



GLOBAL GRACE NETWORK

GGN is a teaching resource for ministers and churches all over the world. We advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ - Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone. Our purpose is twofold: to help the Church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world.

FEBRUARY 2010

Living The PREPARED Life

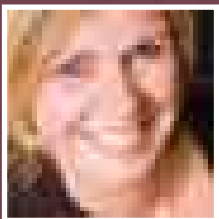
These days I'm thinking much about God's prepared path. I have just experienced stepping into the prepared plan of God in a certain area even before I really started praying for it. It was such a great experience. I was amazed - and still am! What a great privilege to live a prepared life!

Eph 2:10 (amplified translation) says, "For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which he prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]."

I am also reminded about the invitation Jesus gave in Matt. 11:28-30 to those of us who are weary and carry heavy burdens: Come to Me, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

When we walk yoked with Him, He takes the heavy part and we have the easy part. And all the glory goes to Him! Jesus desires us to experience more of the reality of walking yoked with Him and living the prepared life!

Enjoy the two teaching articles we bring you. We would also like to especially welcome all of you that receive this newsletter for the first time.



Mary Felde
Editor



HAVE A THRONE ATTITUDE

– Rest Until God Makes Your Enemies Your Footstool

BY PASTOR JOSEPH PRINCE

You don't have to wait for Christmas to walk in peace and joy. You can rejoice in spite of your circumstances because God wants you to take a throne attitude and rest while He takes care of everything else for you!

Today, Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father's throne (Hebrews 8:1). And the Bible says that as Christ is, so are we in this world (1 John 4:17). This means that we are also seated at the Father's right hand.

Now, being seated is a picture of rest. In the Old Testament, the priests never sat down. There were no chairs in the tabernacle of Moses or in the temple of God because their work was never finished. But Jesus sat down because His work is finished (John 19:30, Hebrews 10:11-13.) And God said to me, "Son, tell My people to have a throne attitude." So what does it mean to have a "throne attitude?"

HAVING A "THRONE ATTITUDE"

Psalms 110:1-2

1The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

In Hebrew, the first "Lord" refers to Jehovah, or Yahweh, and the second "Lord" is Adonai. Therefore, the first verse actually reads, "Yahweh said to my Adonai..." After Jesus conquered sin and death, and rose from the dead, He returned to the Father. And the Father said, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." So Jesus' throne attitude is to sit and expect His Father to bring all His defeated enemies under His feet.

In biblical times, defeated enemies were brought back in chains and the victorious king would sit on his throne and put his feet upon the backs of his defeated enemies as a sign of victory. Likewise, Jesus' conquered enemies are being dragged to Him one by one, and put under His feet.

“SO JESUS’ THRONE ATTITUDE IS TO SIT AND EXPECT HIS FATHER TO BRING ALL HIS DEFEATED ENEMIES UNDER HIS FEET.”

Ephesians 1:20, 22–23 (NIV)

²⁰... He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand... ²²And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, ²³which is His body...

We, the church, are the body of Christ, and who is the one who makes the enemies our footstool? It is not us, but God Himself! God’s Word is the truth and He keeps His Word. God is telling us to have the same throne attitude as Jesus — to rest, while He makes our enemies our footstool. So with each passing day, we have **all things**, including the defeated enemies of disease, poverty, depression and all kinds of curses, being put under our feet.

ENTER GOD’S REST

Do you want to know God’s definition of His rest? Hebrews 3 describes how the children of Israel were not allowed to enter the promised land because they doubted God’s Word. However, instead of saying “They shall not enter My promised land,” God called the promised land “My rest.”

Hebrews 3:11

¹¹So I swore in My wrath, “They shall not enter My rest.”

“GOD IS TELLING US TO HAVE THE SAME THRONE ATTITUDE AS JESUS — TO REST, WHILE HE MAKES OUR ENEMIES OUR FOOTSTOOL.”

This means that what the physical land was to the children of Israel in the Old Testament is, for believers today, a land flowing with grace and rest — God’s rest! That is your inheritance today. God wants to bring you out of lack and into the land of abundance! He wants to bring you out of sickness into robust health! And this promised land is the place of His rest.

God’s Word always tells us “Fear not, fear not!” But do you know that there is only one thing the Bible tells us to fear?

