

THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS
Class #242 – Sunday AM2 June 1, 2008

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Forgiveness - -

Rule of the Kingdom - (Matt. 6:12, 14-15) Part of Sermon on the Mount [King's manifesto regulating the life of the kingdom subject]

Matthew 6:12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.'

Prayer for forgiveness based on self-merit

Matthew 6:14-15 "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

Forgive and you will be forgiven by your Heavenly Father.

With no forgiveness on your part then you can expect no forgiveness from your Heavenly Father.

Acts 10:43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

FAITH IS NON-MERITORIOUS.

Rule of Law – the Mosaic Law regulated the life of the Old Testament saint living during the Age of Israel.

Ephesians 1:7-8 In Him [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us.

- **Lavished** - περισσεύω – PERISSEUO - To provide in superabundance
- This superabundance was provided in the past!
- Our forgiveness is not provided by works but by grace.

We do not earn it as the kingdom subject is told to in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 6:14-15).

We are not to pray for forgiveness.

Our responsibility is to name our sins to God (1 John 1:9).

You are saved by grace – you are restored to fellowship by grace.

You must distinguish between **three rules of life**:

1. Mosaic Law
2. Law of the Kingdom
3. Teachings of Grace - The teachings of grace regulate our lives as Christians living in the Church Age which is an age of grace.

The teachings of Grace are addressed to Christians only and can be found in –

1. Portions of the Gospels.
2. Portions of the book of Acts.
3. New Testament Epistles.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us. . .**

- **Has blessed us - εὐλογέω – EULOGEO – To bless**
- Paul is writing to believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- This blessing took place in the past “**with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.**”
- Everything we do, we do out of appreciation for what the Lord has already done for us in grace.
- That is a different modus vivendi or way of life from the Mosaic Law or the Kingdom Law.
- We are not subjects of the Mosaic Law or the Sermon on the Mount.

The Christian is a subject of grace!

POD: The Christian was saved by grace through faith; therefore, he must live by grace through faith.

What does living by grace through faith mean?

Definition of living by grace through faith: To live our lives by faith in the grace that God has already given us to live it; and that grace was given the moment you were saved.

Because of that blessing the Christian is called to supernatural standards.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Our standard is to “**forgive each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**”

We do not have the power to forgive like Jesus Christ; our only power to forgive comes from the grace that He gives.

<p><u>Covenant of Works</u> Do in order to be blessed.</p> <p><u>Covenant of Faith</u> Do because you have already been blessed.</p>
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Our obligation to forgive in that manner is based on **Ephesians 1:3** – “Being blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places.”

Ephesians 1:7-8 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us.

We are *not* exhorted to forgive in order to be blessed with God’s forgiveness.

We are *not* exhorted to earn our forgiveness.

We *are* exhorted to forgive because we have received the blessing of forgiveness.

One of the riches of God’s grace that He superabundantly provided for you to be able to forgive just as God in Christ also has forgiven you is - - The Holy Spirit, mentioned in **Eph. 1:13-14**.

Ephesians 1:13-14 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

- ❖ We can never forgive apart from the grace that God has given us to forgive!
- ❖ We must walk by faith in God the Holy Spirit who indwells us.
- ❖ When we walk in that faith – He will enable us to forgive as we ought.

When we trust in that grace, we are enabled to meet the high standard of grace we have been called to.

Four Points of Doctrine:

1. Grace obligates the believer to live because he has already been blessed.
2. He lives not to be blessed by God, but because he has already been blessed by God.
3. When the believer lives or works to be blessed, he has fallen from grace and has turned to a works relationship with God.
4. A works relationship with God is LAW not GRACE.

