

God's Mercy and the Devil's Grace Part 2 of 6: How do we Accept the Free Gift of Grace? (Presented June 2016)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOqd7WtOOI4>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a written document. All the Scripture verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted and are in the red text. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We are going to continue to dig into the topic of God's mercy and the devil's grace. Last week we primarily focused on the front part of this title which is God's mercy. And one of the things we did which is critically important is we sought to define biblically what grace is. What we discovered is the most comprehensive and purest definition we can have regarding grace is one word, and that is the name of Yeshua. This is the name above all names. It is a name every knee will bow to, and every tongue will confess. It is a name which in Hebrew means salvation. If you read Matthew 1:21, we're told His parents were instructed to call Him Yeshua because—**He will save His people from their sins.**

In addition to that, we discovered another characteristic of the grace of God—is free; it is a gift. If you truly want to understand this concept, if you want to appreciate this concept, you've got to get this right. It's free. You cannot buy it with money. Could you imagine a conversation with the Father and His Son where the Father is saying to His Son, “Son. I'm sorry, but the inhabitants of the land whom I have created have bargained for Your life. They have offered me two trillion dollars. Therefore, Son, you're going to go have to die for them.” Do you understand how ridiculous that sounds? The concept of being able to buy your salvation is ludicrous. It is a free gift.

Let me take it a step further. You can't earn it no matter how righteous you think you are or how many good deeds you do within the Torah itself, it's not going to be enough. You will fall short. Why? Because the Law will stand up against you and condemn you to death. The Law will look at the little times you fell all along the way and the big times. It will stand up and convict you. That is why it's a free gift. We can't buy it; we can't earn our way into heaven.

Having said that, listen very carefully to me. The gift does come with conditions, and I know we don't like conditions. Conditions are not something we gravitate towards. I can tell you John Calvin did not like this term, conditional. He preferred unconditional. I'm going to tell you right now, biblically speaking, the grace of God is very conditional. Hear me out, and let me explain what I mean. I will use an illustration. I was sick because one of my organs was failing, and you knew I was going to die. You say, “I want to help Daniel. He's a nice guy. I have a love for him.” You offer your organ to me. I didn't pay for it; I didn't deserve it. You were simply willing to give it to me. Now here's the thing. If you offer that organ to me, and I refuse it, what good will it do me? It will do me no good. In other words, what I'm saying to you is the free gift of grace is conditional upon acceptance. You have to accept the gift.

That leads to the next question. Exactly how do we accept this free gift of grace? Well, let's go back to Ephesians 2:8—**For by grace you have been saved through faith.** Notice Paul does not say, “By grace you've been saved and that is it.” That is not the structure of the faith. The structure is by grace

through faith. The “through faith” part is the acceptance of this beautiful, free gift. Then he continues—**It's not of yourselves it's a gift of God.**

That leads us to the next question. Faith in what? If you're not familiar with Judeo Christianity, the question is faith in what? Or better, faith in whom? Yeshua answers this question in the Gospel of John 3:16-17—¹⁶ **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him [this is faith and acceptance] should not perish but have everlasting life.** ¹⁷ **For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world (emphasis added).** To fully appreciate this, you need to understand the Law brings condemnation by convicting you. Do you remember what we read in the Gospel of John 1:17—**For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.** So in these verses, we see Yeshua says God sent Him into the world not to condemn it but that the world might be saved. That's the beautiful story of grace.

I just want to interject this before we continue. If there is something the enemy is telling you in that you are not worthy of the faith and there's no point in you pursuing the LORD because you have failed too many times, that is a lie. No matter what you have done, you have hope in Yeshua. That is a biblical fact. Give your life to Him; believe on Him. Believe Him, and He will forgive your sins. This is the most important message of the universe. Amen?