Hebrews 4:1

¹Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

“WE ARE SO FOCUSED ON OUR “ANAKIM” — OUR PROBLEMS AND SYMPTOMS — INSTEAD OF JESUS’ FINISHED WORK ON THE CROSS, THAT WE CANNOT ENTER OUR PROMISED LAND OF REST.”

In Hebrews 4:1, God tells us to fear that we don’t enter His rest. Now, many of us worry about many things and everything that God tells us not to be afraid of, we fear. But the one thing that God tells us to be afraid of, we aren’t!

BE REST-CONSCIOUS, NOT GIANT-CONSCIOUS

There is another lesson that we can learn from this story. God told the children of Israel that He had come to bring them into “a land flowing with milk and honey” (Exodus 3:8). This means that the promised land was a place flowing with abundance and provision. It was also a sure promise; a statement of what God will definitely do.

However, what was the posture of God’s people when they reached Kadesh Barnea, the border between the wilderness and the promised land? They sent twelve spies into the land for forty days and chose to be-

lieve the report of the ten spies who said that the Israelites could not take the land because it was inhabited by giants from the tribe of Anak (Numbers 13:33.)

In Hebrew, the word *Anak* means “chain” or “neck chain.” A chain around the neck is a picture of a yoke which weighs you down. Although God had delivered the children of Israel from their taskmasters in Egypt and they were no longer slaves, they still had a slave mentality. Instead of focusing on God’s goodness and promise, the children of Israel focused on their giant problem — the Anakim — and they were weighed down with anxiety and fear.

Today, some of us still have this slave mentality. We are so focused on

our “Anakim” — our problems and symptoms — instead of Jesus’ finished work on the cross, that we cannot enter our promised land of rest.

Now, I want to pose a question to you that God asked me, which I had to answer as well. Have you ever read the story of the twelve spies and asked yourself if you would side with Joshua and Caleb — the two spies who said, “Let us go immediately and take the land!” — or if you would agree with the ten spies?

Well, the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, like your fathers in the wilderness” (Hebrews 3:7–9). In other words, are your problems bigger than what God is saying about your situation? Before your body is healed, before the money is in your bank account, before every problem in your life is resolved, will you believe that God will deliver you according to His Word and still walk in rest?



WHATEVER YOU NEED HIM TO DO FOR YOU HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE BECAUSE JESUS HAS ACCOMPLISHED ALL FOR YOU



God wants you to have the revelation that whatever you need Him to do for you has already been done because Jesus has accomplished all for you. And God is asking, "In spite of the giants, would you go up and enter the promised land of My rest? Can you be rest-conscious, rather than giant-conscious?"

WHEN YOU REST, HE WORKS

What happens when you become rest-conscious? Let's look at this secret hidden in the story of how Jesus healed a man who had been suffering from an infirmity for 38 years.

John 5:8-9

⁸Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." ⁹And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

I asked the Lord why He asked the man to take up his bed. Why not just ask him to rise and walk? And He showed me that the bed is a picture of rest. So what Jesus was actually saying to the man was, "Rise, take up your rest and walk!"

Notice that the day was the Sabbath, the day of rest? Therefore, what God is saying is that when you rest, He works! Isn't this amazing?

Yet, there was a group of people who were unhappy that the Lord had healed this man.

John 5:10-12, 16

¹⁰The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." ¹¹He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'" ¹²Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed

and walk'?"... ¹⁶For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

The religious people were upset because it was the Sabbath. They saw healing as work. To them, healing the man on a day of rest meant that Jesus was working on the wrong day!

Now, if you had known this man, wouldn't you ask him, "Hey, what happened to you? How did you get cured?" Instead, the people he met said, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." Look, this man hadn't walked in 38 years!



THEREFORE, WHAT GOD IS SAYING IS THAT WHEN YOU REST, HE WORKS!



But the people around him were only concerned that he had carried his bed on the day of rest. This is how religious people are: they cannot see the blessings, only the problems.

The last phrase "had done these things on the Sabbath" in the original Greek is in the imperfect tense. The imperfect tense generally represents continual or repeated action. This means that it was a habit for Jesus to heal on the Sabbath and He had repeatedly performed such miracles on the Sabbath — on the day that man rests, God is able to work!



JESUS SAID THAT HER HEALING CAME JUST BY BEING A DAUGHTER, A CHILD OF GOD.



YOUR HEALING IS IN THE REST

Another example is the healing of a woman who was bowed down for eighteen years. When Jesus healed her in the synagogue, the ruler of the synagogue, the woman's pastor, said, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day" (Luke 13:14).

