



CHRISTIAN
UNION

Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

KEY TWO: THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS: DOCTRINAL DEFEATERS 1

May God's Kingdom Come



Matthew 6:9-10 - Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Sermon on the Mount, 1877
Carl H. Bloch



2. Theological Foundations: 1. Doctrinal Defeaters 1

We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.



Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

1. Aspiration and Desperation
2. **Theological Foundations**
3. Seeking God Wholeheartedly
4. Spiritual Practices
5. Supernatural Aspects
6. Impacting the Three Spheres
7. Leadership



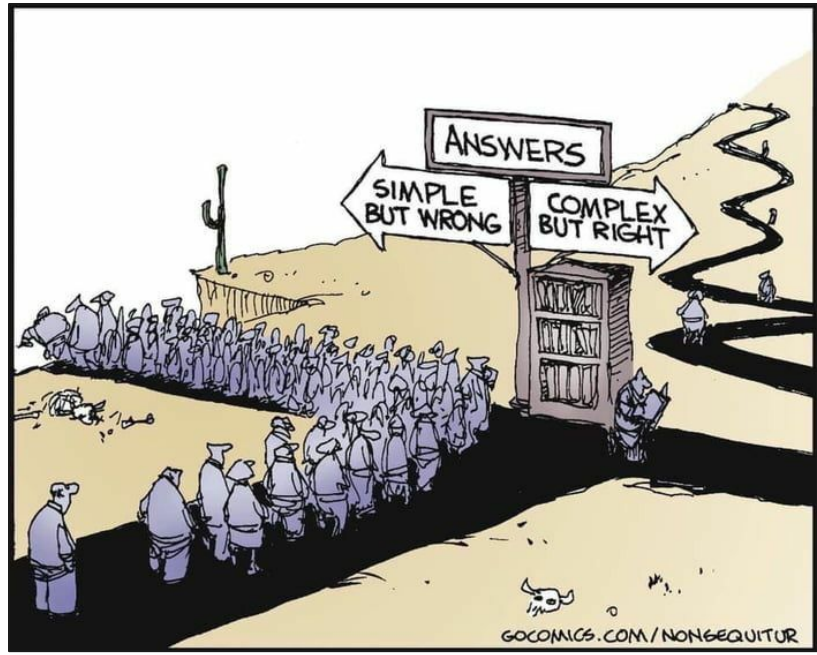
2. Theological Foundations: 1. Doctrinal Defeaters 1

We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

A large number of theological misunderstandings about God and how to please Him hinder modern-day Western Christians in their spiritual vibrancy and seeing revival. Knowing and believing the truth brings freedom and life.

Some call these theological misunderstandings “seeking-god defeaters,” “revival defeaters” or Doctrinal Defeaters

Deep Analysis is Worth the Effort



Societies with a long history of Christianity can be more difficult to analyze and call back to the Lord. But success means the salvation of millions of people.

Doctrinal Defeaters 1



1. Compatibilism
2. False Need for Persecution
3. Union with or Position in Christ
4. Covenant Continuities
5. Gospel-Centered Exiles
6. Positional vs. Ethical Righteousness
7. Conditional Grace
8. True Faith
9. Legalism and Moralism
10. Masculine View of God

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Compatibilism Defined - [Taken from *How Long O Lord* by D. A. Carson]

The Bible as a whole, and sometimes in specific texts, presupposes or teaches that both of the following propositions are true:

1. **God's Sovereignty** - God is absolutely sovereign, but his sovereignty never functions in such a way that human responsibility is curtailed, minimized, or mitigated.
2. **Human Responsibility** - Human beings are morally responsible creatures—they significantly choose, rebel, obey, believe, defy, make decisions, and so forth, and they are rightly held accountable for such actions; but this characteristic never functions so as to make God absolutely contingent.

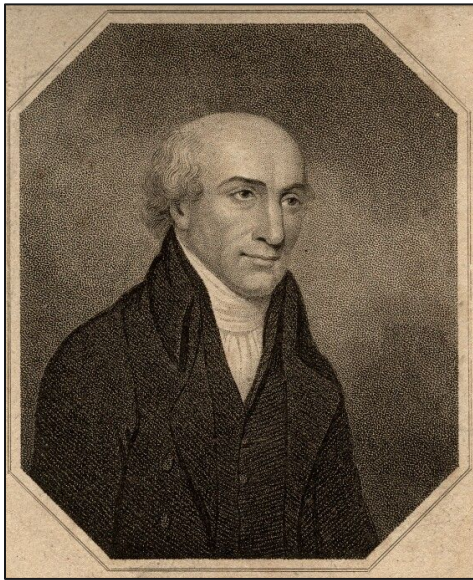


Compatibilism Illustrated

Psalm 127:1 - Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

1. **God is Sovereign** - It's the LORD who builds the house and watches over the city.
2. **Humans are Responsible** - Simultaneously, persons labor to build the house, and stay awake to serve as watchmen.

