

## GRACE SESSION TWO - GRACE IN THE PRESENT

*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 1 Peter 1:14*

### INTRODUCTION

- A. The purpose of the Law of Moses
- Charles Ryrie, *That proper use of the law is to show men their utter helplessness and hopelessness before a holy God ... the law is for the ungodly to point them to Christ (Galatians 3:19-25).*
  - Augustine, *The law decrees, grace alone conquers sin.*
- B. The transition from Old to New
- Hebrews 7:11-12, *Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? 12 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.*
  - 2 Corinthians 3:7-11, *Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? 9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. 10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. 11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.*
- C. The Law of Christ
- Christians are now under the Law of Christ
    - ▶ 1 Corinthians 9:21, *To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.*
    - ▶ Charles Ryrie, *To be subject to this law is what it means to be under grace, for the law of Christ is composed of the teachings of grace ... The purpose of the law of Christ is sanctification ... Thus the purpose of the law of Christ is to make God's people godly ...*
    - ▶ The followers of Jesus demonstrate the New Covenant, Jeremiah 31:31-34, *"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*
  - The precepts of the Law of Christ
    - ▶ Positive commands of grace: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, *Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
    - ▶ Negative commands of grace: Romans 12:2, *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
    - ▶ Submission, Ephesians 4:11-12, *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*
  - The purpose of the Law of Christ is the pursuit of holiness
    - ▶ 1 Peter 1:15-16, *but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*
    - ▶ Charles Ryrie, *Obedience to the law of Christ, then, glorifies God by producing Christlikeness in the believer.*
  - Those under the Law of Christ will be conformed to the image of Christ.
    - ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:49, *Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.*
    - ▶ God did not predestine those who come to faith in Christ alone to just escape hell but to be remade into the image of the Father's dear Son.
    - ▶ Alistair Begg, *God's purpose for your life is to conform you to the likeness of His Son. Think about that: consider Jesus' human perfections, and realize that you get to become like Him! God is deeply committed to this; it is a work He promises to bring "to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."*

## SANCTIFICATION

*Grace can pardon our ungodliness and justify us with Christ's righteousness;  
it can put the Spirit of Jesus Christ within us; it can help us when we are down;  
it can heal us when we are wounded; it can multiply pardons as we through frailty multiply transgression. John Bunyan*

- A. An introduction to (progressive) sanctification
- The Greek word means *to make holy*, the same root for *saint* and *holy*. It is the process of maturing in a life that properly reflects our position. It is a goal to be fully attained only at death or the return of Christ.
  - Titus 2:11-14, *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*
  - Charles Ryrie, *Sanctification too is related to grace ... for being under grace is the basis for holy living ... every area of the Christian life is built upon the unmerited favor of God as set free in the gift of His Son.*
  - Jerry Bridges, *The Holy Spirit's work in transforming us more and more into the likeness of Christ is called sanctification. Our involvement and cooperation with Him in His work is what I call the pursuit of holiness.*
- B. Sanctification is the work of the triune God and man.
- The Father equips the believer, Hebrews 13:20-21, *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*
  - The Son is actively involved in our sanctification
    - ▶ Romans 6:10-11, *For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*
    - ▶ Romans 8:11, *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*
    - ▶ Jerry Bridges, *There is no such thing as salvation from sin's penalty without an accompanying deliverance from sin's dominion. This obviously does not mean we no longer sin, but that sin no longer reigns in our lives ... it is this decisive deliverance from the dominion of sin through union with Christ in His death that ensures that a true believer will not have the cavalier attitude, "Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?" If a person does have such an attitude, it is a likely indication that the person is not a true believer, however much he or she professes to have trusted in Christ for salvation.*
  - The Spirit sets the believer free from his old nature,
    - ▶ Romans 8:2, *For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*
    - ▶ Galatians 5:17, *For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*
    - ▶ Romans 8:13, *For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*
  - Believers who have placed faith in Christ alone are called to pursue holiness
    - ▶ Romans 12:1, *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*
    - ▶ Hebrews 12:14, *Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*
    - ▶ Pursuing holiness is a choice, a moment by moment choice.
- C. The necessity of Jesus' incarnation for our sanctification.
- At Jesus' incarnation he took on a second nature. Humanity was added to His deity. He became one person with two natures. Kenosis addressed the relationship between His two natures. Jesus gave up the independent use of His divine attributes.
  - Jesus lived as a fully human being and experienced everything we did without sinning. He had access to His Father, God's Word, the Holy Spirit, and prayer. Jesus was able to make payment for our sins because He lived the sinless life we could not live.
  - Christians have access to the Bible, prayer, the indwelling Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ interceding for us at the right-hand of the Father. We can pursue holiness in cooperation with our Triune God.
- D. Don't forget the big picture, 1 Peter 1:15-21
- We are to be holy in our conduct (15-16), *but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*
  - Our God is to be revered with holy fear (17), *And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,*
  - Remember that the blood of Christ paid for our ransom (18-20), *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you*
  - Be mindful that our faith and hope are in the grace of God (21), *who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

