



WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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My Thoughts concerning Various Bible Topics.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

My Thoughts Concerning Various Bible Topics.

Topics.

- Bible history and Bible authors.
- In Christ.
- A story of a father and two sons.
- The human spirit, the flesh and sin.
- Conscience and guilt.
- Walking in the Spirit and doubting God's love.
- Jesus is God's gift of grace and love the highest gift.

BIBLE HISTORY AND BIBLE AUTHORS

The Bible records history revealing how God works through world events it is telling a spiritual story from God's perspective and records history as it affects Israel, but it is not a historical book, it is a record of accounts expressing a faith that says, God is just, if there is punishment there is a just reason for it. Biblical writers often use figurative language to colour the story to highlight the meaning and use lofty language and hyperboles to emphasize the enormity and awesomeness or horror of the events. The central focus or primary purpose of the Bible is not the historical account or the exact detail of history, but the eternal lessons that the story communicates to the reader. It is about God's relationship with man, and the good and evil in the human heart. The stories also present a message of forgiveness and hope for those who turn to God with all their heart and soul and obey God's voice accept their guilt and change their ways.

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IN CHRIST

In Christ means fully belonging to Christ, or being in a new race of which Christ is the head. Adam was the head of the old race we were all in before we became part of the new race created in Christ of which he is the head. Christians could say, they were in Adam, they were in Adam's race and that they were in Adam's world, but now they are in Christ and in Christ's race (family) and in Christ's world (the global body of Christ). The expression, "In Christ" also embraces being together and in union with Christ and agreeing with and sharing in the divine nature of Christ.

In, from Strong's Concordance means, together with.

- Jesus said, "In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you (John 14:20) this verses could read, "In that day you shall know that I am together with My Father, and you are together with me and I am together with you.

God the Father is in Christ by love, Christ is in God by love and we are in God and in Christ by love and they are in us by love. The following is a true story and a good example of a person being in the heart of another. An eight-year old girl with a disability whose best friend was her mother, was doing her first live stage show at her school. The mother loved her daughter, but could not be at the opening show as she was in hospital with cancer. A television reporter asked the small girl if she would be sad and miss her mother at the opening of the show.

The young girl with tears in her eyes said, "Yes I will miss her, but she will be in my heart where she belongs." Love for a person creates the reality and presence of the person in the human heart and mind.

A STORY OF A FATHER AND TWO SONS

There are some in the Christian family who believe that every faithful brother or sister who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ should have a near perfect understanding of Scripture before they can be saved to eternal life and in union with the Lord Jesus Christ and his heavenly Father for those who believe this way consider the following two scenarios.

A father has two sons:

1. The first son loves God and the Lord Jesus Christ, he is repentant and understands that it is only by faith in Jesus and God's grace that he is made righteous before God and saved. This son is not a reader or a studier of the Bible, he would rather be outwardly helping others than sitting home behind a computer or reading books, so his Bible knowledge is very limited, and his understanding of some theology may be incorrect because of this. Nevertheless he shows love and kindness to those around him, helps the less fortunate and serves soup to the poor, because he not only believes these are the things Christ calls those in his family to do, but also believes these are the things that delight God's heart and bring a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The second son also loves God and the Lord Jesus Christ, he like the first son is repentant and understands that it is only by faith in Jesus and God's grace that he is made righteous before God and saved, but unlike the first son he loves reading and studying the Bible, he doesn't have time to be involved with others.

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To this son it is more important to sit home all day and mull over the Scriptures so he can share and teach God's word with others, this is his passion and his love since he knows that what he is teaching leads to eternal life. This son studies until he has every detail of Scripture exactly in its right place (well as best as he can), so he doesn't have time to commit his life to serving soup and giving his life to helping the needy. Neither of these two sons are doing what they are doing for money, fame or power, (that is an entirely different group again) both these sons are sincere and devoted in their belief and genuinely love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Added to this they basically hold to the same ethics and moral teachings of the Bible and do what they do because they believe it is what is important to the Lord Jesus Christ and his heavenly Father. Now here is the sad truth: amongst much of Christianity (certainly not all) those in the first sons group dismiss and speak badly about those in the second sons group, they call them unloving and uncaring, because all they see them doing is studying and teaching, while the people in the second sons group dismiss those in the first sons group, because they consider them wishy-washy Christians because of their lack of knowledge of the Scriptures, yet both groups are doing what they do because they love Christ and not only believe it is what is important to God, but also have a heartfelt joy and desire to do what they are doing.

I am only sharing this to shine a spotlight on the truth (at least as I see it) that those who give their life to helping the poor should encourage those who study and those who give their life to study should encourage those who help the poor since both are adding to the global Kingdom of God. Perhaps rather than dismiss each other, because we don't fit into each other's mould of what we believe a Christian should look like we should be living in the confidence that Jesus knows his sheep (John 10:14) and God knows the motives and intents of the heart and with this

knowledge do all we can to encourage anyone who is doing-good for the Kingdom of God whether they fit our mould or not and whether they belong to our church or not. Clearly belonging to a local church is a good thing, but we should never lose sight that Christ's body is global and not confined to the local church and therefore appears in many shapes, styles and forms. Paul wrote:

- Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (Philip. 2:12).