Evangelism was Misunderstood, as Now are Visitations of God



“Young man, sit down; when God pleases to convert the heathen, he will do it without your aid or mine.”

William Carey (1761-1834)
British Missionary and Father of Modern Missions

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False Need for Persecution to Return to the Lord

Examples of Revival with Persecution or Hardship

- Roman Empire
- Korea Revival of 1907
- Uganda Revival in 1980's

Examples of No Revival with Persecution or Hardship

- Judah while suffering Babylonian attacks in 605, 595, and 586
- USSR and Eastern Europe during the Cold War
- Many Muslim nations for many years



False Need for Persecution to Return to the Lord

Examples of Revival without Persecution or Hardship

- Nineveh (Book of Jonah - just warnings - no judgment or persecution)
- America's five major revivals
- Korea with massive revival in last 50 years
- Fiji with 120 villages



2. Theological Foundations: 1. Doctrinal Defeaters 1

It's false that America needs persecution, judgment or hardship before it is willing to seek the Lord. It has not been part of America's past revivals. Why would it be required now? Nowhere in the Bible does it say hardship has to come before God's people will return to Him.

It's straightforward. When Christians pray, fast, repent and seek God wholeheartedly, He sends His Spirit!

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Union with or Position in Christ

A misunderstanding of what it means to be in “union with Christ” or to stand on one’s “position in Christ” can weaken the Christian’s resolve to seek God with great effort as He requires.

Christians have many spiritual blessings because they have received Christ. Yet, many more blessings may be gained when they spend energy drawing closer to Him.



Union with or Position In Christ

Ephesians 1:3-13 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us **in Christ** with **every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us **in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and blameless before him**. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons **through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us **in the Beloved**. ⁷ **In him we have redemption...** ¹¹ **In him** we have **obtained an inheritance...** ¹³ **In him** you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**.



Union with or Position in Christ

For Example:

- The Scriptures teach that Christians have everything we need for life and godliness in Jesus Christ (e.g., 2 Peter 1:3). But, the Scriptures also teach Christians to pray for daily bread and spiritual protection, and they are to pursue holiness and to gain spiritual blessings (e.g, Matthew 6:11, 13; 2 Peter 1:5-11).
- Simply remembering that one is “in Christ” doesn’t access the favor of God that seeking Him wholeheartedly does.

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Covenant Continuities

What promises of God from the Old Covenant persist for Christians in the New Covenant?

The Old Testament contains many promises and motivations for believers to seek God wholeheartedly for His blessings. In what way do they apply to Christians today?



God's Relationship with Humanity Through All Times

- **God's Character** - God is a rewarder: seeking Him brings more presence and blessings.
- **Salvation by Faith** - Reconciliation with God is through faith and not works.
- **Seeking Him Required** - Seeking Him wholeheartedly is required (through holiness, prayer, fasting, keeping the commandments, walking with him, etc.)
- **Different Types of Grace** - Unconditional and conditional grace are real and operative.
- **God Speaks** - He speaks to believers at all times in human history.

Mosaic Covenant Distinct Characteristics



- Centered on Israel
- Priests Serve as Mediators
- Morning and Evening Animal Sacrifices Required
- Dietary, Cultic and Other Laws Are in Place
- His Presence is Only in the Holy of Holies (Tabernacle and Temple)
- Seeking Him brings Territorial Integrity, and National Prosperity

Moses and the Ten Commandments, 1659
Rembrandt Van Rijn

New Covenant Distinct Characteristics



- All Nations, Not Just Israel
- Jesus is Mediator, and Not Human Priests with Once-for-all Sacrifice, and No Ongoing Sacrifices
- All Foods Declared Clean
- His Presence Anywhere, and Not Just the Temple
- Greater Authority Including Over Evil Spirits
- Persecution Promised
- Greater Presence of the Holy Spirit for Holy Living and Spiritual Gifts

Transfiguration, 1520
Raphael



Covenant Continuities

2 Chronicles 7:13-15 - When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, ¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name **humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.** ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.



