brought an end to the law of Moses (Matthew 5:17; Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 10:9) It is therefore understood by every careful Bible student that we are not now subject to the law of Moses but to grace and truth; grace being unmerited favor and truth being God's word (John 17:17). Grace then would be God's part and obedience to truth, man's part in the plan of redemption God has provided. Even grace is not without rules to govern conduct for Paul said, "The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world". (Titus 2:11-12). If grace teaches certain rules as Paul said, then grace is not without law. In Acts 20:24, Paul declared that he preached the "gospel of the grace of God"; then in Romans 1:16 he insists that the gospel is God's power to save, and that those who obey not the gospel will be lost (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).

When Paul said in Romans 6:14 "... ye are not under the law, but under grace"; he was not saying that under grace there was no law,

but that they were no longer under the law of Moses. Paul fully agrees with John who said, "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God..." (2 John 9). Be not led astray by the servants of Satan who reject the Bible as the complete, verbally inspired, all sufficient word of God and the only rule of faith and practice. For all who teach such, and those who follow will have their part in the lake of fire. Jesus is the author of salvation to all who **obey Him** (Hebrews 5:8-9). **IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND OBEY.**

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BY FAITH

"By faith" is a prepositional phrase that tells HOW we are justified, (Romans 5:1); live (Romans 1:17); walk, (2 Corinthians 5:7); and stand (2 Corinthians 1:24).

This prepositional phrase is an adverbial modifier which modifies the verbs justified, live, walk and stand in the above passages. If the phrase is exclusive then the theory of justification or salvation by faith only is true but if it is inclusive then the theory of justification or salvation by faith only is not TRUE. I don't know of any way to determine as to whether or not it is an inclusive or an exclusive phrase than by appealing to the word of God. Then to the "Law and testimony" let us go.

1. By faith Noah built an ark. (Hebrews 11:7).

2. In building the ark Noah did ALL that the Lord commanded him. (Genesis 6:22).

3. Therefore, the prepositional phrase **by faith** when used relative

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FULTON COUNTY GOSPEL NEWS

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THE BIBLE

By Richard England

The Bible is from God. It did not originate in the mind of men; it is inspired, "God breathed." It makes known to us things that were unknown and that could not have been known through any other source. This is "revelation." Over a period of sixteen hundred years God revealed things to approximately forty men and had them write them down so that we would have an account of them today.

Jesus being raised from the dead proves that He is the Son of God. If we accept that, there is no difficulty in seeing that what Jesus said and what His disciples wrote under His direction is dependable. They said of the Old Testament: "The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (1 Peter 1:21). Concerning the New Testament the Lord promised: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26). "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." (John 16:13).

The Apostles received the very things promised. "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue." (2 Peter 1:3). Furthermore, Paul declares that these things they taught "not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." (1 Corinthians 2:13). God did not reveal to them a thought and depend on their ability to write it down and teach it as best they could by their own understanding. God gave them the very words.

The last inspired book to be written was the book of Revelation. Since that time, in that all the truth is in the Bible, there is no need for further information. Through the years the book has been preserved from one generation to another accurately enough that we have no doubt but what we can know all the will of God for man today. It may well be in the wisdom of God that we do not have the original copies of the Bible writings, for some would worship the parchment and ink and not the God of heaven who revealed it. But, we do have many manuscripts which date back very close to original writings. Preservation of the Bible has been so accurate that when the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, and they dated possibly as old or older than any other manuscripts we had, there was no additional information, books, or contrary writings to what we already possessed.

The Bible is an account of God's dealings with man. It lets us know what He wants us to do; that is, it is His will. It gives us examples of both those who obeyed and those who disobeyed. The results of obedience and rebellion are vividly displayed.

All people should carefully, prayerfully and with a receptive mind study the Bible. If one believes the Bible to be from God, then he will be interested in what it says.

