

LAW, GRACE, and WORKS

By Bob Young

Principal Scriptures: Romans 1-8; James 2; Galatians 3

Definitions

One must establish a working definition of works

One must establish a working definition of grace

One must establish a working definition of law

- Note that different meanings are possible when the word “law” is used in the NT
- What is legalism?

One must establish a working definition of faith

- What is the difference between objective faith and subjective faith

For Study

Law is effective in the Christian life. 1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2; James 2:8; 1:25; Rom. 3:27-28

The Christian is not under law (Rom. 6:14,15; Gal. 4:21, 5:18), is dead to the law (Rom. 7:4); is discharged from the law (Rom. 7:6)

How is the “law of faith” or the “law of Christ” different from the “law?”

What is the difference between works of law and works of faith? Gal. 5:19; Heb 11; 1 Thess. 1:3; 2 Thess. 1:11; Gal. 5:6; Rom. 3:28, et.al.; Eph. 2:8-10; Rom. 4:2

Can one be under “the law of faith” and under “the law of works” simultaneously? Gal. 5:4, 4:21; Rom. 10:4-11. Also, Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:21; Rom. 4:1-8.

What is the connection between law and grace? Can there be grace without law?

What is the connection between grace and faith? Which depends on which? Is there any interdependence? Can faith exist apart from grace? How is biblical faith different from the 21st century use of the concept?

Legalism. How could one overemphasize the law? Is such possible?

Righteousness. What is it? How do we get it? Does it come legally, spiritually?

- The personal righteousness of God
- The righteousness of the law
- The righteousness of right-living people
- The righteousness by faith in Christ

How do these differ? What problems do we have in grasping how we can be righteous without being personally righteous?

Study Romans 3-5 in depth, noting the various references to the law, works, and righteousness. What conclusions do you draw?