

# Grace for the Religious

Phil. 3:4-11

Though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

What about -

- the “good” person?
- the “nice” guy?
- the “decent” family?

“Grace is lavish, undeserved, extravagant. We can’t earn it, we can’t contribute to it, we can’t repay him for it, we can’t take any credit for it.

That's the good news of the Gospel."

Professor Craig Hazen

Biola/Talbot Seminary

The Religions of the world say – "Earn your way!"

LDS – "No big gap between god and man. If you take the right steps you are there."

'By grace we are saved, after all we can do.'

"All day long, I worried... if what I was doing was the right thing. I worried whether each decision I was making throughout the day was moving me closer to being good enough to be accepted by Heavenly Father. Plus, I gave myself credit for being able to stave off sin."

Lynn K. Wilder - Unveiling Grace

Buddhist story of a prodigal –

returns and then is required to work off his debt hauling dung for 25 years.

Problem – Earning your way to God is like your boss saying - you must meet your quota or be fired but he never tells you the quota.

Islam – 5 pillars

- scales of good deeds and bad deeds

- no assurance – it is still up to Allah (unless you die in a holy war – automatic ticket to Paradise)

Buddhism – (Atheistic)

- a spiritual journey of climbing a ladder to a place of non-existence.

- an 8 fold path of working toward liberation

J.W. – Grace is God's favor after I do all that I can do.

"Earn your way" philosophy make no sense with God.

The Bible says...

The flesh profits nothing.

Jn. 6:63

Grace says –  
“Trust Christ as the way!”

It’s not about trying, it’s about trusting. Sally Lloyd-Jones

**Why?**

**1. Glory is in the Lord alone.**

... glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh. Phil. 3:3b

All focus is on Jesus

- . Our faith comes from Jesus
- . Our power comes from Jesus
- . Our salvation is paid for by Jesus
- . Our blessings are in Jesus
- . Our answers to prayer are through Jesus
- . Our place in heaven is provided by Jesus

Not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Eph. 2:9

Ascribe to the Lord, the glory due His name.

Ps. 29:2

Thus says the Lord; Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches. Jer. 9:23

But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me...  
(24)

NOT-

Ethnic Identity-

Circumcised on the 8th day,  
of the people of Israel,  
of the tribe of Benjamin,

a Hebrew of Hebrews...  
Phil. 3:5

NOT-  
Educational Achievement  
..as to the Law a Pharisee.  
Phil. 3:5

NOT -  
Effort toward goodness  
... as to righteousness under the law – blameless. Phil. 3:6  
- church of Sardis – “I know your works, but you are dead.”  
Rev. 3:1  
- whitewashed tombs.  
Matt. 23:27

## **2. Glory is in knowing the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

. He is of superior value.

Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing  
Christ Jesus my Lord. Phil. 3:8

The Solid Rock

My hope is build on nothing less

Than Jesus' blood and righteousness

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on  
Jesus' name.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found;

Dressed in His righteousness alone,

Faultless to stand before the throne.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;

All other ground is sinking sand.

All other ground is sinking sand.

Nothing in my hands I bring,  
Simply to thy cross I cling.

For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish.  
In order that I may gain Christ...

Satan loves to -

- Diminish Jesus
- Distract from Jesus
- . Dismiss Jesus
- . Devalue Jesus

To gaze upon the beauty  
of the Lord. Ps. 27:4

Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And there is nothing on earth that  
I desire besides you. Ps. 73:25

. He wants to be known.

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God and Jesus  
Christ whom you have sent.  
Jn. 17:3

The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared.  
Titus 2:11

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that  
you may know that you have eternal life. 1 Jn. 5:13

When you know Jesus –  
you know grace.  
When you know Grace –  
you have life.

. He can be known through

His grace.

... that I may know Him...

Phil. 3:10

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding,  
so that we may know Him who is true... 1 Jn. 5:20

See to it that no one misses the grace of God. Heb. 12:15