Romans 10:9—**that if you confess with your mouth the LORD Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.** It doesn't say you might be. It says you will be saved. It continues in Romans 10:10—**For with the heart one believes unto righteousness.** There's a reaction to the faith. There is a chemical reaction. Continuing—**and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** ¹¹ **For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."** I love how Paul always does this. He goes to the Tanakh to prove his point. So understanding that relationship of Law and sin, the Law puts us to shame. It is perfectly righteous and perfectly holy. And guess what? We are not; we failed. It puts us to shame. But the Holy Spirit prophesied through Isaiah that whoever believes in Him, referring to Yeshua of Nazareth, he will not be put to shame.

Continuing in Romans 10:12—¹² **For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same LORD over all is rich to all who call upon Him.** You need to understand something. Salvation is not afforded just to the wealthy. It is for the rich and the poor, the free and the slaves, and the Jew and the Gentile. It is for all humanity because God so loved the world. This grace is available for everyone, but it is conditional. We must believe. Paul then continues in Romans 10:13—¹³ **For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."** That quote is straight out of Joel 2:32. This is referring to Yeshua. We are to call on the name of salvation which is Yeshua.

So we look at this, and this is what it takes for us to accept God's free gift. I think as I go through this most of you are thinking, “Daniel, this is pretty simple stuff. We understood this right off the bat. This is faith 101.” I understand that, but the first thing is how efficient are you conveying this reality? This is the gospel.

The second thing is, unfortunately, it doesn't end here. There's more to talk about regarding the grace message. In fact, there was something that kept the apostles up at night. This was something concerning the grace of God regarding how it interacts with us, how we look at, and how we protect it. Something kept them up at night regarding this scenario. What was that? It was the fact they were worried the believers who actually received this beautiful gift of grace were in danger of losing it. May I say in danger of having it taken from them?

Paul says this and 2 Corinthians 6:1—**We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain (emphasis added).** What is Paul talking about? Since when can grace be taken? Is it possible for us to receive it in vain? Well, the obvious answer to that is, yes. Why else would Paul send out the warning? If it wasn't a very real danger; if there wasn't a risk of us losing it, he would have never said it. But he does say it.

I want to take you to the book of Matthew. When you get into this component of the grace message, this is where things get really scary. In Matthew 7:22 we read—**Many will say to Me in that day, 'LORD, LORD.** The first thing I always like to identify in this verse is these individuals know Yeshua by name. They are on a first name basis with Him. They are calling upon Him, LORD, LORD. Now look at what they have to say—**have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?** You need to understand something. These aren't normal believers. These people are laboring for the Kingdom of God. They are doing awesome deeds for His name. They are not doing these things for Baal or any other false god. It is in the name of the Yeshua/Jesus they went out doing these things. This is very powerful.

The people who would have witnessed these people would have been in awe, “Did you hear that person prophesied? The Spirit fell upon him, and he prophesied. Did you see that person who went out and cast out devils? You need to appreciate the context of what's happening in these verses.

Listen to what Yeshua says in Matthew 7:23—²³ **And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'** I want to be very clear because I've had some very interesting conversations about this verse. This component of— **I never knew you**—gets into Calvinism. There are many people, not just believers but many teachers, who will teach you these individuals who were prophesying and casting out demons were never saved because the LORD says He never knew them. What they are not realizing is this statement is consistent with Scripture. Go to Ezekiel 18:24—**But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them, he shall die (emphasis added).** Their righteousness will be as though it never existed. It ceases from existence.

It is imperative you understand this in the context of what Yeshua is saying. This should impress upon you the fear of the Living God. The reason Yeshua says—**I never knew you**— was because their righteousness was forgotten. Someone who is blotted out of the Book of Life is as though they never existed. You can read Isaiah 65. You will find the former things will never be remembered; they cease from existence. This is a reality.

So in the Matthew 7:23, Yeshua says—**I never knew you; depart from Me.** Why? We are given the answer in the very next sentence—**you who practice lawlessness.** These men did exactly what Ezekiel 18 says. The LORD sent out that warning—**when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, it will all be forgotten. He will be forgotten (paraphrased).**

They commit Torahlessness. They embrace sin. They embraced things that are abominable to the Living God. I want you to understand something about these people. They never thought for a moment they weren't under grace. Every aspect, in this context of what we read, presents the idea they were under the impression they were under grace. The ironic thing is, at the end of the age they find out they're

under the condemnation of the Law; they're under the Torah without grace. They're dumbfounded, and this is frightening when you read this in its context.

