



GLOBAL GRACE NEWS

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.

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REDISCOVERING *Jesus*

The purpose of GGN is to help the Church rediscover Jesus and to take the good news to the world.

Many times the focus has been more on what we must do than on what Jesus has already done. What a wonderful truth that the New Covenant is all about Jesus' finished work! And Jesus Himself is the Mediator and Guarantor of the New Covenant.

It reminds me of the story of Mephiboseth in 2. Samuel 9, where we can read how he was blessed entirely because of the covenant between David and Jonathan. Mephiboseth was blessed entirely "for Jonathan's sake" and we are blessed entirely "for Jesus' sake".

I recently came across an article by the late Norman Grubb and I want to share it with you all. You may find more articles from him on their website. He beautifully lays out how Christ is all and in all. Enjoy the reading of that article, as well as the continuation of the series on "Reign in life" by Pastor Mike Walker.

Thank you for all the responses you send us - we are grateful to the Lord for being connected together with all of you.



Mary Felde
Editor



Reign *in Life*

Part 2

By Mike Walker

As believers we are destined to reign in life. Still many believers seem to have a life of defeat, poverty and failure. So what stops us from reigning in life?

2 Pet 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (KJV)

We are destined to reign in life. We are called by God to be a success, to enjoy having enough that we are blessed to be a blessing, to enjoy health and to enjoy a life of victory! We can see in this scripture that by His divine power He has already given us all things - through the knowledge of Him! It's not His desire that we live a life of defeat, poverty and failure!

We are destined to reign in life because Jesus is the Lord of our life! When we reign in life, we reign over sin, over the powers of darkness, over depression, over poverty, over

every curse. We reign over sickness and disease, and over the devil and all of his plans.

Receive Grace and Reign in Life

The power to reign does not depend on our background. It does not depend on our education, on how we look, or on the savings we have in our bank account. The power to reign is based entirely on Jesus alone! This declaration that we will reign in life is based on a promise that has been recorded in the Word of God.

Rom 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; **much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. (KJV)**

The moment a person learns to receive grace they will begin to reign in life!

Last time we looked at this amazing truth and discovered the simplicity of the Gospel. We learned that God's ways are not about achieving, but about receiving! He promised that when we receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness, we will reign in life. He did not say that when we achieve grace and our own righteousness, we would reign in life.

The moment a person learns to receive grace they will begin to reign in life! So the enemy has set up many obstacles and fences around the gospel of grace.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

The enemy does not want us to reign in life, so he works hard to prevent believers from receiving the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness.

Now we are going to expose some of those obstacles that he has placed to stop us from receiving!

The Enemy Wants to Keep Us Under the Law

God blesses us not because we are good, but because He is good! Grace is based on His faithfulness and goodness toward us. It is not based on our performance, but it is based on His undeserved favor. If it was based on how good we are, then it would no longer be grace, but would be based on the system of the Law. It would become deserved favor.

The Law is deserved favor - when we obey the commandments perfectly, we will be blessed. Grace is undeserved favor. Jesus obeyed the Father perfectly and we will be blessed by believing in Him.

Some people believe that they have to be so careful when it comes to teaching about grace, and when they hear someone talking about grace they immediately put their guard up. Grace is not a topic - grace is the Gospel! It is the news that is too good to be true, but it is true! It is not a doctrine - it is the person of Jesus Christ! That is why the Lord wants us to have the abundance of grace, because to have the abundance of grace is to have the abundance of Jesus.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (KJV)

The Law was given, so we get the sense of distance, but then grace came! Grace came as a person and His name is Jesus! Jesus is grace! Jesus is also truth and when we know truth, truth will make us free. Jesus makes us free from sin, not the Law of Moses! The Law of Moses is a truth, but not the truth that makes us free. Truth that makes us free is on the side of grace!

So the enemy does all he can to keep people under the Law so that he can keep them defeated! We never hear someone say, be careful of the Ten Commandments or be careful of that Law preacher. There



is no controversy about the Ten Commandments because the devil wants us to be subject to the Law. He doesn't want people to know that Jesus has freed us from the Law.

Some people are afraid that when we tell a believer he is completely forgiven by grace and doesn't have to earn his right standing before God, that he might go out and live in sin.

“...the enemy does all he can to keep people under the Law so that he can keep them defeated!”

1 Cor 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (KJV)

We can see that the Bible is clear that the strength of sin is the Law. So the more a person is under the Law, the more the sin they struggle with is strengthened against them. But the more we understand that we are under grace, the more sin loses its strength over our life!



