

False Grace

There is a movement in the church today which calls itself the movement of 'Grace'. While the leaders of this movement talk much about Grace they know little about the true meaning of Grace.

In the 1930's the Nazis swept to power in Germany. During Hitler's dictatorial reign over his country Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the leader of the underground church who was later hanged, who was martyred for his faith just days before the end of the war was asked by an American pastor: "how was it possible for the Nazis to come to power in this country without ever having faced any real opposition from the church"?

Bonhoeffer's answer was simple and clear: "it was the result of the teaching of 'cheap grace' ". Shortly afterwards millions of Jews were brutally murdered and Germany ended up a nation in ruins.

The Jewish survivors of the German concentration camps were the hardest of all people to reach with the wonderful message of salvation!

They witnessed how a church had stood back in silence in the face of terrible evil.

For the surviving Jews of Germany Christianity had forever lost its credibility. The impact of this betrayal can still be felt among Jews right up to this day.

The teaching of 'cheap grace' will always keep the church standing back in silence regardless of what sins a nation commits.

Brian Houston, the leader of the famous Hillsong church in Sydney was once asked by a Journalist what he thought about homosexuality. His reply was cautious and diplomatic at the same time.

Houston replied: "I am aware that this is a great challenge that we face in our time". He would not commit himself to anything else. The word 'sin' was very carefully avoided. It was never mentioned at all. He knew exactly that at any mention of 'sin' the media would have ripped him apart. So he avoided to talk about it at all cost.

The Bible is never diplomatic about sin.

Scripture knows no neutrality when it comes to sin. Jesus had always confronted sin head on, so did Paul and so did all the other apostles.

The moment a church becomes 'neutral' towards sin it has lost all its meaning and purpose. It may still be able to put on a great show, preach a wonderful 'positive' message and attract thousands of people but it will be lacking in substance for the spirit has died.

The Bible is never neutral about sin!

Every church which has fallen for the 'hyper grace' message will eventually become neutral towards sin.

Satan loves our sin for sin builds an impenetrable wall around us that will eventually keep us apart from the presence of God.

David Pawson, a well-known and highly respected Baptist minister from the UK was ministering to Christians in South Africa where he met up with a Pastor who had become a fervent follower of the 'hyper-grace' message. When he asked this pastor what effect this 'grace' message has had on his church the man's head was hanging low. "Since we follow this teaching the divorce rate in our church has gone through the roof" was his quiet reply.

Satan loves our sin but he hates it when we repent!

The hyper grace movement (which has not much to do with true grace at all) has fallen for Satan's lie about sin.

Joseph Prince, one of the leaders of this movement once said that 'sin is no big deal to God'. Sadly this man has no understanding of sin.

Unless sin is dealt with in a believer's life it will always build up a mountain of unresolved issues.

Sin is a very big deal to God!

When Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane he was sweating drops of blood as he meditated on what was waiting for him.

Those drops of blood were not the result of the anticipation of the physical pain caused by the suffering on the cross; Jesus was sweating blood because he was so totally overwhelmed by the weight of God's judgment which hangs over sin.

He was overcome by the awareness of the enormous weight of our sin that he was about to carry on his back to the cross and felt the serious judgment which God has placed on our sin.

The weight of sin was so heavy, the burden so hard that Jesus sweated blood in anticipation of God's full and fierce judgment on sin!

Those drops of blood were an expression of the full understanding, of the complete and total awareness of God's judgment which hangs over sin.

As Jesus was overcome with this terrible anticipation of God's judgment on sin he trembled and he started to sweat drop of blood in complete and in utter distress.

The moment any Christian starts to take sin lightly he has lost all sense of spiritual reality!

Sin is the cause why so many people will one day end up in hell! (Matt. 7:13)

If it would not have been for our sin, Jesus would have never suffered and died for us on the cross!

God takes our sin very serious! Let no man deceive you!

He takes our sins far more serious than any of us will ever be able to understand!

Anyone who preaches anything else is preaching a message which has been born in the bits of hell itself.

Sin had caused God to surrender His son!

Our sin matters to God and anyone who 'belittles' sin, who tells us that sin does not really matter to God has no concept, has no understanding of the true weight of sin.

Satan hates a heart that repents.

He hates nothing more than when he hears a heart turning towards God in repentance.

Once a person repents, Satan's dominion and power in that person's life has been broken.

Consequently Satan will distort and lie about the true meaning of repentance.

Repentance is not simply a change of opinion or a changing of mind.

The Greek word for repentance: μετανοώ metanoó has a much deeper meaning than that. Metanoéo does not simply stand for a changing of mind; it refers to a complete change of the inner man (in particular reference to the acceptance of the will of God on one's life).

True repentance is never the result of our mind!

