
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: ***Do the grace passages override obedience passages?***

Listen to the following passages which indicate that obedience is required in order to be saved:

Matthew 7:21

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but **he who does the will of My Father** in heaven.

Matthew 12:47-50

47 Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You."

48 But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"

49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!

50 For **whoever does the will of My Father** in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

Luke 6:46

46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?

Hebrews 5:8-9

8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

1 John 2:3-5

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

Revelation 22:14

14 **Blessed are those who do His commandments**, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (KJV)

13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Here are seven plain Bible passages which clearly indicate that obedience is necessary in order to be saved in heaven.

CONTRADICTIONS

Now ... please listen carefully: ***We must be very careful in how we interpret the grace passages in the NT so that we do not make the Bible contradict itself.***

Truth does not contradict other truth. In other words, if two passages are true, they will not contradict each other.

When one person says one thing and another person says something contradictory, one of two possibilities exist:

- Either one is right and the other wrong, or
- Both are wrong.

Both people cannot be right if those people contradict each other.

Matthew 12:25-26

25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.

26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

2 Corinthians 13:8

8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

These passages clearly teach that if one thing contradicts another thing, both cannot be true.

Therefore, the Bible cannot be true if it contradicts itself at the same time. If the Bible is true, it will not contradict itself in other passages. When correctly understood, all Bible passages are in full agreement and do not contradict each other.

GRACE PASSAGES

We have seen seven plain Bible passages which clearly reveal that obedience is necessary for salvation. ***Therefore, when I come across Bible passages on grace, I must be careful not to interpret them in such a way so that the grace passages contradict the obedience passages.***

Here's what this means:

- I cannot interpret grace passages to mean that obedience is not necessary for salvation.
- I cannot interpret grace passages to mean that men and women may continue in sin and still be saved.

Romans 6:1-2 (KJV)

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

The grace of God does not mean men and women may ignorantly violate His word and still be saved anyway.

The grace of God does not mean people may purposefully violate His scriptures and still go to heaven anyway.

Sin is a violation of the law of God (1 Jn 3:4). ***The grace of God will forgive people of their past sins if they will stop violating His law and begin obeying His law.***

Neither does the grace of God does inoculate a person from future sinning.

ILL: An inoculation is when we go to the doctor, get a shot for smallpox and then when we leave, we will not get smallpox – even when exposed to smallpox.

Some people think the grace of God inoculates them against sin. They think they may now do anything they wish and even if it's not quite right, God will graciously overlook the matter and save them anyway.

This type of thinking is wrong and dangerous. It's dangerous because it makes people careless. We must be diligent and on our guard against sin – lest we slip away from the grace of God (Heb 3:12; Heb 2:1).

The only thing the grace of God does is provide a way to be forgiven for ***past sins which are forsaken***. The grace of God does not inoculate and protect us from future sins. It does not excuse us and allow us to continue in sin and ignorance.

APPLICATION

In conclusion, here's what this means:

- Grace passages do not mean **baptism** is not necessary for salvation. According to the Bible, men and women must repent and be baptized in order to have remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Grace does not mean you do not have to be baptized.

- Grace passages do not mean **women** may be **preachers**. According to the Bible, women are to remain silent in all church assemblies (1 Cor 14:34-35). This law has never been repealed. Grace does not mean we may ignore this law.
- Grace passages do not mean **homosexuals** may continue in homosexual living and still be saved anyway. Homosexuality is a sin (1 Cor 6:9-10). Grace does not mean we may continue in sin.
- Grace passages do not mean people may worship in their own individual way. God has revealed a pattern for worship (Heb 8:5). We must follow this pattern carefully. Grace does not allow us to invent our own unique ways of worship and service (Mt 15:9).

Other examples could be given, but this is enough to get you thinking.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.