“...sin is strengthened every time the Law is preached!”

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (KJV)

This means the more you receive the abundance of grace, the more you will reign over sin in your life. I used to see sin. Then I would preach so strong against a certain sin, not understanding that I was empowering that sin to stay. It was like adding fuel to the fire, because sin is strengthened every time the Law is preached! But the power to have dominion over sin is given to us when more grace is preached!

So who has switched this understanding? It is the devil who came to steal, kill, and to destroy. He does not want us to reign in life - he wants sin and death to reign over us!

Rom 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they

which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. (KJV)

Let's reign in life and see the salvation of the Lord! Let's live our lives based on the foundation of the finished work of Christ. Receive the abundance of grace – sin forgiven, healing, peace, provision, direction, friendship, victory! None of this can be earned or deserved.

Next time we are going to look at the obstacles the enemy places against the gift of righteousness! It is not about achieving righteousness; it's not about achieving abundance of grace - it's about receiving!

Can you agree that sin reigns in people's lives because of Adam's sin? But much more – “to be abundantly, a far greater degree, abundantly better, far more” – shall those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life by One, Jesus Christ!



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BY NORMAN GRUBB

THE BELIEVER AS A CONTAINER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

Have you ever felt that you need more love for your unsaved brothers and sisters around the world? Have you ever asked God to make you a better servant of Jesus Christ?

When I was in the British army in World War I, God very plainly called me, though I'd planned another career, to join a little independent missionary group just starting in Africa. I wasn't there very long before I deeply felt my inadequacy.

It wasn't that I was lukewarm for Jesus Christ; it wasn't that I had turned away from Him to some other interest. I was a servant of His, and my whole interest was set on introducing my brother Africans to Him.

The inadequacy I felt in myself first of all was the need of love. I deeply felt, when I got among them, that I just didn't have that love which bridges the gap. With that went the need of faith — and with that the

need of power. All of these were linked together.

Response to the Christian message in Central Africa, like the United States, appears to be quite large. But I soon found there was much more profession than possession. I began saying to myself, *Are we bringing the Africans anything really worthwhile? Are we just bringing a code of ethics? Or a liturgy, or historic faith? Have we got something genuinely transforming to transmit to others?*

Then I made the question personal, "Have I?"

As I asked these questions, I discovered that when your ministry is disturbed, it tends also to disturb your personal life. I

found myself, as my wife well knew, irritable at home in a way I hadn't been irritable — and critical of others to cover my own failures.

As I doubted, asked questions, and searched the Bible for some kind of an answer to my inadequacies, I found some amazing answers. Some of them have shaken me considerably. They have changed my whole viewpoint — and my experience.

I can't call them revelations, because they are based on the revelation, witnessed to by the Spirit.

To begin with, my attitude was that God should improve me.

I THOUGHT HE SHOULD CHANNEL IN SOME LOVE INTO MY HEART, SOME FAITH, SOME POWER, SOME HOLINESS — AND IMPROVE ME.

IT DOESN'T SAY GOD HAS LOVE, BUT GOD IS LOVE.

Well, *I'm a servant of Jesus Christ, I thought. I've been redeemed by His grace, I belong to Him. I must ask God to make me a better servant of Jesus Christ.*

I thought He should channel in some love into my heart, some faith, some power, some holiness — and improve me.

I had to learn sharply that self-improvement is both a sin and an impossibility. It came as a considerable shock.

But though my idea of how God should answer my problem was completely wrong, my sense of inadequacy was good. It sent me to the Bible. And my first discovery came as I read one famous verse in the first letter of John: “God is love.”

Suddenly the is stuck out. What dawned on me went something like this: It doesn't say God *has* love, but God *is* love. If some body *has* a thing, it isn't he himself. It's something just attached to him, as if you've got a coat on or something in your pocket. You just have it, and you can share it. But the Bible doesn't say God *has* love, but God *is* love.

I Could Never Love!

Love, therefore, must not be a thing I can have. Love is exclusively a Person. *God* is love. Therefore, there is no other pure, self-giving love in the universe beyond Him Himself. Love is exclusively a characteristic of one Person only — and that's not Norman Grubb.

NOT CHRIST HAS THE POWER, BUT HE IS THE POWER.

That was a deflation for me. I had thought I could have love imparted to me, channeled into me, and I'd be more loving. But I suddenly found God saying, “You'll never have one iota of love. I am love, and that's the end of it.”

Love is a Person; one Person only loving — and that's not I, and that's not you. God is love and, therefore, love is God loving.