What was Jesus' response?

Luke 13:15-16

¹⁵The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? ¹⁶So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound — think of it — for 18 years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

Jesus said that her healing came just by being a daughter, a child of God. But some Christians still think that healing is man's work, not God's work. They go around thinking, "I'm not doing enough, that's why I'm not healed." They cannot believe that healing can be as simple as being at rest in God's finished work, saying and believing, "Lord Jesus, as You are free from every disease and sickness, so am I in this world."

Did you know that even the words "healed" and "relaxed" are linked in Hebrew? One of the Hebrew names of God is Jehovah-Rapha which means "I, the Lord, am your healing" (Exodus 15:26). The Hebrew word rapha not only means "to heal," but one of its root definitions also means "the relaxed." So healing comes by being at rest, not by working. Jesus' death has given us life and wholeness.

SEEK REST FIRST THAT IT MAY BE WELL

God does **not** say, "Wait until all your enemies have been destroyed, until every problem in your life has been resolved, then you can rest." He says, "**Rest first** until I make all your enemies your footstool."

What do you see when it comes to healing for a condition in your sick body or breakthrough for your financial challenges? Do you see lack and say, "Let me get out of this situation first. Let me hear the doctors' reports say that everything is clear, and then I can rest?"

“ THE DEVIL LOVES TO SEE HUMAN NATURE REIGN IN THE CHURCH AND TO HAVE YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN ONLY REST WHEN THINGS GO WELL OR WHEN YOU SEE YOUR BREAKTHROUGH. ”

In other words, Naomi told Ruth, "Shall I not seek rest for you, **so that** things will go well for you?" Isn't it strange that Naomi mentioned rest first? Isn't human nature more inclined to say, "Shall I not seek for things to go well with you, so that you can rest?"

But God wants His nature to reign and He loves you so much that He says, "You are already seated on the throne. You rest first. Sit down until

DON'T POSTPONE YOUR REST

Isaiah 53 describes Jesus' suffering and what He accomplished for us on the cross. It says that He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, and by His stripes, we are healed!

The reason we can rest and rejoice in the midst of our enemies is because Jesus defeated them when He took

“ GOD WANTS YOU TO FIND REST IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM. ”

We find it hard to rest because our human nature is inclined towards worry and restlessness. The devil loves to see human nature reign in the church and to have you believe that you can only rest when things go well or when you see your breakthrough. Stop saying, "When my child finishes primary school, I will stop worrying and rest." You know what? After primary school, there is secondary school. Then, after your child completes secondary school, you will say, "I think when my child finishes university, then I will rest." And you will never rest!

I want to share about two women who faced a financial situation during a time of famine. Now, Naomi was a woman of God and this is what she said to her daughter-in-law Ruth.

Ruth 3:1 (KJV)

¹... My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?

I put the conquered enemies — that financial situation, that symptom in your body — under your feet."

God wants you to find rest in the *midst* of the storm. And when you rest in Him, things will go well. This doesn't mean that there are no enemies. But you will rule in the midst of your enemies! (Psalm 110:2)

Psalm 23:5 says that God prepares a table for you in the **presence**, not the absence, of your enemies. Some of you may say, "Lord, how can you expect me to eat now? The symptoms are still in my body! My bank account still shows the lack! Lord, I will eat well and I will celebrate when all my problems are resolved." But the Bible says God doesn't follow human nature. God says, "I will prepare a table. You eat first! You eat in the presence of your enemies, and I will take care of your enemies for you."

our place and bore our sins on the cross. He has done it all and the work is finished (Hebrews 10:12–14.) We only need to take up a throne attitude and rest in Him.

So, as we are resting in His finished work, what should our response be? How do we partake of all that Jesus has done? Right after Isaiah 53, the scripture says:

Isaiah 54:1–3

¹Sing, O barren, you who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you who have not laboured with child! For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman... ²Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; do not spare; lengthen your cords... ³For you shall expand to the right and to the left, and your descendants will inherit the nations...

Jesus has defeated the enemies and God is telling the barren woman to rejoice! The barren woman is a picture of someone who has not seen results,

“ GOD WANTS YOU TO ENJOY LIFE BEFORE THE PROBLEM IS RESOLVED. START SINGING EVEN BEFORE YOU SEE THE MANIFESTATION. ”

signs of health in her body or signs of abundance in her situation. Being barren is a picture of the curse.

