

was the Pharisees that Jesus called blind guides. In our day it has become the so called “**grace preachers**”, that have become the blind guides leading the blind into the ditch. Those who refuse to tell the whole story. Who only preach half a gospel. A gospel without the full story of the cross. The “*gospel of self*” that takes the follower down only one side of the road and ultimately leads them into the ditch on that side. The new harlot church has become the evangelical church in America. It starts with a one sided gospel that becomes a constant diet of ice cream. With Pastors fearful or incapable of giving their congregations a steak dinner. After the constant diet of ice cream it degenerates into the false *gospel of self*. With grace preachers preaching a permissive gospel of fleshly lust and carnal desire. A gospel of ease, void of self denial and obedience to the cross of obedience to the Spirit. It promotes a nice guy Christianity, without offence, aligned with the love of money, love of the world, free from the conviction of sin or guilt of wrong doing because all is covered by grace. Presuming on the grace of God and insulting the Spirit of grace they have become a form of godliness denying the power of the crucified life to save from sin. *From such turn away.*

2 Timothy 3:2-5

2 For men will be **lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**

1 Peter 2:11

11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts which**

war against the soul,

Galatians 5:24

24 **And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

It is wonderful to receive this treasure that is Christ. He is the pearl of great price. He is goodness and He is severity. See Him cleansing His temple, you and me, with a whip in His hand.

1 Corinthians 3:16

16 Do you not know that **you are the temple of God** and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 6:19

19 Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own?**

1 Corinthians 3:17

17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, **God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.**

If you are Christ's, then He owns you and you are His temple and you better keep His temple clean, free from sin, and therefore union with demons, undefiled, holy. Christ is grace and mercy and He is judgement and holiness. He is the lamb and He is the lion. He is a duality, a two sided coin. We cannot receive a valuable gold coin and not be happy or grateful to receive both sides of that coin. You are not going to have one side without the other. He is TWO SIDES OF THE COIN.

TWO SIDES OF THE COIN

by Ron Brick

If someone hands you a coin and you reach out to take it, you will be holding the two sides of that coin in your hand. You can not possess, or own the coin, without owning both sides of the coin. The coin comes with two sides and the image on the one side of the coin can be as different from the other side, as day is from night. It is this way with God. He comes to us with two sides and if we want to own Him and have Him own us, then we must be willing to embrace both sides of the coin. We must know His duality. You can not have the lamb of God without the lion of the tribe of Judah. God is a duality of both grace and judgement and the two must walk hand and hand. There is a ditch on both sides of the road and to walk the narrow way you must walk down the centre of the road. It is our knowledge of both the goodness, the grace of God and the fear of God with His judgements, that will keep us on the straight and narrow. It is knowing the duality of God, that will keep us from falling into the ditch on either side of the road. It is the **fear** of God that is the beginning of wisdom and it is the **grace** of God that leads us to repentance.

Proverbs 9:10

10 “**The fear of the Lord** is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Deuteronomy 13:4

4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and **fear Him**, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

Psalms 34:7

7 The angel of the Lord encamps all around those **who fear Him**, And delivers them.

Matthew 10:28 (Words of Christ)

28 And do not fear those who kill the body

but cannot kill the soul. But rather **fear Him** who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Revelation 14:7

7 saying with a loud voice, “**Fear God** and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

Revelation 19:5

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and **those who fear Him**, both small and great!”

Although it is the fear of God that is the beginning of wisdom it is the grace, the goodness of God, that leads us to repentance. It is a love affair. It is the love of God that pulls us toward Him. It is His love for us and our love for Him.

Romans 2:4

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the **goodness of God** leads you to repentance?

Ephesians 1:7

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the **riches of His grace**

Romans 11:22

22 Therefore consider **the goodness and severity of God**: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

On the one hand we have the goodness of God, His grace, His love, kindness and mercy. On the other hand we have the

severity of God, His judgements and His wrath. It is His furious anger, an attribute of His nature, that burns against sin and defines Him as Holy.

