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## The Conflict of Grace

**Phil 3:9** and be found in Him, not having my righteousness, the *[righteousness]* from *[the]* Law, \_but (alla) the *[righteousness]* by means of faith in Christ, *[which is (dia)]* the righteousness from God on the basis of faith;

The issue of the believer's volition is slavery to the law, or freedom in grace.

The word "found" (heurisko – the root word of eureka) which means to discover, the idea is related to miners finding precious stones or gold.

What does the blind leading the blinds means? The blind leader is trying to lead the blind in 4 settings:

- I am the way (maybe)
- Maybe I know the way
- Maybe this is the way
- Join me in finding the way

The CAB does not have to "advertise" the truth. The truth sells itself to those who are truly hungry and thirsty for it. Do not be a commercial model for the truth adding humanistic viewpoint in order to sell it.

"A righteousness of my own" refers to relative self-righteousness, arrogance and dead works of the believers.

Why is it called dead works?

- No ability to produce life or righteousness
- Cheap substitute for the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Produce by a person considered spiritually dead

**Isaiah 64:6** But we are<sup>1961</sup> all<sup>3605</sup> as an unclean<sup>2931</sup> *thing*, and all<sup>3605</sup> our righteousnesses<sup>6666</sup> *are* as **filthy<sup>5708</sup> rags**;<sup>899</sup> and we all<sup>3605</sup> do fade<sup>5034</sup> as a leaf;<sup>5929</sup> and our iniquities,<sup>5771</sup> like the wind,<sup>7307</sup> have taken us away.<sup>5375</sup>

A filthy rug (menstruation rugs) refers to garments of human good. All human good (altruistic endeavors) in the energy of the flesh are rejected by God. The production of human good is not basis for having a relationship with God.

There is no life in the gospel of human good. Spiritual life do not exist where there is no faith in the work of Christ. The finished Work of Christ is against every human good work of man.

The phrase “that which” (dia) literally *by means of* the righteousness which (comes) from God (imputed by God on man) on the basis of faith.

Paul uses the *enantios* (the opposite comparison):

- A righteousness of my own is entirely relative, totally subjective, wholly rejected by God but highly praised by men.
- Righteousness from God – imputed by God, totally absolute, perfect, the only righteousness that God will accept, but is rejected and unknown to men.

Righteousness from God is *dikaiosune* which has three implications:

- *Dikios* polites refers to model citizens of the empire (citizen)
- One who was observant of his duty to the gods and men (law abiding)
- One who is fair, lawful, just and righteous executor of the law (government official)

Righteousness comes:

- By act of faith in response to grace (John 11:25-26)
- By adjustment to the justice of God

Note the following:

- In Christ there is grace: being the Author and Source of grace
- In grace there is freedom: Christ is the only role model where the believer has his individualized freedom to live the Christian way of life.
- In freedom there is power: the omnipotent power of God to function and operate in the PPOG.

**Galatians 3:1** O foolish Galatians! Who bewitched you\* [*so as*] not to be obeying the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed among you\* [*as*] having been crucified?

**Galatians 3:2** This only I want to learn from you\*: did you\* receive the Spirit by works of [*the*] Law or by hearing with faith?

**Galatians 3:3** You\* are so foolish! Having begun in [*or, by*] [*the*] Spirit, are you\* now being completed [*or, perfected*] in [*or, by*] the flesh?

**Galatians 3:4** You\* endured so many things for nothing! If indeed [*they were*] really for nothing.

The Greek word “katargeo” is the termination of all interaction with someone. The reversionistic and legalistic believer has terminated his association with God, with the plan of God, the Holy Spirit and from Bible doctrine while maintaining fellowship with those who have rejected Bible doctrine. Such separation is not biblical but demonic and the manifestation of reversionism.

Legalistic reversionism destroys spiritual growth, spiritual momentum and the spiritual life as a whole.

Legalism is when you combine faith with human works resulting to execution of the satanic plan. To cease spiritual growth simply adds to your faith. Satan has successfully hindered the spiritual growth of most believers by motivating them to add works to the grace of God.

