

THE SUPERIORITY OF GRACE OVER LAW

A mini-series entitled, **The Supremacy of Grace**, has developed from 1 Tim.4:1 and the Greek word, *aphistemi* (f.m.ind) [to fall away].

- Lesson #1 A Prophetic Warning of Apostasy (4/17/16)
- Lesson #2 Spiritual War and Peace (5/1/16)
- Lesson #3 Falling Away from the Faith (part one) (5/8/16)
- Lesson #4 Falling Away from the Faith (part two) (5/15/16)
- Lesson #5 Never Compromise Grace (part one) (6/5/16)
- Lesson #6 Never Compromise Grace (part two) (6/22/16)

The idea of superiority of grace over law is based on these three things.

- The phrase “much more” (2 Cor.3:8, 9, 11).
- The Greek word “surpasses” (*huperballo*) (2 Cor.3:10).
- The Greek word “fading away” (*katargeo*) [to render inoperative] (2 Cor.3:7, 11, 13).

Today’s lesson text comes from (2 Cor.3:7-18).

We will divide it into three points based on three first class conditional clause “if’s” (1cc) [if, and it is true].

- **First** (1cc) (2 Cor.3:7-8) Old Covenant ministry of spiritual death
- **Second** (1cc) (2 Cor.3:9-10) Old Covenant ministry of spiritual condemnation
- **Third** (1cc) (2 Cor.3:11-18) New Covenant ministry of spiritual freedom

1. The ministry of the Old Covenant revealed all mankind to be under spiritual death because of Adam’s original sin (AOS) (Gen.2:17; 3:1-7) (2 Cor.3:7-8).

(2 Cor.3:7). “**But if** “(protasis) the ministry of death - Note the question of the apodosis (2 Cor.3:8).

The Greek word for death is *thanatos* (Rom.5:12, 14, 17, 21). Death (*thanatos*) is the opposite to life (*zoe*).

(John 5:24) “Truly, truly, I say to you, ‘he who hears My words, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, **but has passed out of death into life.**”

Every person who believes the grace gospel of Jesus Christ is delivered from spiritual death into eternal life (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; Col.1:13-14).

(1 John 3:14) “We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.”

2. The ministry of the Old Covenant was also to reveal to mankind his / her spiritual condemnation

(2 Cor.3:9-10) “**For if** (protasis) the ministry of condemnation has glory, **much more** does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. “**For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it.**”

- **The glory of New Covenant Grace is Superior to the glory of Old Covenant law.**
- **The New Covenant Righteousness of Christ is Superior to the Old Covenant condemnation of Law.**

(2 Cor.5:21) “He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

(2 Cor.3:11-18) The ministry of the Old Covenant is temporary (fading away) UNTIL the First Advent of Jesus Christ and the permanency of the New Covenant

3. The New Covenant ministry of spiritual freedom in Christ is superior to the Mosaic Law (ML) of transgressions and condemnation.

(2 Cor.3:11) “**For if** (1cc) that which fades away was with glory, **much more** that which remains is in glory.”

(2 Cor.3:12) “**Therefore** (2Cor.3:7-11) having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech.”

- Not like Moses (2 Cor.3:13a) – veil over his face (because of the Glory of Christ)
- Not like the Sons of Israel (2 Cor.3:13b-15) – veil over hardened hearts – “BECAUSE it is removed only by Christ.”
- “**But whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.**” (2 Cor.3:16)

New Covenant liberty of grace in Christ:

(2Cor.3:17-18) “Now the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **liberty**. But we all, with **unveiled face**, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.” (Rom.8:29; 12:2)

New Covenant transformation replaces transgressions:

(Gal.3:19) “Why the Law then? It was added because of **transgressions**, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, **UNTIL the seed** would come to whom the promise had been made.”

- **The glory of Golgotha surpasses the glory of Sinai.**

NOTE: The standard of Spirituality, which is the work of the Holy Spirit that has set us Free, is Superior to the moral standard ‘work’ of the Mosaic Law, which taught us that we were condemned.

Paul’s conversion on the Road to Damascus shows this difference (Acts 9). When you compare (Acts 9:1-3) to (Acts 9:19-20) you see the power of transformation over transgression and condemnation (Gal.3:24-25).

New Covenant - “For the law of the Spirit of life IN Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and of death.” (Rom.8:2)