This not only puts the responsibility of salvation upon each individual who confesses to believe in Christ, but also completely removes the responsibility of another person's salvation from others. Certainly, we are all called to help and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ, but not one of us, is called to judge their salvation. Now here is the beauty and glory of how the global body of Christ works on a local level and globally amongst all the nations of the world. Those who belong to the second sons group in a sense act as the knowledge and wisdom of God's mind on earth since it is through their careful and time consuming study that those who belong to the first sons group gain insights into Scripture, while the second group should rest in the knowledge that there are others who are acting as the arms and legs of God on earth by helping the less fortunate and the poor. Perhaps, while we are waiting for him who is perfect to come, it would be a better testimony to those around us and to the outside world to acknowledge that while we may not agree with a particular Christian group we accept that the good that they are doing they are doing in faith, because they believe it is what is important to God rather than focus on what we may not agree with and out-rightly judge and condemn them. Especially since there is not one Christian church that is perfect in knowledge or perfect in behaviour nor is there one Christian brother or sister who has perfect knowledge of all Scripture or who is perfect in their thoughts, actions and their behaviour.

NOTE: this is not about never helping the poor or never reading the Bible the focus is upon giving our lives to study or giving our lives to helping naturally we should all be helping the poor and less fortunate when we are able and we should all be giving a certain amount of time to reading and studying the Bible. Perishing mortals cannot know the hidden secrets, thoughts and motives of another Christian's heart, it is a dangerous thing to judge another person's salvation especially since we might find them seated next to us at the eternal banquet table? Perhaps we should learn to trust that Jesus knew what he was saying when he said:

- I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me (John 10:14).
- My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27).

THE HUMAN SPIRIT, THE FLESH AND SIN

Spiritually all humans have two natures dwelling within them the Bible calls these two natures the spirit and the flesh, the world refers to them as the higher nature and the lower nature.

- The spirit is the higher nature it is that nature that is humble and leans toward love and manifests itself in compassion, kindness, mercy, grace, forgiveness, goodness and doing what is right.
- The flesh is the lower nature it is that nature that is prideful and controlled by self and ego it leans toward sin and manifests itself in jealousies, envy, greed, selfishness, anger, lustful thoughts, the craving for power and control and such like things.

Both of these natures have a mind of their own, it could be said that the mind of the flesh is continually opposed to the mind of the spirit. This is because the mind of the flesh is controlled by pride, selfishness and greed whereas the mind of the spirit is controlled by humbleness, giving and

love. The mind of the spirit is always thinking about what is right and its thoughts is always upon what is good and pure and it is outwardly manifested in acts of love, in contrast the mind of the flesh is always prone to wrong thinking, impure thoughts and leans toward wrongdoing. The flesh will not only rob, lie, cheat, deceive and oppress others it will also rape, murder and use violence and even go to war to gratify and get what self wants. The spirit is the total opposite to the flesh it never wishes harm on anyone in fact it puts others before itself, it not only thinks good thoughts and thinks good of people, but also manifests itself in showing kindness and compassion toward others.

If we take an honest look into our own nature and cast our eyes over the populations of the world it becomes clear that all of us are controlled at some level by the nature of the flesh and the nature of the spirit. Serial killers, rapist, war mongers and such like would be at the extreme end of those controlled by the flesh while those who sacrifice their own lives for the benefit of others would be at the top end of those controlled by the spirit. When Adam disobeyed God's command and ate of the forbidden fruit he was separated from God and being separated from God he lost the fullness of God's love, joy and peace which human nature desperately craves and needs for happiness and heartfelt fulfillment. Adam became dominated by a new nature craving to find some way of replacing the absence of the love and presence of God in his life and since we are all descendants of our earthly father Adam we are also separated from God. As a result of this separation mankind is now pulled toward whatever will replace in their heart the missing fulfillment and pleasures that Adam had when he was in a right relationship with God prior to the fall. This is evidenced by the deep feeling of aloneness one feels when they have no parents, family member, friend or romantic partner in their life who loves them and by the constant desire for worldly things, the craving to be important, famous, rich and wealthy and the deep desire to be loved unconditionally. The unfulfilled nature humans now have because of sin and the absence of God's presence and His love will do lawfully or unlawfully whatever is needed to fulfill the sense of loneliness and emptiness.

CONSCIENCE AND GUILT

Conscience is like the tiny rudder that guides a gigantic ship through the vast oceans. Our conscience acts like the rudder of the ship it acts as an independent judge between the spirit and the flesh and guides us through life if conscience did not exist in the human mind people would not feel any guilt when they did wrong. Now here is the interesting truth the fact the world has a moral awareness of right and wrong (however weak it maybe) shows an awareness that to some degree they have knowledge of God even though they may not want to admit it and verbally deny it. This is because it was not evolution, but God who engraved into the hearts and minds of mankind the knowledge that it is wrong to murder and steal or have an affair with another man's wife etc. As the collective consciousness of the world system diminishes the consciousness of God in society it results in a lack of moral conscience in the individual. The more the world removes the sound of Gods voice from the collective consciousness of society through movies, TV, computer games and the internet the weaker the individual conscience becomes toward moral values such as honesty, integrity and respecting the lives of others and respecting their property etc.