Four Conditions With OT Effects (2 Chronicles 7:14)

1. humble themselves,
and

2. pray, and

3. seek my face, and

4. turn from their
wicked ways

As God Requires

in

Sufficient Numbers

and for

**Sufficient Length of
Time**

then I will hear from
heaven

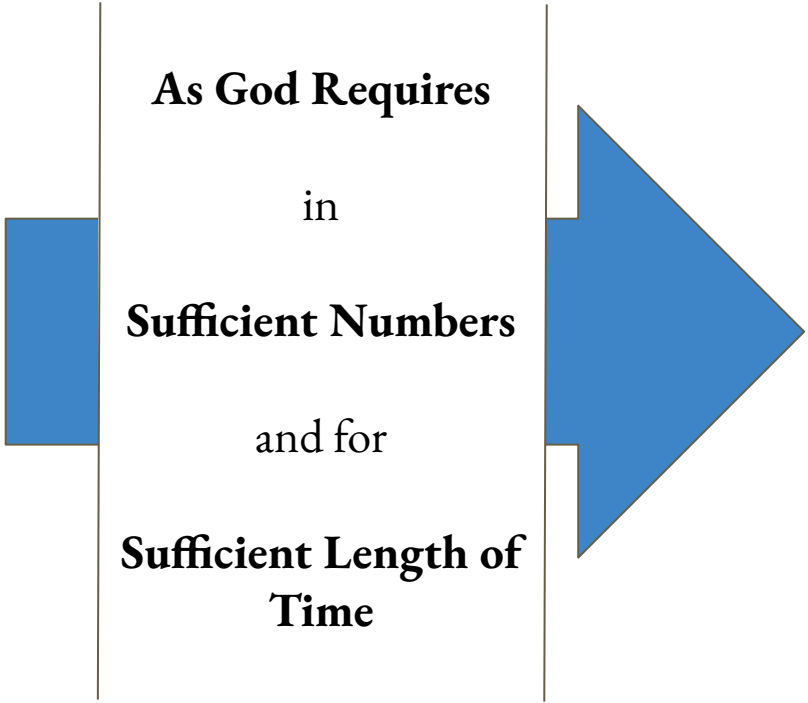
and forgive their sin

and heal their land.



Four Conditions With NT Effects (2 Chronicles 7:14)

1. humble themselves,
and
2. pray, and
3. seek my face, and
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Outpourings of the Holy Spirit with Impact in the Three Spheres

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Gospel-Centered Exiles

The cultural engagement philosophy of “Faithful Presence” derives in part from an Old Covenant conception of exile and is inconsistent with the Gospel.

Jesus has called His followers to spread the message of His rulership throughout the whole earth with the use of spiritual weapons (e.g. love, prayer, fasting, and calls to repentance) to see the Kingdom of Light drive out the Kingdom of Darkness.



Gospel-Centered Exiles

Understanding the difference between a Judean exile in Babylon and an exile as a Christian in the modern world is essential to succeeding in God's purposes. They are not the same and should not be conflated.

*Christians need a mindset of "Faithful Purpose,"
not "Faithful Presence."*

Judah as Exiles in Babylon



In 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem, taking most as exiles to Babylon.

The Ishtar Gate was the eighth gate to the inner city of Babylon.



Old Covenant Usage of *Exile* in Jeremiah

- **Exile Status as Punishment** - Judah is to accept its punishment and peaceably submit to 70 years of captivity and domination by Babylon, after which God will restore them back to their homeland.
- **Judeans Will Prosper If They Accept God's Punishment** - By accepting God's discipline, and seeking the welfare of and helping to prosper their captor nation, exiled Judeans too will prosper.



Judah as Exiles in Babylon

Jeremiah 29:4-14 - “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the **exiles** whom I have sent into **exile** from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ **But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.** ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, ⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD.



Judah as Exiles in Babylon

Jeremiah 29:4-14 (cont'd) - ¹⁰“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹**For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.** ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into **exile**.