I show you this because I want you to value the grace of God and how it has to be protected. You have to defend that free gift lest you give it away or it be taken from you, and you do not even know it. Such is the case of the people in those verses. They did not even know they did not have the grace of God.

Here is another warning found in Hebrews 12:14—**Pursue peace with all people, and holiness.** Isn't that interesting? The LORD says, "Be holy as I am holy." These are His words. This is the call for his elect. Continuing—**without which no one will see the LORD: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God.** Believe it or not, you can fall short of the grace of God.

I think there's a good reason Paul, in his letter to the Philippians 2:12, says—**work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.** Paul knew something. He knew what was at risk. He knew what was in danger of being taken. If in fact, this is what saves us, do you think the adversary Satan is going to come out to take it? Absolutely, because he came to steal, kill, and destroy.

We read in Scripture warning, after warning, after warning to not take the grace of God in vain. Do not fall short of the grace of God. The question is how do you take heed to these warnings? I can show you warnings all day long in Scripture, but what do we do?

Let me take you to Psalm 103:17-18—¹⁷ **But the mercy of the LORD.** What's the subject matter here? It is the grace of God. This is the mercy of God. Starting again—**But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸ To such as keep His covenant, and to those who [do what?] remember His commandments to do them.** If you want mercy, you need to obey. We need to walk in righteousness. That's a reality we want to retain. This is how you do it. Your righteousness in and of itself will not save you. It is by grace through faith. But what is faith? James tells us—**Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead (James 2:17).** Complete your faith by walking in the footsteps of the Most High embracing the grace of God.

Listen to what Daniel says in his prayer—**And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O LORD, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments (emphasis added, Daniel 9:4).** Did you notice the word mercy? If you want mercy, according to Daniel's prayer, you keep His commandments. This is the response. This is part of faith, hence, acceptance of the Living God.

This is what Yeshua said in John 14:15—**If you love Me, keep My commandments.** Read the 10 Commandments, it says the same thing—**showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments (emphasis added, Exodus 20:6).** This theme keeps rolling over and over and over again. It is amazing the **blindness** Satan can impose upon believers.

Those who enter into a real relationship with Yeshua understand there's a natural progression. When we taste and see that the LORD is good, we want to please Him. The Holy Spirit comes upon you. The Holy Spirit does one thing. It's like a river; it flows one way, and that is to Yeshua. We are to walk in righteousness and do good.

Listen to Paul's words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:19—**Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The LORD knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."** If you want to take the holy name of Yeshua upon your lips, this is what needs to happen. You don't run back into sin. You flee iniquity, idolatry, covetousness, sexual immorality, and all other sin. When you take that name upon your lips, and then you confess that name before men, you cannot continue to walk in sin because if you do you are a blasphemer. I don't know about you, but I've read in the Word of God blasphemers do not make it into the Kingdom. If you do not flee sin, you will end up like the people in Matthew 7:22 crying out, "LORD, LORD."

Let me take you back to a passage we looked at in lesson one. I showed you a few passages, but I did so only half in context by only covering the reality we are not saved by our works. Today, we're going to look at the full context of these verses. Let's go back to what we covered in lesson one. Galatians 2:16—**knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**

That verse is very simple. Paul could not make it any clearer; you can't do it on your own. It's by faith in Yeshua. Does he end there? He does not. Listen to what he says next in Galatians 2:17-18—**But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin?** Think about that? Continuing—**Certainly not!** ¹⁸ **For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.** In other words, if we take the holy name of Yeshua upon our lips, and we profess to the world, "I'm a Christian. I'm saved. I believe that Jesus died and rose again," you must flee iniquity and idolatry. If you don't, and you embrace sin while confessing His name, now you're telling the world the Yeshua you serve is a minister of sin and lawlessness. It is blasphemy.