E. Some quotes to consider

- Augustine, *For grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may be able to do them ... The grace of God does not find men fit for salvation, but makes them so.*
- John Newton, *I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be; but I thank God I am not what I once was, and I can say with the great apostle, "By the grace of God I am what I am."*
- D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *If the 'grace' you have received does not help you to keep the law, you have not received grace.*
- John Calvin, *Whatever is laudable in our works proceeds from the grace of God.*
- Charles Ryrie, *Jesus Christ is the supreme revelation of God's grace; salvation is by grace; and grace governs and empowers Christian living. Without grace Christianity is nothing.*

**A BIBLICAL TOOLBOX FOR SANCTIFICATION**

**THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD**

A. Wear God's armor, Ephesians 6:14-17, *Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,*

- *The belt of truth* - read, understand and obey the Bible. Max Anders, *To put on the belt of truth can be understood as accepting the truth of the Bible and choosing to follow it with integrity.*
- *The breastplate of righteousness* - the Christian has positional righteousness (justification) and must pursue progressive righteousness (sanctification). Harold Hoehner, *As a soldier's breastplate protected his chest from an enemy's attacks, so sanctifying, righteous living guards a believer's heart against the assaults of the devil.*
- *The Gospel of peace* - trust and share the Gospel. John Stott, *In either case the devil fears and hates the gospel, because it is God's power to rescue people from his tyranny, both us who have received it and those with whom we share it. So we need to keep our gospel boots strapped on.*
- *The shield of faith* - glory in your faithful Savior. Thomas Constable, *The faith that provides such a defense for the Christian in his or her spiritual warfare is two-fold. It is trust in all that God has revealed and active application of that trust at the moment of spiritual attack.*
- *The helmet of salvation* - expect full victory by trusting your Savior. Charles Hodge, *... that which adorns and protects the Christian, which enables him to hold up his head with confidence and joy, is the fact that he is saved.*
- *The sword of the Spirit* - learn Scripture for daily wisdom and application. Warren Wiersbe, *The better you know the Word of God, the easier it will be for you to detect Satan's lies and reject his offers.*

B.. Don't take the armor for granted

- Pray without ceasing for yourself and others, William Barclay, *Our tendency is so often to pray only in the great crises of life; but it is from daily prayer that Christians will find daily strength.*
- John Stott, *Most Christians pray sometimes, with some prayers and some degree of perseverance, for some of God's people. But to replace 'some' by 'all' in each of these expressions would be to introduce us to a new dimension of prayer.*
- Keep alert, Mark 13:33, *Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.*

C. Putting on the armor of God is putting on Christ (adapted from Warren Wiersbe)

- He is the truth, John 14:6, *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*
- He is our righteousness, 2 Corinthians 5:21, *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
- He is our peace, Ephesians 2:14, *For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.*
- His faithfulness makes possible our faith, Galatians 2:20, *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*
- He is our salvation, Titus 2:11, *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

D. How to be constantly protected by the full armor of God.

- *The belt of truth:* Read the Bible daily, believe it, apply it by living a life of integrity.
- *The breastplate of righteousness:* Thank God daily for your righteousness received from Jesus Christ and ask Him to live through you each day.
- *The gospel of peace:* Remind yourself daily of the Gospel which saved you and look for opportunities to share the Gospel with others.
- *The shield of faith:* Remember that your spiritual victory comes through faith in Christ based on His faithfulness, past, present and future.
- *The helmet of salvation:* Be confident by hoping for future salvation which God will complete.
- *The sword of the Spirit:* Learn and memorize the Word of God so it is available in times of trouble.