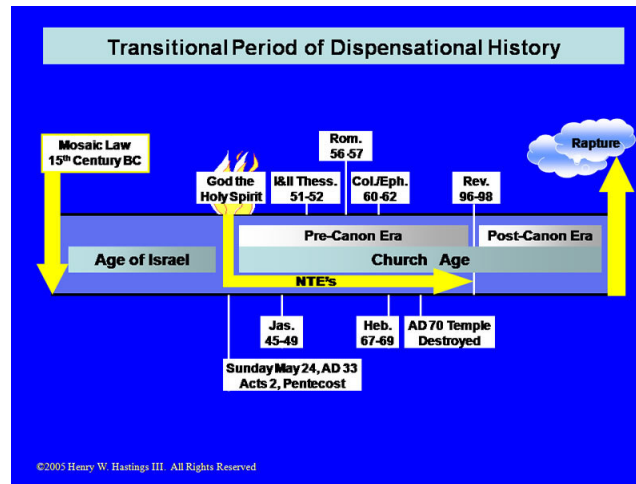
Note what a works relationship with God is like.

Deuteronomy 28:1ff "Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth."

Blessing was predicated upon works - do this and I will bless you.

What about us in the age of grace? We are to do what God wants us to do NOT to **be blessed** but because we have already been blessed.

Look up and read **Leviticus 26:3-46**.

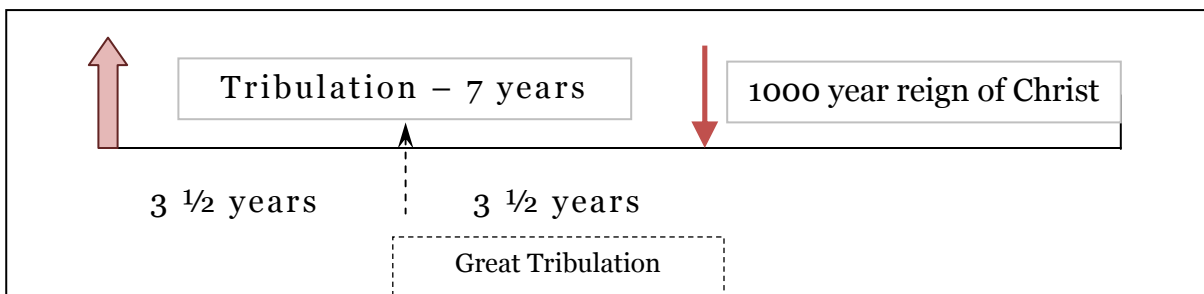


- ❖ God deals with nations today based on the Abrahamic Covenant (**Genesis 12:3**).
 “I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you.”
 - Amelekites
 - Assyrians
 - Philistines
 - Nazi Germany
 - Wiped out because they cursed Abraham’s progeny
 - ❖ Spain & England are shells of the former greatness they once were.
 - ❖ The sun was always setting somewhere in the British Empire but not anymore -- all because of foreign policy toward the Jews.
 - ❖ They did not fall under the 5 Cycles of discipline but they were disciplined.
- The five cycles of discipline apply to Israel alone!*
- ❖ God deals with Gentile nations today based on the Abrahamic Covenant (**Genesis 12:3**), not **Deut. 28** and **Lev. 26**.
 - ❖ That means the U.S. is not under going out under the 5 cycles of discipline because there is no pivot.
 - a. God deals with us as individuals during this age of grace.
 - b. God deals with nations based on the Abrahamic Covenant.
 - c. Other than that, they fall under the law of volitional responsibility in their adherence to the four divine institutions.
 - ❖ God is going to put in office whoever He has determined to put in office.

God will fulfill His eschatological plan!

Matt. 24:3-16 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" ⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. ⁶ You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. ⁸ But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. ⁹ Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰ At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. ¹² Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. ¹⁴ This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. ¹⁵ Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

Daniel 11:31-36 "Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation. ³² By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action. ³³ Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for many days. ³⁴ Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy. ³⁵ Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time. ³⁶ Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done." (Read down to vs. 45)



Daniel 9:24-27 "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. ²⁵ So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. ²⁶ Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. ²⁷ And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard Bible (NASB) unless otherwise noted.