That should terrify you! You should be thinking, "I need to change my ways. I need to let go of the world and all the things of the world because how am I supposed to be an ambassador of Christ." How do we look in the eyes of the world? Are we ambassadors, or we blasphemers? This is all part of the grace message.

Moving to what Paul said to his brother. Titus 2:11-12—¹¹ **For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.** We looked at this last week, and this is the definition. Yeshua brings salvation. Look at what he goes on to say—¹² **teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.** In other words, if I say I am under grace, and I'm saved by the grace of the Living God, guess what? I should be taught. Grace should teach you something. What does the **real** grace message teach you? It teaches you to run from your life of sin. That's what it teaches you.

Go back and look at this verse again— **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts.** How do we define what is ungodly? In the Bible. It is all in the Bible.

So if I say I'm under the grace of God, and I really have the fire of the Holy Spirit, it will lead me in one direction, and the Bible is that direction. You will start investigating His Word. You will hunger for it. You will have a passion for it. You will turn the T.V. off and stop watching these crazy videos on YouTube. That is what will happen. That is what grace teaches us. And what is grace? Put it in context. Grace is Yeshua. If I'm a servant of Yeshua, He will teach me. What will He teach me? Righteousness. That righteousness is found in the Scriptures. We are separating the sheep from the goats right here.

Unfortunately, many of the churches today have traded this teaching for another teaching. That is a teaching that makes them feel more comfortable. It is one that doesn't offend the masses. The sheep are crying out to the leaders, "Speak smooth things to us. Prophecy deceive." They have itching ears. We have professing believers running around crying, "Grace, Grace. We're all under grace. It doesn't matter what you do. Don't let it bother you." These people are severing the conviction of godly sorrow of the people who do obey God and feel remorse for their sins.

You see, the mantra today is our actions don't have consequences because we're all under grace. Understand something. In Exodus 23, the LORD is very clear He will not justify the wicked. Read Psalm 5:5—**You hate all workers of iniquity.** Malachi 1:2 and 3—**Yet Jacob I have loved; But Esau I have hated.** Hebrews 1:9 talks about Yeshua and His heart—**You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness.** That is the heart of our King. It is enough for a servant to be like his master. We should hate lawlessness; we should hate unrighteousness.

I'm telling you right now, when you really begin to peel back the layers of the grace of God and how the Bible defines it, and then you look at the Church and see how the Church has redefined and repackaged biblical grace, it is devastating to the faith. I can tell you this, what we are witnessing today is not God's mercy; it is the devil's grace. That's the truth.

The Church has replaced that beautiful mantle that hangs over the head of the Church which is this beautiful Golden Rule, "You will reap what you sow." That is one of the most basic fundamental principles in all of the Bible, and the modern day Church has stripped that down and have hoisted up, "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law."

That statement was made by a very famous Satanist, "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law." People in the Church today are being taught, "Through the law of Grace, you can do whatever the dictates of your heart tell you; there will be no penalty."

Hosea 10:12 begs to differ—**Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy (emphasis added).** Do you get it? If you sow righteousness, you will obtain grace. That is consistent no matter where we go in Scripture. Through the Old Testament or the New Testament, this is the truth.

The question is, do you want the truth? Roman's 6:1—**What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?** Let me give you my version, "Are you insane?" Paul continues—² **Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

Let's look at what Peter has to say in 1 Peter 2:24—**[Jesus] who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness.** It doesn't say that I might live for myself. It doesn't say I might live according to the desires of the world. It says I have to live for righteousness. Continuing—**by whose stripes you were healed.** What was at the forefront of Peter's mind regarding moving in righteousness was a sacrifice. Peter appreciated that concept even to his death. He was willing to stand for that sacrifice, for that grace. He was never willing to give up that free gift that was given to him.