## A ROADMAP OF DO'S AND DON'T

- A. Put off immoral passions and inappropriate emotions, Colossians 3:5-9, *Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices*
- Galatians 5:24, *And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*
  - 2 Corinthians 5:17, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
  - Max Anders, *...these behaviors and attitudes are to be eliminated because they reflect the way we once lived. A transformed lifestyle should be the trademark of our new life.*
- B. Put on the new self, composed of Godly characteristics, Colossians 3:10-14, *and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*
- Romans 6:4, *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*
  - Ephesians 4:24, *and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*
  - Thomas Constable, *Only by sanctification can people attain to the full image of God and Christ that God created them to bear.*
  - A list of *General Principles of Conduct Under Grace* by G. Coleman Luck is on page 11.
- C. Follow principles of the new life in Christ, Colossians 3:15-17, *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*
- *Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart, Philippians 4:7, And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,*
  - *Be thankful, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
  - *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, Thomas Constable, His Word should permeate our whole being so that we make all decisions and plans in its light.*
  - *Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, 1 Corinthians 10:31, So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*
  - Max Anders, *Genuine spirituality is found in having our lives transformed into the character of Christ.*

## WALK BY THE SPIRIT

- A. The promise of spiritual victory, Galatians 5:16-18, *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*
1. When a Christian is led by the Holy Spirit, he chooses not to pursue fleshly desires.
    - The focus of walk is *continuity of action, the conduct of one's life.* Romans 8:4, *in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*
    - Donald Campbell, *As a believer walks through life he should depend on the indwelling Holy Spirit for guidance and power. But the Spirit does not operate automatically in a believer's heart. He waits to be depended on.*
    - Ronald Fung, *God's will is now an inward principle, the result of the leading of the Spirit within the believer.*
    - Remember the New Covenant, Jeremiah 31:31-34.
  2. There is the promise of victory for those led by the Holy Spirit.
    - When I walk by the Spirit I will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
    - The Holy Spirit who indwells us is the One who ensures victory against the desires of the flesh.
    - Donald Campbell, *... while no believer will ever be entirely free in this life from the evil desires that stem from his fallen human nature, he need not capitulate to them, but may experience victory by the Spirit's help.*
  3. The flesh and the Spirit are not complementary but contradictory.
    - Romans 8:6-7, *For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. **This verse turned me around.***
    - John Stott, *... 'the flesh' stands for what we are by natural birth, 'the Spirit' what we become by new birth, the birth of the Spirit. And these two, the flesh and the Spirit, are in sharp opposition to each other.*
    - Timothy George, *So long as we remain in this present life, we never outgrow or transcend the spiritual conflict Paul was describing in this passage. There is no spiritual technique or second blessing that can propel the believer onto a higher plane of Christian living where this battle must no longer be fought.*

4. The battle against the flesh is continuous.

- Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Spirit never brings the soul into bondage. The terrors and the fears that come of legal slavery are not the work of the Spirit of God. Where He works, holiness is delight and the service of God is a continual joy. Oh, that we may be thus led by the Spirit!*
- Romans 7:24-25, *Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.*

B. The works of the flesh are not produced by the Holy Spirit, Galatians 5:19-21, *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

1. Features of the flesh

- Max Anders, *The acts of the flesh symbolize spiritual death, but the fruit of the Spirit is evidence of spiritual life.*
- John Stott, *The flesh itself, our old nature, is secret and invisible, but its works, the words and deeds in which it erupts, are public and evident.*
- The struggle is not between equal opponents. Thankfully, the flesh must succumb to the leading of the Spirit as we make right choices.

