

**Grace Q&A 8**

**with**

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**1) Luke 1:6 how can Zacharias and Elizabeth be righteous by doing the commandments and laws according to Rom.3:21?**

***'And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless'***

**(Luke 1:6)**

***'But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets'***

**(Rom.3:21)**

- **This does not mean that they were righteous because of their law-keeping, for by the law no one is made righteous**
- **But they were righteous, as Abraham was, by faith in the coming Seed or Messiah**
- **This is evident by the fact that Zacharias, as a priest, was faithful in executing the ceremonial ordinances which pointed forward to Christ**

- **Although they lived in the OC era which had a strong emphasis on external ceremonies, their faith was not hypocritical like the Pharisees, but was genuine. This is evidenced by the way they lived**
- **The point is they lived in obedience and sincerity as was required of them under the OC**
- **Under the OC sins were covered, by the sacrifices, but not taken away until the Lamb of God came**



**2) Could you explain Matt.19, where Jesus speaks of eternal life, the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of heaven, treasures in heaven and salvation, all in the same conversation with the disciples**

***'Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'"***

***The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"***

***But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.'***

**(Matt.19:16-31)**

**Note the 3 different questions Jesus was asked, and how He answered:**

**1) Young man's question: 'What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?'**

- **Jesus's answer: 'Keep the commandments' (emphasized the manward commandments)**
- **Young man's response: 'I have kept these'**
- **Jesus raised the bar and replied: 'No, you haven't'**
- **'It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to be saved'**

**2) The disciple's question: 'Who then can be saved?'**

**Jesus' reply: 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible'**

**No one can save themselves; it is by grace alone**

**3) Peter's question: 'Well, we have left all to follow You. Does that mean it doesn't count for anything?'**

**Jesus's reply, having stated that salvation is a work of God, made it clear that good works will be rewarded. Thus, there is a difference between 'gift' and 'rewards'**



### **3) What is the meaning of Scriptural discipleship? Is it different to the example of Jesus and His disciples, since that was before the cross?**

- ✓ **The word 'disciple' means a follower of, or one who learns from, another. The original word has the idea of apprenticeship**
- ✓ **The word 'disciple' is mentioned over 250 times in the NT. Whilst the majority of these occasions were before the cross, the word is also used many times in the book of Acts. And, discipleship is commanded in the Great Commission**

- ✓ **Also, the principle of discipleship is very prominent in the NT epistles. E.g., 'Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ' (1 Cor 11:1). 'The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you' (Phil. 4:9). 'For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord; who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church' (1 Cor. 4:17). 'And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also' (2 Tim. 2:2). See the epistles to Timothy and Titus, also**

## **How do we make disciples?**

***'I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one'***

**(1 Jn.2:12-14)**



**This speaks of three distinct levels of maturity:**

**\*Little children need to know their sins have been forgiven. Righteousness consciousness.**

**\*Young men need to learn how to be strong in order to face trials. *'Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus'* (2 Tim.2:1). They need to learn how to access grace: 1) First understand righteousness (Rom.5:1,2,21); 2) God gives grace to the humble (James 4:6); 3) Ask for it! (Heb.4:16)**

**\*Fathers. What qualifies someone as a father? They have children! So, fathers repeat the process of the previous two stages.**

#### 4) Who did Jesus preach to in 1 Pet.3:19?

*'For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water'*

**(1 Pet.3:18-20)**

**\*Did Jesus, after His death and before His resurrection, go to hell to preach His victory there to those who perished in the Flood?**

**\*What would be the point of that?**

**\*And why just these?**

**\*The context is that Peter was encouraging the persecuted saints of that time to be faithful in sharing the gospel, knowing that it is Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, Who is preaching through them**

**\*This concept was very common to Peter and other writers. E.g. 'Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into' (1 Pet.1:10-12)**

- ✓ *'...no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit' (2 Pet.1:20-21)*
- ✓ **In a similar way it was it was Jesus, who by the Spirit, preached through Noah to his generation to those who are now imprisoned and awaiting the day of Judgment, 'And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years"' (Gen.6:3). Peter was encouraging persecuted believers to be faithful even though they are in the minority. Noah and his family were just a remnant in his days, so be inspired by his testimony**