We have looked at Hosea, Paul, John, and Peter. What does King David have to say? Psalm 23:1-3—**A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³ He restores my soul; [What does He do?] He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake (emphasis added).**

This all goes back to being led. Remember what grace does? Paul said it will teach us one thing, and David is confirming this. If I say I am under grace, and Yeshua is my Master, I will go one direction. I will go in the path of righteousness. However, if I confess Yeshua is the One I follow, but I walk down another path, and I go to the path of sin, I am deceived. This is what is happening with the modern-day Church.

I want you to understand something. Listen to this statement very carefully. The Law of God, the commandments of God, will never take you to a place where the grace of God cannot keep you. Do you understand that? The commandments of God will never bring you to a place where the grace of God cannot keep you. But I'll tell you this, the devil will. He will take you to a place where the grace of God will not keep you because His grace will not fall upon you. Why? Because the LORD will not justify the wicked. This is the reality.

1 John 3:2-3—² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (emphasis added). This is the effect of someone who has received the free gift of grace. It prompts them to do something. We now purify our selves just as He is perfect. Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

This is the goal. This is where we need to go. 1 John 1:6-7—If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if [I highlighted the word "if" so we know this is conditional] we walk in the light as He is in the light, [here is the "what" to the "if"] we have fellowship with one another [meaning the elect of God. You become part of a sacred family], and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin (emphasis added).

If you sow righteousness, you will reap mercy. This is the deal, and it's consistent all the way through Scripture. We keep reading the same stuff.

Think the LORD's trying to tell us something? 1 John 2:1—My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. John is conveying something here. Ultimately, what is he doing is protecting the grace of God. He is protecting the free gift given to his brethren. That is what he's looking for. He knows what sin does to it. He knows the destruction that sin will rot upon the grace of God.

So John sends out this beautiful warning to not sin, but then it gives you hope. This is an authentic hope and not a falsified hope. This is not a hope to make you feel good so you can go to sleep at night. He is letting you know if you fall, get back up because Yeshua can save you.

Moving on to 1 John 2:2-5—² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. ³ Now by this we know that we know Him [Here comes the test. In 2 Corinthians, Paul tells us we need to test ourselves to know whether we are in the faith. What does that test look like? Look at the next verse], 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.

Again, and again, and again we see the same thing. Move to righteousness; walk in His commandments. One of the frightening things that's happening when you look in the modern-day Church is they have no clue what the Old Testament says. They have been told the commandments in the Old Testament are a

curse. They have been told it is antiquated; there is nothing there for them. This is what Satan peddles. This is what the devil has sold them, and they've bought it hook, line, and sinker.

I want to take you back to the days of Noah found in the book of Genesis. If you enjoy studying the Bible, as I do, I am going to give you a brief tip. If you're ever looking to study a particular topic or a particular word, there's a good practice to get in the habit of doing. Go to the first time you ever see that word being used in Scripture and look at the context. Analyze the context. This is a good foundation to begin your investigation of whatever it is you're looking into.

So for us, the matter is grace. We are going to go back to the very first time this word is used in Scripture. Interesting enough, it's utilized in the story of Noah. Let's go to Genesis 6:7-8—**So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."** ⁸ **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD (emphasis added).**

So there we have the backdrop. The whole thing is prophetic. When we read this right now, nothing more could apply to us than this story. Yeshua told us in Matthew 24:37—**But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.** I am telling you, and I could show you from Scripture, we are living in the days of Noah. These are the days we are living in. The earth is so vile, corrupted, and so perverse right now. It has reached its precipice.

In Noah's day, the earth was so vile. There were angels coming down and mating with earthly women teaching them heavenly secrets that were never to be shared with humans. Giants were born; evil spirits went forth. It was totally demonic. We are living in the days of Noah. These days are completely demonic. And here we see in the context of that verse the LORD looked down, and he saw Noah. And Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. The question is, why?

Honestly, I want to know what is it about Noah. There are estimates from people who study these things regarding the possible population of the earth in Noah's day. The scholars believe there were around seven billion people on planet earth during that time. That, interestingly enough, is the number we just passed in our time. I don't hang my hat on that estimate of Noah's time, but let's just say God created all those people, and there were 3.5 billion at the time of Noah. Why not at least save half of them? How did the LORD determine that grace was going to fall upon this one, Noah? No one else is mentioned. Yes, eight people are saved, but only one is mentioned as having found grace in the LORD's eyes.