The believer who falls into legalism is rendered spiritually:

- Inoperative or operationally dead
- Ineffective
- Unproductive

There is nothing in the life of a legalist that pleases God, no matter how much it pleases the legalists. The legalists are not beneficial to the local church except they are used by God for people testing for the advancing believers. No spiritual truth is beneficial to the legalists since they have rejected it and have fallen from grace.

There are nine things related to falling from grace (Ephesians 5:1-9):

- To live as an unbeliever (v.1)
- To disregard his positional truth status (v.2)
- To live as debtor to the law (v.3)
- To lose fellowship with Christ (v.4)
- To lose the power of His grace in his life (v.4)
- To disvalue his union with the Lord Jesus Christ (v.6)
- To lose in the spiritual race (v.7)
- To continue his retrogression in slavery (v.8)
- To continue in his bondage in deception (v. 9)

Adversity is inevitable and necessary in life; however, allowing it to enter your soul and becoming stressed is optional and unnecessary.

What prevents pressure from becoming stress in the soul? The answer is **in** the utilization of problem solving devices (PSD<sup>10</sup>).

What happens when pressure becomes stress?

- Panic takes over the soul
- Fear overruns the soul
- Stress floods the soul disabling good decision making
- Fear masters and overrules human reasons

Fear nullifies the believer's equal privilege and equal opportunity to glorify God.

If you love God, you will not allow the people around you to dictate your behavior and lifestyle.

Whenever the Church age believer concentrates on the problems, he will forget the power of God and miss the ability to apply BD when under pressure. God allows the problems in our lives in order to test our concentration on Him.

**Jeremiah 17:10** I<sup>589</sup> the LORD<sup>3068</sup> search<sup>2713</sup> the heart,<sup>3820</sup> I try<sup>974</sup> the reins,<sup>3629</sup> even to give<sup>5414</sup> every man<sup>376</sup> according to his ways,<sup>1870</sup> *and* according to the fruit<sup>6529</sup> of his doings.<sup>4611</sup>

Why does God test our emotions? God tests our emotion to find out if we are going to employ divine power and trust Him or not (Rev. 2:23). When the emotion overtakes the soul, you will not be able to utilize whatever Bible doctrine you have. When the emotion is out of line controlling the soul, it results to irrationality and complication of the issue.

Concentration on the problems means that you have complicated the problems, you have failed to execute the PPOG, and you allow the things you fear to gain power over your life. Fear is the proof that you have a degenerate mind.

The only purpose of emotion in the spiritual life is for enjoyment of blessings. Emotion is not to rule, dictate or lead us into a lifestyle of fear (2 Timothy 1:7).

Fear keeps increasing until the person is totally panic-stricken and intimidated by life itself.

Whenever the CAB faces the adversities with MBD from his soul, it strengthens his life. Whenever anybody face the adversities apart from MBD, he is deliberately destroying his life. The spiritually mature believer faces any adversity without any fear while the spiritually immature believer faces adversity full of fear.

Courage is mastery over fear, resistance to fear and ability to face it squarely. Courage is not the absence of fear but the ability to execute the power and resources from God in facing it.

The brave has controlled fear, and knows how to handle it. The coward has fear in control of his life.

We all need the strength to endure the things which we cannot change. We need the courage to change the things we should change.

The greatest test of courage is to bear defeat without losing heart. In spiritual momentum, it is the continuous advance without becoming emotional.

Fear is a mental attitude sin, the worst insult to God. Fear is the indictment against the grace of God. It reveals your lack of trust or confidence in Him who provides. Fear prohibits the grace of God to bless the believer.

In fear, the panic-stricken believer disables himself to apply Bible doctrine. In courage, the fully concentrated believer is in full ability to apply doctrine into life's problems.

To handle fear we need something stronger than pressures that assault us. The only thing stronger than all the pressures in this world is Bible doctrine.

Remember, our enemies (Satan, demons and their human advocates) will try to intimidate you from time to time, but God can take any evil plot against you and turn it into blessing. When your enemies try to curse you, God will turn their curse into blessing only when the believer operates inside the divine dynasphere (2 Cor. 13:8, Matthew 25:40).

The believers are mandated not to be intimidated by fear (Isaiah 35:4), and instructed not to take revenge (Romans 12:19).

What are you going to do if a fellow believer robbed you? (1Thess. 4:6, Prov. 20:22, 2 Tim. 4:14)