Repentance which is born in the mind will not last. Repentance born in the mind is the same as a house which has been built on sand. The wind will wash the waves against it and it will soon it will crumble and fall. (Matthew 7:24)

True repentance is only ever born in the heart!

Repentance that is born in the heart will conquer the mind and result in a total and complete transformation. The evidence of true, of genuine repentance is very often a river of tears. Those are tears which have been washed ashore from the deepest, from the innermost part of our heart.

True repentance involves much more than the intellect. It involves the mind, the heart and it also involves our emotions. True repentance touches every sensitive nerve that exists in our body!

True repentance will leave an impact that lasts.

Repentance which is purely anchored in the mind will be superficial and it will never stand the test of time.

Once Satan has destroyed, has perverted and distorted our understanding of repentance and our concept of sin he will set out to destroy our image of God altogether.

He will change the true image of God into an idol which does not even exist.

Many churches today, particularly in the western world come together every Sunday to worship an idol.

They faithfully meet to sing praises to a god who is the product of their own imagination.

He is a god of love, a kind god, a god of mercy and grace (without having any understanding of the true meaning of grace). He is a god that loves everybody.

The preaching of the gospel has ceased in many churches today because many churches no longer have a gospel to share.

The power of positive thinking etc. is a very cheap substitute for the word of the Lord.

This god of love is so gracious, so loving and kind that he will allow almost everyone into his kingdom one day.

The emphasis is always on love, on grace and on mercy!

But grace without the message of the cross and without a call to repentance is never true grace.

The cross establishes the base for grace and repentance unleashes its power!

Grace does not exist unless someone comes to the cross and kneels before it with a sincere heart of repentance!

The very reason why Jesus died on the cross was because he wanted to save us from an eternity in hell!

You would never hear a sermon on hell in such churches today!

Yet Jesus himself preached far more about hell than he preached about heaven.

John 3:18 states very clearly that: Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Without Jesus there can be no salvation! Without Jesus we are already condemned!

The power of grace is only unleashed from the throne of God through our repentance. All that we can contribute to our salvation is a bag full of sins. Only Jesus has the power to cleanse us from sin.

On the cross God's grace became visible, became real in the most powerful way!

Any teaching on grace which does not include the cross and which does not include repentance is nothing but 'cheap grace'. It's not grace at all. It's a cheap substitute of grace!

Jesus death is completely useless to me unless I turn towards him in repentance!

The blood of Jesus is so immensely powerful that it can cleanse us from the most horrific sins we have ever committed but there is one thing that even his blood cannot do, there is one sin that even the blood of Jesus cannot wash clean.

His blood cannot cleanse the heart of someone who has never turned to him in repentance!

Without the cross and without repentance Grace has lost all its power and meaning.

The cross and repentance are inseparable for they alone open the pathway to Gods wonderful grace.

When Dietrich Bonhoeffer was asked this question by the American Pastor and when he replied: "it was the teaching of 'cheap grace' which rendered our nation defenseless against this onslaught of evil" he implied that the German church had lost the message of repentance. It had fallen for the lie that god loved everybody and that sin was not a big deal to Him. The church had created an idol instead of turning towards the real God in repentance, the only true God as revealed in the Bible.

Consequently the church ended up in confusion. It gradually became powerless and defenseless when the enemy eventually turned against it in force.

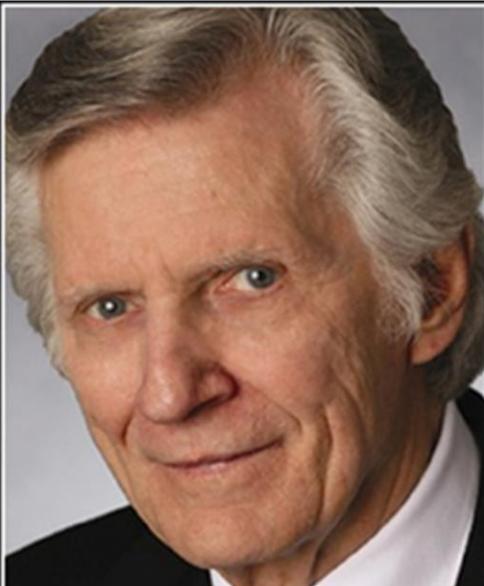
By the time the war was over many of the old churches were completely destroyed.

It was almost like God himself had spoken for He will always have the last word.

It was a serious wake up call for many German Christians who had survived this period of testing. In the end the truth will always resurface again.

Whenever we corrupt God's word, whenever we misuse or even abuse it we do not realize that such treatment of God's word will always come at a price.

In the end God has the last say but we will have to pay the price for the misuse of His word.



Most Christians never associate joy with repentance. But repentance is actually the mother of all joy in Jesus. Without it, there can be no joy. Yet, any believer who walks in repentance will be flooded with the joy of the Lord.

— David Wilkerson —