That set a new trend of thought going. I began to relate this to my other need of power. And I suddenly found a verse in the first chapter of I Corinthians where it says that Christ is the power of God. Not Christ *has* the power, but He *is* the power.

Once again, I had thought power was something which was given to me, and I'd be a powerful servant of Jesus Christ. I suddenly found that power, also, is a Person. And that person is not I but is exclusively Christ, Who is God; it doesn't matter whether you call Him Father, Son or Holy Spirit.

Then I came to the one thing every Christian claims to have. Every believing Christian accepts the fact that he has eternal life. He takes it that he has a life which will go on forever in Heaven. (“The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”)

But I suddenly found that eternal life is not something I can ever have — for Jesus did not say, “I *have* the life to give you” — but, “I *am* the life.”

Once again I had found that something I had thought I had — eternal life — is one person only, and that's not I. Jesus Christ is that “eternal life.”

But where did I fit into all this?

Finally I came to a statement which gathered all together and finished off my investigations by its absoluteness. The verse was Colossians 3:11, where it says of believers in Christ that “Christ is all and in all.”

Christ is all, not Christ has all.

And if Christ is all, what's left for me? Not much by my mathematics.

I had thought I was somebody, and something or could get something. I found God had taken the lot.

Christ is all.

Then I got the link. Christ is all *and in all*.

Then I saw for the first time that the only reason for the existence of the entire cre-

ONCE AGAIN I HAD FOUND THAT SOMETHING I HAD THOUGHT I HAD — ETERNAL LIFE — IS ONE PERSON ONLY, AND THAT'S NOT I.

ation is to contain the Creator! Not to be something, but to contain Someone.

So there dawned a very important truth. We humans naturally regard the human self as important. But we've got the wrong ideas of the reason of the existence of the self.

An immense distortion has come into the very warp and woof of humanity. It's the distortion of the ego — of the self. Though we feel self to be important, all of this showed me that self is extremely unimportant.

There is only one Self in the universe who is really important. I would almost say there is only one Self.

THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE UNIVERSE WHO EVER SAID, “I AM.”

Why? Because there's only one Person in the universe who ever said, "I Am."

God said that was His name thousands of years ago when Moses asked what he should say when people would ask, "What is the name of your God?" (Exodus 3:13, 14).

We are told that at the end of the history of the universe it is God Who will be all in all. God all in all! Then what's left? It's terrific.

IF HE FILLS ALL THINGS, ALL THINGS ARE CONTAINERS OF HIM.

Why We Exist

There is only one Person, and the human creation is brought into a living relationship with this One, so that He can manifest Himself in His perfection of life and love through us.

The whole creation exists because Spirit must have a body in which to manifest Himself. As the Scriptures say, "The whole earth is full of His glory." They say that Christ ascended "that He might fill all things."

If He fills all things, all things are containers of Him. Here is both the height and the dangerous depth in humanity.

The height is simply this: the rest of creation can contain manifestations of God; we can contain God as a Person. A person cannot manifest himself as a person through anything else than a person. You can't fellowship with a dog or a stone. You can enjoy the marvels of the atom or of

WE MAKE SELF OUR GOD, NOT GOD. WE JUST NATURALLY RUN OUR OWN LIVES. AND THAT'S OUR WHOLE TROUBLE.

a precious stone, but you can't fellowship with it. But I can fellowship with you because we are of the same makeup.

God can manifest His marvels and His beauty through the flowers and trees. We can view them through the microscope and telescope, and marvel—but we do not say, "That's God."

The greatest marvel, the greatest height of personality, is when we can look at a human being and say, "God is there."

The depth, the dangers, of humanity are that personality means freedom. Intelligent choice is the essence of personality.

Therefore, God appeared to be on the horns of a dilemma when He created people. (Of course, He wasn't, for He knows His own business in the end.) But it appeared so because the people He created could turn around and say, "Thank you very much, I don't want You to live in me."

That's exactly what happened.

We make self our god, not God. We just naturally run our own lives. And that's our whole trouble.

There isn't a single problem in humanity except our self-reactions: not one.

The Devil is no trouble. He was dealt with 2,000 years ago.

Your neighbor is not your trouble.

Circumstances are not your trouble.

The only trouble is your reaction.

Distorted self, self out of gear, is our problem.

Once we know how to handle the human self and put it back where it belongs, we've found the key to life.



Norman Grubb

Norman Grubb (1895 – 1993) was a missionary, author and teacher. Read more about him on: www.NormanGrubb.com

This article is an extract from the article called "The Key to everything."

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