

Grace Q&A 2

with

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1) Can you talk about the following scripture please:

'For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace'

(Rom 8:6)

**I thought death here was equal to hell.
I'd like to hear your view on this**

This is not an exhortation to Christians

It is a statement concerning those who are in the flesh, i.e. in Adam, and those who are in the Spirit, i.e. in Christ

Those who are in the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh and are on a course which leads to death

Those who are in the Spirit, i.e. in Christ, experience Christ's life and peace

'There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit...

'...For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you'

(Rom.8:1-11)

2) Hebrews is not understood by many Christians. Pastors ask us questions from Hebrews wherever we go

A major key to understanding Hebrews is the context

Who was it written to and why?

It was written to a community of Jews who were making the transition from Judaism into Christianity

The members of this group were at different stages in the transition

The two main passages which cause people to believe that we can lose our salvation are in Hebrews 6 and 10

'For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame'

(Heb.6:4-6)

**There is a difference between those
who are enlightened and those who are
regenerated**

**These verses are not saying we can
lose our salvation because in the same
chapter the writer says the opposite:**

'God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us'

(Heb.6:17-19)

'For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God'

(Heb.10:26-31)

Note the following:

`For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins`

The wilful sin referred to is the rejection of Christ

There are no more sacrifices for sins under the Jewish system

'Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses'

Note the 3-fold witness of the new covenant:

- 1) The Son of God**
- 2) The blood of the Covenant**
- 3) The Spirit of Grace**

**Also, in this same chapter the writer
had already said this:**

***'But this Man, after He had offered one
sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at
the right hand of God... For by one
offering He has perfected forever those
who are being sanctified'***
(Heb.10:12&14)

3) I am in an environment where eternal security is strongly taught against. I personally would like to speak up, but I don't want to cause any confusion. What should I do? Should I speak up anyway?

- **Don't preach eternal security as a point of contention**
- **Preach it in the natural course of your ministry**
- **Preaching eternal security will not cause confusion. It will clear up confusion**
- **But it may invoke persecution. Truth often does that**

In your opinion, what would be the best way to approach this situation?

- **When under attack, learn from Jesus. Ask your critic questions. Put them on the defensive. E.g.**
- **'At what point does a person lose their salvation?'**
- **'Does the person who supposedly loses their salvation then go back into Adam?'**

Quote Scriptures which make absolute statements. E.g.

- *'All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out'* (John 6:37)
- *'I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord'* (Rom.8:38-39)

**Ask, 'Do the Bible verses contradict
other verses?'**

**If not, then we have to seek to
harmonize them**

4) In Matt.7:21-23 Jesus rejects those who believe themselves to be believers. So, is it really enough that by believing in Jesus we will be saved?

'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. Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"'

- ✓ **The Sermon on the Mount (Matt.5-7) is nothing to do with salvation. The way to salvation is very clear throughout the gospels, Acts and the epistles. We are saved by grace through faith**
- ✓ **The SoM is not for the unsaved but for disciples (see Matt.5:1-2)**
- ✓ **It is not for the Jews, but for us. There is no teaching in SOM which is not also found in the NT epistles**

- ✓ **What is promised throughout are rewards which will be given to the faithful during the coming Kingdom of Christ on earth. So two themes are prominent – the kingdom and the rewards which will be given there**
- ✓ **Jesus talks about entering by the narrow gate. Entering what? Not heaven, but the kingdom**
- ✓ **What is the Kingdom? *Basileia* = the rule of God upon earth for 1000 years under the Kingship of Jesus**

- ✓ **He indicates that there will be degrees of reward in the kingdom, (Matt.5:11-12, 19)**
- ✓ **He lists some of the things which will be rewarded in the kingdom, (Matt.5:46; 6:1,2,4,5,6,16-18)**
- ✓ **He exhorts us to lay up treasure for ourselves in the kingdom of heaven (Matt.6:19-20)**
- ✓ **He reminds us that He is the source of our fruitfulness. It is all by grace (Matt.5:3-4)**