The Word says that God never meant for us to be barren. God blessed man and told him to be fruitful (Genesis 9:7). So in Isaiah 54, God is saying, "Sing now, and prepare for your blessing! Enlarge your tent and prepare for growth! Do not spare; expand your territory and your descendants will inherit the nations."

Imagine you are a barren woman singing, "Hallelujah! I'm a mother of many! The Lord loves me!" The devil will come and say to you, "A mother

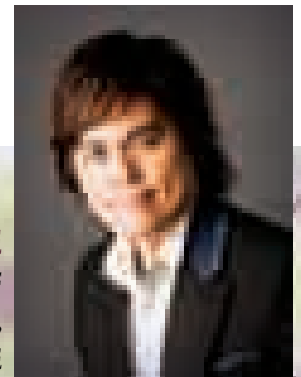
of many? Where is your child? Aren't you a hypocrite?" But don't stop rejoicing. God wants you to enjoy life before the problem is resolved. Start singing even before you see the manifestation. Stop postponing your joy and peace. Stop waiting for Christmas to celebrate. Make every day a celebration of life, and learn to rest in the midst of your problems.

It should be a daily response to go to Jesus for our rest. Jesus Himself tells us to come to Him and He will give us rest.

Matthew 11:28
²⁸Come to Me, all you who labour

and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Whenever you are heavy laden with worries or cares, weighed down by the yoke of the Law or religion, or in the midst of any enemy that is weighing you down, go to Jesus and you will find your rest in Him. Rejoice, sit down, and prop your feet up, because God has promised that He will take care of your enemies and make them your footstool!



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This article is excerpted from the message Have A Throne Attitude — Rest Until God Makes Your Enemies Your Footstool preached by Pastor Joseph Prince on 24 February 2008. © Copyright Joseph Prince, 2008. All rights reserved.

WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE *Message of Grace?*

By Pastor Åge M. Åleskjær

Some have been afraid that the message of grace is an excuse for sinning. However, the Bible shows many examples on how the message of grace is the road to a life of freedom and joy. Follow along and we will soon see that this message has a very happy ending!

The Gospels show how Jesus focused on the message of grace even before the price was paid on the cross. He couldn't wait to reveal what was to come in the New Covenant. Then and

there He preached the Lord's Covenant of Grace.

Jesus knew that the New Covenant would be based upon His blood and the redemption on the cross, so He could just as well give them a preview because He was the Lamb of God carrying all the sins of the world.

The Lord's Word about the New Covenant is: "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Heb. 8:12).

"Their sins and lawless acts I remember no more" (Heb. 10:17).

This reminds me of a children's song from my childhood church: "He has thrown all my sins behind His back. He will never see them again; He will never see them again! Like the east is from the west are they far from me, He will never see them again...."

This is a powerful Gospel that sets the captives free – forever!

Let us study some eye-opening situations in the ministry of Jesus - the first one in Luke 7:36-50.

SHE LIVED A SINFUL LIFE...
Jesus gives us some really great sermons about this and the message

“The fact is that this woman understood this grace, while the Pharisee still lived in the cold and narrow corridor of his religion’s rituals and acts.”

must be thought-provoking for those claiming that the teaching of grace gives the freedom to live in sin. Jesus Himself showed how wrong such a thought is. It is, in fact, just the opposite!

Luke 7:36-50 gives us an impressive story about a woman who came to the house of a Pharisee. She lived a sinful life. The Pharisee, who had invited Jesus, was shocked that Jesus let her wash His feet with her tears, dry them with her hair and anoint them with fine perfume.

Simon (the Pharisee), having reasoned for himself, concluded that if this Jesus was a prophet, He would have known what sort of woman this was who touched Him. But Jesus takes this by the root and Simon truly sees that He is a prophet - Jesus had read Simon’s thoughts!

The fact is that this woman understood this grace, while the Pharisee still lived in the cold and narrow corridor of his religion’s rituals and acts. That is why Jesus used the opportunity to preach the Gospel for him. Why did Jesus accept being adored by this sinful woman? Simply because she had received His grace and had understood how fully she was forgiven. That is why she worshiped Jesus with her tears and her expensive perfume!

The story Jesus tells to Simon in order to illustrate His message is that two men were in debt to a money-lender. One owed five hundred denarii, the other fifty. But the good news was that when “neither of them had the money to pay him back, he cancelled the debts of both.” Let us first meditate on this for a while, for this is a wonderful Gospel!