Gospel-Centered Usage of *Exile*

- **Rejected Because of Holy Living** - Christians are to live differently from those around them, especially regarding holy conduct which will often make them feel rejected as outsiders since they worship the true God and the surrounding culture rebels against Him.
- **Christ Transforming Culture** - Moreover, unlike Judah in Babylon in 586 BC, Christians' conduct periodically brings them into conflict with the surrounding culture, because the commission given by Jesus requires Christians to spread the kingdom of light to all quarters of all cultures wherever possible.



Exile Used Four Times in the New Testament

1 Peter 1:2 - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect **exiles** of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

1 Peter 1:16-19 - since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”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**,¹⁸ 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.



Gospel-Centered Usage of *Exile*

Acts 17:29-31 - “Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”



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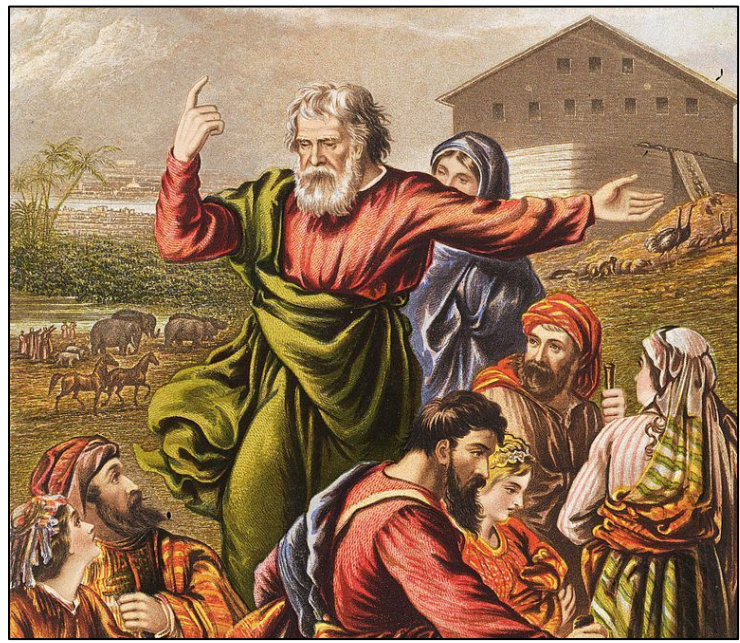


Positional vs. Ethical Righteousness

Positional Righteousness - All in Christ have positional righteousness. Positional righteousness comes through repentance and faith by the grace of God through the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ.

Ethical Righteousness - More often the word *righteous* is used in the Bible to refer to ethical righteousness. Carnal Corinthian Christians were not ethically righteous, but positionally righteous only.

Positional vs. Ethical Righteousness



Genesis 6:9 - These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a **righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.**

Positional vs. Ethical Righteousness



Job 1:1 - There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was **blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.**



Positional vs. Ethical Righteousness

Psalm 18:20 - The LORD dealt with me according to my **righteousness**; according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me.

Psalm 37:21 - The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the **righteous** is generous and gives;

Ezekiel 18:5 - “If a man is **righteous** and does what is just and right—”



Positional vs. Ethical Righteousness

Mark 6:20 - for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a **righteous and holy man**, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

Luke 23:50 - Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a **good and righteous man**,



Positional vs. Ethical Righteousness

Romans 3:9-12 - What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,¹⁰ as it is written: “None is **righteous**, no, not one;¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God.¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

Romans 5:17-19 - For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of **righteousness** reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of **righteousness** leads to justification and life for all men.¹⁹ For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made **righteous**.



Positional vs. Ethical Righteousness

1 Peter 3:8-14 - Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ **let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.** ¹² **For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.** But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. ¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for **righteousness'** sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,"



Positional vs. Ethical Righteousness

2 Peter 2:8 - (for as that **righteous man** lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his **righteous soul over their lawless deeds** that he saw and heard);

James 5:16 “Therefore, **confess your sins** to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a **righteous** person has great power as it is working.”