2. Paul's list of the works of the flesh

- The list is not exhaustive and they may be placed into four categories.: sex, religion, society and intemperance.
- They are interpersonal offenses, either between individuals or between a person and God.
- Similar lists may be found in Mark 7:20-23; Romans 1:29-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 5:5-7, 1 Timothy 1:9-10 and 2 Timothy 3:2-5.

3. Paul's warning against such behavior.

- Those who walk according to the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- The warning is for those who make such behavior their way of life.
- Ronald Funk, ... *it denotes not an occasional lapse but habitual behavior.*
- It is not that Christians are incapable of such behavior but that their pattern of life is being transformed by the indwelling Spirit of God.
- The Bible does teach that there is a difference of reward for believers based on faithfulness to God, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, *For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.*
- The strongest statement by Paul is emphasized in 2 Corinthians 13:5, *Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!*
- We are to examine our lives in light of Scripture to determine whether our behavior demonstrates the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit. If we have received God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, there will be a change empowered by the Spirit of God.

C. The fruit of the Spirit is the in-working of the Holy Spirit in every believer, Galatians 5:22-26, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

1. Behavioral characteristics (fruit) that show control by the Holy Spirit.

- Donald Campbell, *The word "fruit" is singular, indicating that these qualities constitute a unity, all of which should be found in a believer who lives under the control of the Spirit.*
- Jesus described how a Christian must abide in Him to be fruitful, John 15:4-5, *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*
- Ephesians 5:9, *(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),*

2. Paul's list of the fruit of the Spirit

- The list may be placed into three categories, God-ward, interpersonal, and personal.
- Thomas Constable, *There are laws against the deeds of the flesh because they are destructive, but there are none against the fruit of the Spirit because it is edifying.*
- Ronald Fung, ... *Paul's words ultimately mean that "the law is not against those who walk by the Spirit because in principle they are fulfilling the law.*
- It would be hard to find a person who is offended by one who treats others with respect, compassion, gentleness, and kindness.

3. The provision of spiritual victory

- Christians have been set free from control by the flesh through Christ's victory at the cross. Romans 6:6-7, *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.*
- Tom Constable, *The Christian has crucified the flesh in the sense that when he or she trusted Christ God broke the domination of his or her sinful nature. While we still have a sinful human nature, it does not control us as it did before we trusted in Christ ... So victory over the sinful nature's passions and desires has been provided by Christ in His death. Faith must continually lay hold of this truth or a believer will be tempted to try to secure victory by self-effort.*
- Galatians 5:16, *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.* Dependence for daily direction should come from the Holy Spirit, not personal feelings.
- True Christian liberty is identified by serving others not by building up oneself. Philippians 2:3, *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

**ADDITIONAL QUOTES ON SANCTIFICATION**

- Charles Ryrie, *Man does fail unless God comes to his aid. In this age He has done this in grace through the work of His Son and the indwelling power of His Spirit.*
- Thomas Brooks, *The more grace thrives in the soul, the more sin dies in the soul.*
- Warren Wiersbe, *With the mind, we learn God's truth through the Word. With the heart, we love God's truth, His Son. With the will, we yield to the Spirit and live God's truth day by day. It takes all three for a balanced experience of sanctification.*
- Charles Spurgeon, *We have been cleansed once for all, but our feet still need to be washed from the defilement of our daily walk as children of God.*
- Alistair Begg, ... *even if all of our breath were to be squeezed out in His service, even if all of our life were to be trampled over for His name's sake, still it would be time and energy and life well spent. You have been ransomed by God so that you might praise Him today and enjoy Him for all eternity. Whatever your day holds, be sure to walk through it with that as your greatest passion and highest purpose.*

**QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. How does grace fit in with New Testament lists of do's and don'ts?
2. Is grace compatible with Philippians 2:12, ... *work out your salvation with fear and trembling?*
3. Have you applied the *full armor of God* in your life? If so, what difference has it made in your walk of faith?
4. For a Christian, when does the struggle with the flesh end? Is the struggle worth the effort?
5. Do you consider yourself a saint or a sinner? And, why?
6. Do I feel my performance determines how God views me or chooses to use me?