THE SPIRIT AND THE HEART AND WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

The words spirit and heart when used spiritually refers to the collective total of the person's, affections, emotions, desires, thoughts, and actions and embraces, mind, self, emotions, intellect, attitude, thought reasoning together producing who that person is as a total whole. It is the essence

or persona of everything a person is. Paul said, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25) living in the Spirit means living by faith and in the grace of God it means that we are trusting in God's grace and the Lord Jesus Christ to be counted righteous and saved to eternal life in contrast to trusting in self-effort by strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions. The words, "Let us also walk in the Spirit" means if we are going to live in the truth that we are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and God's grace then we should also walk in the Spirit meaning we should endeavour to live a lifestyle that brings honour to God and a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith. It means doing what is good and right in the sight of the Lord and walking in the fruits of the Spirit (love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace, forgiveness and such like things) as opposed to the ways of the flesh (living to gratify self, ego and pride). Walking in the Spirit is being humble in contrast to allowing the heart to be lifted up in pride and feeling superior to others it is about loving others as we love ourselves. Walking in the Spirit is about aiming to keep the law because the spirit underlying the law is love since each law protects another human from harm. In the book of Romans Paul states:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

The spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from physical, financial, sexual, verbal and emotional and spiritual harm, thus those who know God not only aim to keep the Law because it is the right and loving thing to do and fulfils the six Commandments regarding man and the Royal Law "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:31) (Jas. 2:8), but it also pleases God and brings a good testimony to His name and the name of Jesus and the Christian faith. Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because they are saved. They understand that righteousness is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort.

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- **Micah wrote:** "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- **Isaiah says:** "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- **Jeremiah said:** "Those who know God, practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show us that the people the LORD loves are not only those who acknowledge God, but who also uphold justice, do not lie, deceive or make promises they do not intend to keep, but speak the truth, do what is right, show respect and give help to others when able and make choices that lead to peace. These are the things the LORD delights in and that bring His favour. The constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. Thus, walking in the Spirit is about living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is all about doing right to others, thus the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon."

For further information on Jesus famous sermon see:

- Matthew 5 in Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

DOUBTING GOD'S LOVE

The following is the most perfect example of love and the most splendid and humbling of all Scriptures since it clearly shows how much Christ loves us, the apostle Paul wrote the following beautiful words:

- While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly (Rom 5:6).

Meaning though we were full of sinful dysfunctions and aberrations dwelling within our bodies (i.e., self, ego, pride, greed and lustful thoughts etc.,) Christ died for us, he laid down his life that we could be made righteous by faith and God's grace apart from the law, self-effort and religious works. In spite of our corrupted fallen nature God counts our faith in Christ as our righteousness it is imputed to us as a pure and free gift. Though some of us might die for a friend or loved one, Christ died for us while we were ungodly, meaning indifferent to God and His ways and for many of us blasphemers, consider; if God was willing to Sacrifice His Son for us while we were indifferent to Him by sending his Son how much more will He love us now that we love His most beloved Son.

Some in the Christian faith determine whether God loves them by their good or bad circumstances, (i.e., if life is calm and running smoothly God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes they feel God has withdrawn his love), but this is superstition and judging God according to this world. When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love all we have to do is look back to the bloodstained cross and see what it cost the Father to save us and how much his Son suffered so that we could have put upon us a royal crown and majestic robe of righteousness apart from the law and works and not only be justified but granted eternal life in everlasting glory.

JESUS IS GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE

The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote:

- I do not nullify the grace of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

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This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort, they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value.

Equally as horrific as this Paul states:

- When we forsake grace, we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by grace that God made us alive in Christ" (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that:

- It is only by grace that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God". This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life. This means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, grace and faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them.

This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skilfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and its priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life.

LOVE THE HIGHEST GIFT

Ever wondered what the Spirit and heart of God desires from us? What the most valued Spirit and the highest goal God yearns that all in the global family of Christ would seek after? Some might say, "Scriptural knowledge and spiritual gifts" while others might think, "Greater faith." Obviously, these are all good to seek after, but what does God consider the highest gift? Consider the following words of the apostle Paul:

- If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not LOVE, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal and if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not LOVE, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not LOVE, I gain nothing (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

To highlight God's attitude toward love even more Paul shines a mega floodlight on what God gives the highest priority by finishing his message with the words, faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest of these three is love (1 Cor. 13:13). Clearly for those in Christ's Kingdom who are seeking to honour God and desiring to hear those comforting words of their Lord, "Well done good and faithful servant." The best advice I could give is to magnify and enlarge love so that it swells to overflowing in the heart because everything that flows out from love will honour God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

John wrote:

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:8).
- God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16).

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