Why? Well, as we continue in the very next verse, we find out. This is what we read in Genesis 6:9—**This is the genealogy of Noah, Noah was a just man.** The Hebrew word for just is **צַדִּיק**, *tsaddiyq*. It means he was a righteous man; he walked in righteousness. He kept the commandments of the LORD. The verse continues—**perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.** This is very simple to understand. If I walk with God, I'm a righteous man. If God deems me to be righteous, that means I'm walking with Yeshua. This is very simple. Why did Noah find grace in the eyes of the LORD? Because he walked in righteousness. He followed God's commands.

Again, you start to see this pattern over and over again. You want to retain the free gift of God? You want that grace to be applied to you instead of coming at the end of the age and being totally surprised? Do what Noah did. Do what the Apostle Paul tells you to do. Do what the Apostle Peter tells you to do. Do what Yeshua commands—**If you love Me, keep my commandments (John 14:15).**

Let me just further prove this with another verse because the testimony of two is always valid. Going to Genesis 7:1—**Then the LORD said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.**

It didn't matter to the LORD about the masses. I wonder considering we have seven billion people on the planet if 6.99999 billion we're all wicked, would you have the strength to walk in righteousness? Would you have the strength to endure? I'm going to tell you something right now; the days are coming very soon when the intimidation tactics of the enemy are going to become harder and harder. Right now, it is easy to live in the faith. But then, it is not going to be. In the Middle East, we have people being decapitated. These people are willing to confess Yeshua as the ultimate Messiah and die for their faith. It is scary stuff.

The writer of Hebrews looked back on Noah's life knowing that because of his righteousness, because of his following the LORD God, grace was given to him. Listen to how the writer articulates it. It is beautiful—**By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith (emphasis added, Hebrews 11:7).** Isn't that interesting? We don't have time to get into it in this part of the series, but the symmetry between the days and life of Noah and the symmetry that exists today is mind-blowing! The writer of Hebrews identifies that Noah was forewarned of something he couldn't see, but it was told by God it was going to happen. In other words, judgment is coming to the world.

Let me ask you this. What is on the horizon right now? Judgment is coming to the world. In a sense, it was the gospel. Noah was delivered the gospel of salvation. Today, the gospel of salvation is going out.

What is interesting is those who receive it like Noah, their actions will condemn the wicked actions of the world. This will happen because the righteous are walking in the light, and the light casts down upon darkness. When Yeshua came into the world, He said—**I am the light of the world (John 8:12).** He said—**The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil (John 7:7).** This is the walk we are supposed to have. This is authentic grace. People who are sold out and radical have a radical life transformation in their heart. Just like King David, nothing causes them to move to the left or to the right because they have their eyes on Yeshua. They are following in His footsteps.

I want to close with this by Yeshua from Matthew 5:14-16—¹⁴ **You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.** ¹⁵ **Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.** ¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see [what?] your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (emphasis added).**

Isn't it interesting that good works are being demonized today? That is mind-blowing to me! The Law of God is being demonized. It is viewed as a curse. Every time we want to go to it, there are people who say, "That's a good work. You don't need to do that. Jesus nailed that to the cross."

I just had a chat with a gal this week. She is a strong believer, and she was indicating to me she went out and did a mission trip. She and her group were all concerned with doing good deeds. When they got to the place they were doing mission work, they were told, "You don't need you worry about that. Salvation comes through Yeshua." For the record, I am completely behind that. But why not give the

whole gospel? Why not give the grace and tell people, “Good deeds should be the reflection of my acceptance to Yeshua; you will know them by their fruits.”

This type of thing is bringing confusion. People are being taught they should go out and spread the gospel, but you should not talk about the Law because the Law is a curse. They are told good works are not going to do you any good. Again, are they delivering God's mercy, or is it the devil's grace?