Since they didn’t have the money to pay him back, he cancelled the debts of both. This is the simple

message of the Gospel! “Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he cancelled the debts of both” (Luke 7:42).

This is the story of every man. The entire world stood guilty before God; no one could be saved by way of their own works. Big and small sinners were fully dependent upon grace!

Hear what Paul says: “Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justified the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him” (Rom. 4:4-8).

“God could cancel the debt of us all because Jesus has paid it!”

God could cancel the debt of us all because Jesus has paid it! On the cross Jesus paid the price for all the sins of the world.

The powerful effect of the cross is that “now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by sacrifices of himself” (Heb. 9:26). “Because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy” (Heb. 10:14).

This is so powerful that it takes time to let it sink in.

MANY SERMONS – SAME MESSAGE

Jesus preaches many sermons on this!

In John 8:8-12, the Bible tells how Jesus forgives another sinful woman - one who the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees brought to Jesus. They said: “This woman was caught in the act of adultery.”

The Law was clear: it “commanded us

“the message of Jesus is: “Neither do I condemn you!”

to stone such women.” But they knew that Jesus would show mercy, so they tried to trap Him. Can you see that the accusations from the teachers of the Law against Jesus strongly remind us of the accusations by some Bible teachers today against the teaching of grace? This ought to be a wake-up call for you!

Since the story from John 8 is so well known, we can go straight to the essence of this message - the message of Jesus is: “Neither do I condemn you!”

Here lies the power and the heart of the entire Gospel!

THE MINISTRY OF CONDEMNATION

Condemnation is a product of the Law. Because we are not perfect, the demands of the Law will bring condemnation. That is why “the ministry of the letter” is called “the ministry of condemnation.” “The ministry which was engraved in letters on stone was the ministry of death” (2 Cor. 3:6-9).

This was the Ten Commandments!

The only part of the Law that was engraved on stone was the Ten Commandments. This is important to see considering that some Bible teachers say that being freed from the Law is only that we are freed from the law of ceremonies. But 2 Cor. 3:6-9 states it very clearly that the Ten Commandments are the ministry of death and the ministry of the letter. Thus, this paragraph’s entire point is that we do not have the ministry of condemnation, since we are ministers of a New Covenant!

“When the woman became free from all condemnation, she became free from the life she lived at the same time!”

THE MINISTRY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The New Covenant is “the ministry of righteousness” - the righteousness of Christ Jesus. The Gospel is what reveals the righteousness by faith, that He “justifies the man who has faith in Jesus” (Rom 3:26).

This is what Jesus gives us a taste of by declaring: “Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin” (John 8:11). When the woman became free from all condemnation, she became free from the life she lived at the same time!

It is this truth that sets us free! The one who sins is the slave of sin. If the Son sets you free, then you are truly free! (John 8:32-36). That is why freedom begins by realizing that all condemnation is now brought to an end by the perfect sacrifice of Jesus. “Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8:1).

THE LOST SON

Luke 15 is an excellent chapter in this line of thought. Jesus preaches a sermon with three parables about all the joy in heaven every time a sinner repents.

The story of the lost son conveys the message clearly: The father has no condemnation of the son; the only condemnation is what the son has of himself. He accuses himself for the life that he has lived, while his Father is concerned only with showing forgiveness, joy and love (Luke 15:20-24).

This is in harmony with 1 John 3:19-23 where the Word teaches that our hearts may condemn us when we have done something wrong and that it may hinder our confidence in prayer.

That is why it is important to have our conscience cleansed in the light of the Gospel and to be on the right track in our lives. However, the point here and now is that “whenever our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things.”

In other words: He never condemns us, because He never remembers our sins any more. He does not account our sins since Jesus paid His sacrifice; we are cleansed once and for all and we no longer need any offering for sin. He removed the sin by His sacrifice. The most powerful element of this is that it is not only for us Christians, but for the entire world! (2 Cor. 5:19)

John writes about this and says that we shall not sin. “But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:1-2).

Is this an excuse for sinning? Absolutely not! Follow along and we will soon see.

THE FRUIT OF GRACE IS: GREAT LOVE, FREEDOM FROM SIN AND MUCH JOY

Here comes the impressive finale! This is the result of the Gospel of the grace of God.

What happened to the woman told about in Luke 7:42-47?