His grace has been called an ocean. If it is an ocean, it is an ocean we are in danger of drowning in and being lost in. We swim into it's deep waters and enjoy it's depths. We plunge into the depths of God's grace, His mercy and His forgiveness and begin to become presumptuous with sin. We become habitual sinners, repeat offenders, always pleading the blood of Christ for forgiveness, only to fall right back into the same sin over and over again. We are in danger of losing our way in the depths of God's grace, mercy, forgiveness and love, as we lose our fear of Him. We fall out of step with the true and full character of God. We forget that He is holy as we lose our ability to even comprehend what holiness is. We become too familiar with God. We begin to think of Him as a buddy, that thinks like we do and is willing to overlook sin like we are. We do not understand Him, we do not know Him. We lose site of God as a holy God, who by His nature of holiness and purity can never wink at sin. We do not understand that His nature is sinless and that if we are sinful He can not be one with us and we can not be one with Him. We love the lamb and become so taken up with this side of God's nature that we forget that He is also the lion. It is wonderful to know and experience the grace of God, but without a revelation of the judgements of God, the fear of God, which is also an expression of His love, we are in danger of falling out of step with Him and of being deceived and even lost. God can not except a church that is not like Him. He can not join Himself to a harlot, to become one with her. It is a bride without spot or wrinkle that He will be returning for. Not a bride that is wearing a spotted wedding dress. The garment she wears must be Christ, Christ alone and Christ is holy. Her Garment is Christ, His righteousness and He is a gift received by faith and freely given by grace. However, it is a garment that must be put on, kept on and kept clean. To put on Christ we must be willing to remove the garment of flesh. The old man of pride must be surrendered, for the new man of humility.

The garment of the natural for the garment of the spiritual. Christ has paid for us to have the power to do this. However, we must do it. It is not all one sided. We have a part to play in our salvation. He gives the gift through grace, we receive it by faith and then that faith becomes a walk of faith. A walk of faith that is revealed through our daily ongoing obedience to His commands. Christ said, "If you love me you will obey my commands". The process begins with us accepting the gift and it continues with us walking daily in the provision of that gift. Christ must be put on daily. We do this by carrying our cross of obedience to the Spirit daily. By daily making no provision for the flesh to fulfill it's lusts.

Romans 13:14

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

1 Corinthians 15:31

31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

Paul died daily to his old man. Daily he surrendered the carnal, natural, sin nature for the spiritual. He took up his cross of following the Spirit to stay out of following the flesh. *Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Those who are led, day by day, by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.* Paul ate his daily bread. The living bread that is Christ. He lived daily by the Word of God. *Man shall not live by natural bread alone but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.* It is not a one time altar experience of sacrifice. It is a daily sacrifice. We must die daily. We must stay in the race. Paul said, "Run the race to finish it, to win".

1 Corinthians 9:27

27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (A cast away KJV)

Philippians 2:12

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

Psalm 19:13

13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

It is a great transgression to presume on God's grace. To think that you can play Russian roulette with sin.

Proverbs 29:1

1 He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Often rebuked is His grace and mercy. Suddenly destroyed, is His judgements revealing His severity. It is a foolish sin to presume on His grace and mercy.

Romans 11:21-23

21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. 22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. 23 And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

Presume - to take for granted, assume, or suppose: To undertake (to do something) without right or permission.

We can presume on God's grace and mercy. We can take it for granted. This becomes a very dangerous place to be, because we begin to think that sin has no consequence for us. However, if we continue in sin after we have been cleansed we are in danger of counting the blood of Christ a common thing, an unholy thing. We

lose our reverence, our respect for the cross of Christ and what Christ suffered to redeem us from sin and we insult the Spirit of grace.

Hebrews 10:26-31

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

We insult the Spirit of grace by continuing in sin after we have been forgiven. We are in danger of counting the blood of Christ as a common thing when we repeatedly turn back to sin presuming that God's grace and mercy will, like magic, always be there to cover our sin. If we take grace, the Spirit of grace, for granted, by thinking that we can continue in sin and just repeatedly ask God to forgive us and that we will always be forgiven, we are presuming on His grace and mercy. This is called the **sin of presumption** and it is this man or women that is in danger of suddenly being cut off without remedy.

We need to get the fear of God into our hearts. We need to know His goodness, His grace and mercy, but we must also know His judgements and His severity against sin. We need to understand that God is an awesome God, a holy God, a terrible God, a God to be revered and feared. We need to understand that it is in knowing Him as both the lamb and the lion that we will be found safe in His arms. It is in walking down the centre of the road, between these two polarities of His nature, that we will be travelling down the narrow way, that is Christ. In Christ's day it