How To Identify The One, True New Testament Church

By Ken Butterworth

When one enters into a discussion concerning the church of the New Testament, the question is quite often asked, "Which church?" To remove any doubt whatsoever from the minds of our readers, we preface this article with this statement. The church we are referring to is not of denominational origin, for there is not a denominational body on the face of God's earth that has a scriptural right to exist! When we refer to the one, true New Testament church, we are referring

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to the building of the ark included an obedience to every COMMANDMENT that God gave in reference to its construction.

If this phrase includes an obedience to used relative to justification, the Christian life, walk and stand; If not, why not?

In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews reference is made to many Old Testament examples that illustrate the faith that saves or justifies. Let us be consistent and follow the examples set forth in the Bible instead of the **Creeds** and **Theories** of men. It will be much safer to please the Lord than to please men.

1. ARGUMENT. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:24).

2. REASON: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:26-27).

In the above passages Paul says that the reason why we are children of God BY FAITH in Christ is BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO HIM. This should settle the matter with all men that believe the BIBLE.

"YE SEE THEN HOW THAT BY WORKS A MAN IS JUSTIFIED AND NOT BY FAITH ONLY." (James 2:24).

to the church that Christ promised to build (Matt. 16:18). The Holy Writ reveals on its pages of inspiration, that Christ established his church on the first Pentecost following his resurrection from the dead (Matt. 16:18-19; Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:1-47). All this took place in the city of Jerusalem in fulfillment of inspired prophecy (II Peter 2:20-22; Isaiah 2:2-3; Daniel 2:44; John 2:28-30; Luke 24:43-47). The word of our Lord expresses the basic truth that this church was the spiritual body of Christ of which every saved person was a member (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:47). The Holy Writ further relates that our Lord established only one church (Matt. 16:18), that he is the savior of that one church (Eph. 5:23), that he is the head of that one church (Eph. 5:23, 25), that that one church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23), and that there is but one body (Eph. 4:4; I Cor. 12:13, 20). The conclusion is therefore indisputable that there is but one church that the God of heaven designed, that His son Jesus established, that the Holy Spirit infused, and that is recognized in heaven! It is our responsibility to find that one, true church, the body of Christ, and be an integral part of it. But these questions arise, "How can I find this one, true church? How can I know if I have found this one, true church? The answer? By "searching the scriptures" (Acts 17:11), for the church of our Lord has very definite and distinct identifying characteristics that are set forth in God's infallible word. When one finds the church which bears those identifying characteristics, he has found the one, true New Testament church. Let us now examine these identifying characteristics, using the scriptures as our divine guide.

When identifying any entity, whether person, place or thing, it is of primary importance to establish its name. The church which our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ established was referred to by him as "my church" (Matthew 16:18). It was also referred to as the church of God (Acts 20:28; I Corinthians 1:2), the church (Acts 2:47), the church of Christ (Romans 16:16), the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-

23; Colossians 1:18), and the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 16:19). Those who were saved, members of the church were simply called Christians (Acts 11:26; 26:28; I Peter 4:16). Notice, that these were not hyphenated Christians, they were not a brand or type of Christians, they were simply Christians only! When one has found that church that wears only names authorized by the Bible, that honor Christ the founder, head and savior of the church (Acts 4:12), he has found the one, true church.

The church of our Lord can be identified by the place of her origin. Isaiah and Zechariah both prophesied that the Lord's house, the church (I Timothy 3:15) would be established in the city of Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-3; Zechariah 1:16). The Lord himself said that repentance and remission of sins was to be preached among all nations beginning at "Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46-47). He charged his apostles after his death, burial and resurrection that they should not depart from the city of "Jerusalem", but to wait there for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4), for they would be his "witness" in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8). These prophecies and promises were brought to pass when the Lord's church was established in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-47). When one finds the church that has its establishment in Jerusalem, he has found the one, true church.