False teachers come to us at the crossroads:

- ✓ **They constantly teach the broad way. They never teach what Jesus taught here**
- ✓ **They *use* the Bible instead of *expounding* it. They have huge gaps in their teaching**
- ✓ **They call Jesus 'Lord', and prophesy**

- **They teach us to use our faith to get things. Their teaching reduces the Christian life to a concern for temporal things**
- **They cast out demons. It is possible to do mighty works and be nothing in the kingdom, 1 Cor.13:1-3**
- **Examine their fruit. Fruit takes time to grow. It takes time to realize that it doesn't work as they say it will**

5) Do we have to 'work out our own salvation' to have reward in the Kingdom?

'... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure...'

(Phil.2:12-13)

Note:

- **This passage says we are to work 'out' our salvation, not work 'on' it or work 'at' it**
- **We can only work out what He has worked in. This is the key to fruitfulness in the Christian life. We do not produce the fruit – He does. We are branches that bear the fruit**

'Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love...

...For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ'

(2 Pet.1:3-11)

6) Can we make a covenant with God?

There are basically 2 types of covenant:

- **Where both parties make promises to each other (e.g. the Mosaic covenant)**
- **Where just one party makes promises and the other is the recipient of those promises (e.g. the new covenant)**

We are encouraged to not make vows to God. It is a law-based mentality

'When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed—better not to vow than to vow and not pay. Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity'

(Ecc.5:3-7)

'It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, and afterward to reconsider his vows' (Prov.20:25)

**In the new covenant everything is given
to us by grace, on the basis of the
finished work of Jesus**

***'He who did not spare His own Son,
but delivered Him up for us all, how shall
He not with Him also freely give us all
things?'***

(Rom.8:32)

We have never made a covenant with God. Jesus made a covenant with the Father and because we are in Christ we are beneficiaries of that covenant

'I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles'

(Isa.42:6)

'Thus says the LORD: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages"'

(Isa.49:8)

7) How important is it for us to take 'bread and cup' and how often?

- **It's very important because it helps us to keep our main focus on the finished work of Christ**
- **We are to do it often, though it is not stipulated how often. Let the Spirit guide you in this**

8) As the vaccine for Covid-19 is soon going to be mandatory, what is your point of view?

- **A vaccine has not yet been discovered for certain, though UK believe they are close**
- **I haven't heard anything about it being mandatory, but many rumours are circulating. In the meantime it's best to focus on facts**
- **If it does become mandatory I do not believe this is the mark of the Beast**



**9) According to Matthew 24:29
immediately AFTER the tribulation of
those days.....**

**Are we going to face the tribulation
before we caught up to the clouds as
says in 1 Thes.4:17?**

- **My view is that we will go through the tribulation, though this is not to be confused with the Day of God's wrath**
- **This is why we need to teach both aspects of grace – unmerited favour and empowerment for living**

Rev.6: The Great Tribulation

- **Vs1-2. 1st Seal. The rider on the white horse (Antichrist) goes forth to conquer, and brings false peace**
- **Vs3-4. 2nd Seal. The rider on the red horse takes peace from the earth resulting in war**
- **Vs5-6. 3rd Seal. The rider on the black horse brings famine**
- **Vs7-8. 4th Seal. The rider on the pale horse brings death. One quarter of the earth's population dies**

Vs9-11. 5th Seal

'When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed'

Vs.12-17. 6th Seal

'I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind...

'...Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"'

**The answer to the question 'who is able to stand?' is given in the next chapter
(7)**

There are two groups who will be able to stand:

- **The Jews, because they have been sealed (7:1-8)**
- **The saints, because they are now raptured (7:9-17)**

'After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying...

'... "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen." Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb...

'...Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes''

After this, the 7th seal is opened on earth, i.e. the day of God's wrath