Bad Habit of Ignoring Ethical Righteousness

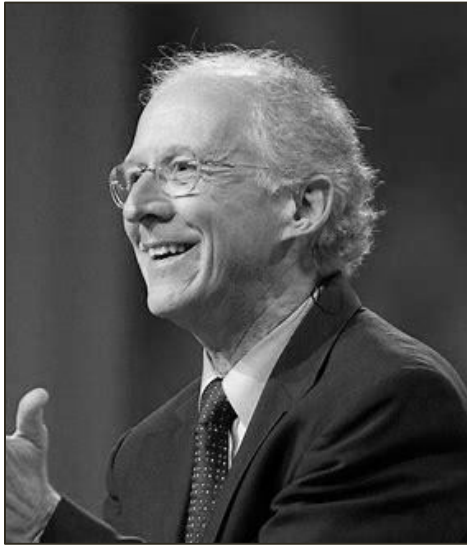
- **The Ark** - We Have the Ark of the Covenant - (1 Samuel 4)
- **The Temple** - We Have the Temple of the Lord - (Jeremiah 7:1-15)
- **Abraham and Moses as Forefather** - Abraham is Our Father (Matthew 3:8,9), and Moses and the Law belongs to us (John 5:45-47)
- **Today** - We Have Grace (Romans 6:15-19)

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Unconditional and Conditional Grace



“I know that for many people the very term ‘conditional grace’ sounds like a contradiction like ‘dry water’ or ‘short skyscraper.’ This is not entirely bad, because, in fact, not all grace is conditional. And not all that is conditional is conditional in the same way.”

John Piper, *Future Grace*, p. 231



Grace of God

- What's the definition of grace?
- What's the difference between unmerited grace and merited grace?
 - Ha ha - it's a trick question. There's no such thing as merited grace.
- What's the difference between unconditional grace and conditional grace?

Unconditional Grace

- Life
- Rising and setting of the sun



2. Theological Foundations: 1. Doctrinal Defeaters 1

Grace is not opposed to effort.

Grace is opposed to earning.



NT Examples of Conditional Grace

- Salvation (Ephesians 2:8, 9)
- God draws close to those who draw close to Him (James 4:8)
- Rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6)
- Answers those who ask, seek, knock (Luke 11:9)
- Works all things together for good for those who love Him and called by Him (Romans 8:28)
- God forgives those who confess sins (1 John 1:8, 9)
- Husbands who treat their wives well have un-hindered prayers (1 Peter 3:7)
- Receive blessing if bless others (1 Peter 3:9)
- Receive rewards when pray, fast, and give (Matthew 6:1-18)



New Testament Examples of Conditional Grace

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. ⁵I 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.**



New Testament Examples of Conditional Grace

James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask God**, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

James 4:2 - You **have not because you ask not.**

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would **draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**



New Testament Examples of Conditional Grace

Galatians 6:7-10 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, **for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.** ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ **And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.** ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

New Testament Examples of Conditional Grace



1 Peter 3:7 - Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, **so that your prayers may not be hindered.**

Husband and Wife, 1952
Gerard Sekoto



2. Theological Foundations: 1. Doctrinal Defeaters 1

*There's nothing you can do to gain favor with God
through your own efforts.*

Do you agree or disagree?



2. Theological Foundations: 1. Doctrinal Defeaters 1

Grace is not opposed to effort.

Grace is opposed to earning.



God is a Rewarder

Genesis 15:1 - After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your **reward** shall be very great.”

Numbers 18:31 - And you may eat it in any place, you and your households, for it is your **reward** in return for your service in the tent of meeting.

Psalms 18:24 - So the LORD has **rewarded** me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.



God is a Rewarder

Proverbs 11:18 - The wicked earns deceptive wages, but one who sows righteousness gets a sure **reward**.

Proverbs 22:4 - The **reward** for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.

Jeremiah 31:16 - Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a **reward** for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.



God is a Rewarder

Matthew 6:6 - But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will **reward** you.

Luke 6:23 - Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your **reward** is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

Luke 6:35 - But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your **reward** will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.



God is a Rewarder

1 Corinthians 3:14 - If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a **reward**.

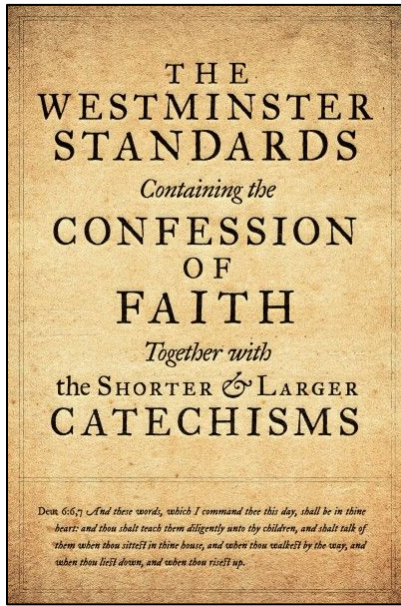
Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he **rewards** those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:26 - He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the **reward**.