The church of our Lord can be identified by the time in which it was established. The prophet Daniel prophesied that the kingdom of God, the church, would be established in the days of the Roman Caesars (Daniel 2:31-44; Luke 2:1). The church of the New Testament was established when the Roman emperors ruled (A.D. 33). When one has found the church that had its origin in 33 A.D., on the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ, he has found the one, true church.

The church of our Lord can be identified by her terms of admission. In other words, the plan of salvation it sets forth. The Bible

relates that in order for one to be saved, he must hear the word of God (Romans 10:17), believe the gospel he has heard (Mark 16:15-16), repent of his sins (Luke 13:3), confess Jesus as God's Son (Matthew 10:32), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-28; I Peter 3:21). When one finds the church that offers and practices this plan of salvation, he has found the one, true church.

The church of our Lord can be identified by her organization. It must set forth the scriptural principles of local church autonomy. The Bible reveals the scriptural principles of church organization as "... saints in Christ Jesus ... with the bishops and deacons" (Phil. 1:1). The bishops (elders) must meet scriptural qualifications (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4), and oversee the flock (Acts 20:17, 28). The deacons must meet scriptural qualifications, and serve under the oversight of the eldership (I Timothy 3:8-13). Christians, are to serve God to the best of their ability under the oversight of the eldership (Hebrews 13:17). When one finds the church with this scriptural organization, he has found the one, true church.

The church of our Lord can be identified by the way she worships (John 4:23-24). To worship in spirit, one must worship from the heart, with our spirit attuned to Him who is Spirit. To worship in truth, one must worship according to the guidelines of truth, which is the word of God (John 8:32; 17:17). Those acts of worship authorized by God in His word, the truth, are singing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16); praying (Acts 2:42); the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:26-28; Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23-29); giving (I Corinthians 16:1-2; II Corinthians 9:7); and studying and teaching God's word (II Timothy 2:15; Acts 2:42; 20:7). When one finds the church that worships according to these scripturally authorized principles, he has found the one, true church.

There are those, even among us who say, "That is a very narrow-

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minded concept of the church. I believe that there are sincere, knowledgeable, devout Christians in all of the denominations." Remember friends, we stated that there is not one denomination on the face of God's earth that has a right to exist (Matthew 15:9, 13; John 17:20-23; I Corinthians 1:10)! Speak those things that become "sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1), "contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 3), and refuse to allow the scripture compromising, Christ dethroning, truth rejecting, disciples of Satan (II Corinthians 11:13-15) destroy the one, true church!

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Faith, Works & Love

By Lavern Stewart

Men teach that faith only is all that is required for salvation. Although the Bible certainly teaches the importance of faith, it does not teach faith alone. The only time the Scriptures speak of faith alone, it is condemned as being dead. "Faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." (James 2:17).

When others teach, in addition to faith, the importance of obedience, and the necessity of good works, they are accused of teaching that one earns salvation by his good works. But that is not so. No, we do not earn salvation, for a lifetime of good works could not earn one day in heaven. "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." (Ephesians 2:8-9).

So obedience of God's commands and the doing of good works is not prompted by the earning motive, but by the love for God and his abundant grace extended to us. Jesus said, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments." (John 14:15, 23). James said, "I will show my faith by my works." (James 2: 18). Real faith is expressed in obedience. When we hear men claim that certain of God's commands are nonessential, we immediately know that they do not have faith. Our obedience proves two things; the reality of our faith and the reality of our love.

The true relationship of faith, works, and love is given in the phrase, "Faith working through love." (Galatians 5:6).

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. The Bible is its only guide (Romans 1:16; I Thess. 2:13).
2. Wears a Biblical Name (Romans 16:16).
3. Established at the right place (Isaiah 2:2, 3; Acts 2).
4. Established at the right time (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).
5. Established on the right person (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36).
6. Saved are in it (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
7. Its members are enrolled in heaven (Hebrews 12:23).
8. Membership in it is obtained by obedience to God's commands including baptism (Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:13).

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. After the above five steps, faithful Christian Living (I Peter 2: 11, 12; Revelation 2:10).

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