The message is that because she had received so much grace, she loved Jesus more than anyone else did! Her experience of this grace made her the greatest admirer. She admired Jesus with genuine admiration, her tears and an expensive perfume. The way the Pharisee received Jesus was pathetic in comparison and many self-righteous Christians fall through completely in their worship of God in comparison to those who have tasted the fullness of grace upon grace!

What was the result of this when the woman in John 8 experienced that Jesus did not condemn her?

She and all others knew that she had failed; yes, failed greatly. However, it was the grace she met that gave the story a happy ending: “Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin” (John 8:11).

Freedom from a life of sin came after fully experiencing being free from condemnation.

That is why it is not true that the message of grace gives people the freedom

“ Freedom from a life
of sin came after fully
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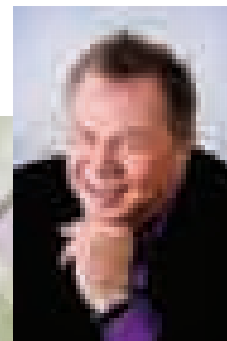
to sin. It is completely the opposite: *grace gives freedom from a life of sin!*

What is preached in Luke 15? Did the lost son want his life among the pigs back after the royal reception he received from his Father? No, and no again!

He rejoiced in the celebration and the joy and he enjoyed his rights as a son in the house. Here was a celebration, joy, music and dance, while the other son stood outside. He was the slave of the Law, staying at home, proclaiming that he had “never disobeyed your orders.” He declined to go in!

That is why the message of grace is the road to a life of freedom and joy - this message has a very happy ending!

It doesn't matter what the son staying at home says about it.



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“ we do not have the
ministry of condemnation,
since we are ministers
of a New Covenant! ”

by Mary Felde



Introduction

Matt. 7:13-14 a) Narrow gate
b) Difficult way
c) Few find the way

Luke 13:24 a) Narrow gate
b) Difficult – they will seek to enter but will not be able

Is this a description of the New Covenant and our way to heaven? Many times it has been taught so. However, when we study this we see that those two passages of scripture refer to the Law of Moses and thereby the Old Covenant.

A. The OLD Way – the Law/Own Works

1. As we read the context of the two passages of scripture, we see that it is a description of the OLD way - saving yourself by your own works.

Matt. 7:12 says, "This is the Law and the prophets."

Luke 13:28,34-35 says the Jews thought they would be saved because they were Jews (Abraham's seed) and they hardened their hearts.

In Luke 13:29-30 Jesus prophesied about the new way – when the Gentiles (us) should be saved, be the first.

2. The Law as a way to salvation was

- a) Extremely narrow
- b) Extremely difficult
- c) No one could make it

Rom 3:19-20 says that by the Law the whole world became guilty before God. By the deeds of the Law NO flesh will be justified.

Luke 18:18-27 describes how the way through the Law is more difficult than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle! With

men it's impossible! Only God could save us! Only Jesus could go through that eye of the needle. Jesus fulfilled the Law and then annulled the Law (Matt. 8:17-18).

Now there is another way!

B. The New Way - Jesus

1. Not difficult, but easy!

Luke 3:4-6 is a prophecy about John, but truly about Jesus!

Illustration: A bulldozer cleared the way. Now it's a straight, even, easy way!

Rom 4:21, Heb 10:20	A new and living way
John 14:6	I am the way
Rom 10:13	Everyone that calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!
John 1:12	Everyone who received Him got the right to become a child of God.
John 6:37	Not be cast away!

2. Not a narrow path/way, but a highway!

Isaiah 35:8-10 A **highway** for the Lord! - a big road, many lines, so multitudes can walk there. (We have preached the opposite for many years!)
Easy to find and easy to walk on! Even the fool shall not go astray!
The devil cannot come on this way.

3. Not few, but many!

Luke 3:4-6	All flesh shall see the Lord's salvation
Luke 2:10	Good news of great joy for all people
Rom 11:25	The fullness of the Gentiles
Luke 14:23	The house shall be full of guests
Rev 7:9	A great multitude that none can count of all people groups, families, languages.

This will end in a crescendo of harvest. The harvest shall be brought in!!

Conclusion: The new way is a highway – easy to find and easy to walk on.

Easy to find Jesus. Easy to get help from God. Easy to become saved (in all aspects of what salvation means. This includes healing, prosperity, deliverance, wholeness, etc.).

(Acts 15:19, Heb 10:20, Heb 4:16)