2 John 8 - Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full **reward**.



The Westminster Confession of Faith (1647)



The Westminster Confession (chp. 2, part 1) - lists as God's divine attributes, “**the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him**”; and withal most just and terrible in His judgments; hating all sin; and who will by no means clear the guilty.”



God's Sovereignty and His Grace

Required of God: Giving Grace When Conditions Are Met

- All conditional promises are always fulfilled when conditions are met.
- He binds Himself to His promises and is incapable of breaking them.
- He always comes through according to conditional promises He has made.

Not Required of God: Giving Grace When Conditions Not Met

- God sometimes answers heart desires, even when not prayed for in faith.
- He grants salvation to children even though too young to repent and believe.
- He sometimes blesses us even if Christians haven't blessed others.



God's Sovereignty and His Grace

*God always gives grace when conditions are met,
and sometimes even when they are not met.*

*God's sovereignty does not mean He sometimes fails in His promises, but
that even when conditions are not met, He may give grace anyway.*

*Christians sometimes wrongly reference God's sovereignty in a way that
casts doubt on His faithfulness to His promises.*



An Example of God's Sovereignty and His Grace

Dad Promises \$50 to Kids Who Finish Homework by 8pm Every Night

- Are the kids “earning” the money? No - it’s a conditional gift.
- If they meet the condition 100%, will Dad give them \$50? Yes - He will keep his promise.
- If the kids fail, does the Dad have the option to give some or all of the money anyway? Yes. His conditional promise does not limit him from being generous because He’s sovereign and He’s good.



Performance Mentality

Never by Merit - Christians are not to have a performance mentality if by the word “performance” it’s meant that God’s grace can be earned or merited.

Conditions Are to be Met - However, the grace of God is promised when certain conditions are met. If the grace isn’t present, the Christian should seek the Scriptures and God about whether certain conditions have not been met. This can be a difficult, and sometimes agonizing process, but should not be neglected. The Scriptures declare that we are to “**perform**” God’s commandments and our duties to Him.



Performance Mentality

Leviticus 25:18 - “Therefore you shall do my statutes and keep my rules and **perform them**, and then you will dwell in the land securely.

Deuteronomy 4:13 - And he declared to you his covenant, which he **commanded you to perform**, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone.

2 Kings 23:3 - And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to **perform the words of this covenant** that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.



Performance Mentality

Psalm 22:25 - From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will **perform** before those who fear him.

Psalm 56:12 - I must **perform** my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you.

Psalm 61:8 - So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I **perform** my vows day after day.



Performance Mentality

Psalm 76:11 - Make your vows to the LORD your God and **perform** them; let all around him bring gifts to him who is to be feared,

Psalm 119:112 - I incline my heart to **perform** your statutes forever, to the end.



Grace Given to King Ahab

1 Kings 21:20-29 - Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” He answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the LORD. ²¹ Behold, I will bring disaster upon you. I will utterly burn you up, and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel. ²² And I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for **the anger to which you have provoked me, and because you have made Israel to sin.** ²³ And of Jezebel the LORD also said, *“The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the walls of Jezreel.”* ²⁴ Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone of his who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat.”



Grace Given to King Ahab

1 Kings 21:20-29 (cont'd) - ²⁵ (There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited. ²⁶ He acted very abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the LORD cast out before the people of Israel.) ²⁷ And when Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his flesh and fasted and lay in sackcloth and went about dejectedly. ²⁸ And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ²⁹ **“Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son’s days I will bring the disaster upon his house.”**

Doctrinal Defeaters 1



1. Compatibilism
2. False Need for Persecution
3. Union with or Position in Christ
4. Covenant Continuities
5. Gospel-Centered Exiles
6. Positional vs. Ethical Righteousness
7. Conditional Grace
- 8. True Faith**
9. Legalism and Moralism
10. Masculine View of God



True Faith



What's True and False Faith?

Indiana Jones makes a “leap of faith.”



True Faith

Hebrews 11:6, 7 - And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. ⁷ By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.



True and False Faith

True Faith - Faith is to be based on God's promises, or upon God's character, and not based upon human desire alone.

False Faith - False faith is believing something is going to happen just because it's desired and not based on God's promises or His character. False optimism is not faith.