## 5) What does Matthew 23:8-10 mean?

*'But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ'*

**\*There is a difference between titles and function. Jesus was referring to titles**

**\*Jesus Himself gave gifts and ministries to the church, so He is not speaking against these but the prideful way the Pharisees loved titles**

**\*Also, human teachers are fallible. Only Jesus has perfect understanding and wisdom**



## 6) I need some clarification about 1 Pet.4:17

*'For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?'*

**\*The word 'for' connects this verse with the verses before (4:12-16)**

**\*The context is suffering as a result of persecution**

**\*Now it is the Day of Man and we are judged unfavourably by the world and even persecuted**

**\*This has a purifying effect on the Church**

**\*But this age will be followed by the Day of Christ, when the world will be judged according to their response to the gospel**

**7) A document signed by various ministries and individuals calling for accountability for those who function in the prophetic ministry. What do you think of this document?**

**Link:**

**Prophetic Standards Statement – A Unified Call for Prophetic Accountability**



## Question 1

**“What do you think of this document and the statements made?” (Is it theologically sound? Is it consistent? Is it helpful/useful?)**

- ✓ **I think it is good and long overdue**
- ✓ **Basically, I believe it is theologically sound**
- ✓ **Consistent? Only if those who have produced or signed it will hold themselves accountable to it**
- ✓ **It will be helpful as long as it is utilized**

## Question 2

**“What do you find is the biggest modern day misconception about the prophetic?”**

- ✓ **That we shouldn't judge the prophetic ministry. This is dangerous and leads to deception**
- ✓ **We are called to exercise discernment and, like all ministries, prophets and prophecy should be held to account**

## Question 3

**“How can we discern between sound teaching and strange? That is... how do we keep spiritually level-headed when there is a flood of untested teaching out there?”**

- ✓ **Local ministry is always safer in that it can be tested in an ongoing way**
- ✓ **When we access ministry from the internet, books, etc. we are often limited in our ability to test them**
- ✓ **That’s why the NT church requested letters of recommendation from visiting ministries**
- ✓ **A big test is to ask, ‘Who, in reality, is this ministry accountable to?’**

## Question 4

**“What is the most important thing for believers to keep in mind in relation to the prophetic under the grace covenant?”**

- ✓ **I believe the most important thing is to remember that seeking God’s will and direction through a human mediator is old covenant mentality**
- ✓ **As sons of God we all can and should hear God’s voice for ourselves. ‘My sheep hear My voice’**
- ✓ **This is a specific new covenant promise, ‘None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them’ (Heb.8:11)**

## **8) What should a believer do when he falls into sin? In some instances, is he to repent to the whole church?**

- ✓ **Whenever a believer sins he should fall forward not backwards, i.e., run to God not from Him**
- ✓ **If he/she is a leader then he/she has broken a trust given to them by the church and should therefore repent before the church. If he/she is not a leader they are to be restored in private (Gal.6:1-3)**
- ✓ **They should be encouraged to ask, 'Why did I do that?' Every temptation is a call to live independently of God, i.e., it is what we run to for comfort, as an idol. An idol is anything we turn to as a coping mechanism instead of learning to trust God and draw upon His grace. Sin is a matter of unbelief**
- ✓ **Repentance means a change of mind about sin in this regard**

**9) A pastor committed adultery and had a child out of wedlock, he said he repented to his wife and even told the big children he has. How should I help him? Should he continue preaching?**

- ✓ **Sin does not disqualify, but he would need time out of ministry to work through these issues**
- ✓ **He needs to make confession before the church in accordance with 1 Tim.5:20: *'Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear'***
- ✓ **If he is not willing to step aside and work through these matters it is probably an indication he does not understand the gravity of the situation and the reproach his actions have brought upon the church and the name of Christ**
- ✓ **If he humbles himself, he should be restored through a process of compassion and accountability**