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*Legalism is possibly the most misunderstood doctrine
in the Western church.*



Legalism in the Bible

Philippians 3:4-6 - though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; **as to righteousness under the law, blameless.**

Galatians 3:10, 11 - For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” ¹¹ **Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law,** for “The righteous shall live by faith.”



Definition of *Legalism*

1. **Works Righteousness** - Deuteronomy 27:26; Philippians 3:4-6; Galatians 3:10, 11
2. **Secondary Definitions** -
 - a. Having to Obey Additional Commandments - Mark 3:1-6; Deuteronomy 5:32, 12:32
 - b. Neglect of Weightier Matters - Matthew 23:23, 24
 - c. Externalized Religion - Matthew 23:25-28
 - d. Judgmentalism or Hypocrisy - Matthew 7:1, 2
 - e. Preaching the Bible but Denying the Bible - John 5:37-40



What's Not *Legalism*

1. Conditional Grace
2. Obedience to God's Commandments
3. Responsiveness to Christian Leadership
4. Denying Oneself
5. Stronger Spiritual Disciplines - Seeking God Wholeheartedly as He Requires
6. Rigidity or Lack of Flexibility
7. Effort, Toil, Self-Discipline



Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luke 18:9-14 - He also told this parable to some who **trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:** ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²**I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.**’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”



Pharisee and Tax Collector

- **Christians' Good Response:** Repent if self-righteous, and give 10% or more away, and fast two days a week or more.
- **Modern Western “Christians” Response:** It’s legalistic to give 10% away and to fast.

There’s nothing wrong in taking action to gain favor with God; legalism is thinking our actions *merit or earn* favor from God.

God Wants Us to Do the Small Things and Especially Big Things



Mint

Matthew 23:23, 24 - “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. **These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!”**



Dill



Cumin

Tithe of seed of land, fruit of trees, herds and flocks (Lev 27:30-33). Small plants few in number. Their increase represents very small part of overall increase. To neglect would mean 9.9% instead of 10% giving.



Legalism Explained

1. **Earning is Impossible** - Legalism has to do with *earning*; seeking God has to do with *effort*. Obeying God's righteous rules is "legalistic" only if it's believed they *merit* something from God.
2. **Effort is Commanded and Commended** - The Scriptures command believers to expend strong *effort* to seek Him wholeheartedly, but to remember that any reward given is never *merited* or *earned*. However, knowing that obeying God's righteous rules brings God's promised responses is a demonstration of faith.



Legalism and Moralism

- **Largely Synonymous** - Moralism has an overlapping definition with legalism, often used as a synonym.
- **Righteous Behavior Matters** - Sometimes, calling people to righteous behavior can be dismissed as unnecessary and even wrong, falsely characterized as moralism or moralistic.

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Lack of Masculine View of God Causes Many Stumbles

God's characteristics are typically associated with both the masculine and the feminine. His so-called more "feminine" characteristics of kindness, gentleness and harmony are balanced with more so-called "masculine" characteristics, which unfortunately are often forgotten in the modern Western conception of God. The solution is a godly balance of the "masculine" and "feminine" sides of God.



Lack of Masculine View of God Causes Many Stumbles

Exodus 15:3 - The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.

Psalms 24:8 - Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Revelation 19:15, 16 - From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.



Lack of Masculine View of God Causes Many Stumbles

- **God as Warrior** - As He is a warrior, at times He calls Christians for conflict.
- **Strength** - Strength to confront and to call to repentance and fervent prayer and fasting.
- **Self-Sacrifice** - Self-sacrifice and endurance are essential to bring about a seeking-God culture and to have it persist.
- **Difficulty** - Leaders are to be hardcore and engage in arduous, difficult work.
- **Respect** - Respect for pastoral authority when calling the church to strong devotions and seeking God wholeheartedly.



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2. Theological Foundations: 1. Doctrinal Defeaters 1

We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

A large number of theological misunderstandings about God and how to please Him hinder modern-day Western Christians in their spiritual vibrancy and seeing revival. Knowing and believing the truth brings freedom and life.

Some call these theological misunderstandings "seeking-god defeaters," "revival defeaters" or Doctrinal Defeaters



We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

As Christians seek God wholeheartedly, He gives grace, power and direction to be used as His instruments in our families, communities and nation.

**Help America Return to God by Becoming a Cornerstone Partner
with Christian Union: christianunion.org/cornerstone**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

Psalm 33:12



CHRISTIAN
UNION