

# REVIVAL

**Teacher:** John Burton

**Teaching Title:** Five Marks of False-Grace

## I. Intro

- a. My life message is to awaken the comfortable, sleeping church and declare the true, empowering grace of God.
  - i. *My burning passion is to see the church shaken out of slumber into a deep, intimate encounter with Jesus. Out of complacency and any false assurance of salvation and into zealous devotion to follow our all-consuming leader. This is all about eternity.*
  - ii. It's shocking to me how sharply resistant Christians can be when the doctrine of salvation is discussed.
    1. Many have been lulled into a state of false-comfort through incredibly dangerous and fast spreading theologies—and anything that would threaten their confidence is reacted to fiercely.
    2. A pastor once told me that the most violent reaction from Christians against him comes when he deals with [false-grace](#).
  - iii. **Titus 2:11-15 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.
- b. Testimony: *Shortly after hearing a teaching that (God forgives all sin, past, present and future) I was ignorantly relieved of the struggles I was having with particular sins and then went soo far away from truth, deep into more self justified sin, self deception, coldness, distance from God, family, etc. .... Now I've been hearing teaching from [John Burton](#) and others against sin and this [false doctrine](#) (false-grace teaching) and now for the first time since I became a Christian almost 10 years ago, I have been free from the power of habitual sin and no longer live a life of torment ... All Glory to GOD!!! God needs more TRUTH Ministers. ~Nick*
- c. It's a message that, by design, urgently and aggressively provokes those who are personally comfortable yet eternally vulnerable.

## II. The Terror of Hell

- a. Share story
  - i. "It's impossible! I can't be going to Hell!"
  - ii. "I'm a Christian!"

iii. “Many Christians will be shocked to find themselves in Hell one day.”

iv.

### III. False-Grace

- a. Hyper-grace, distorted-grace, unbiblical grace
- b. Possibly the most dangerous threat today, even greater than abortion!
  - i. 54 million babies in Heaven vs. millions of casual Christians in hell.
- c. Yes, it is my conviction that many in the church, many in even the most fiery, vibrant and alive churches in the world, are convinced they are saved while living in an unsaved state.
  - i. False theologies have been so widely embraced that the thought of them being false seem absolutely ridiculous.
  - ii. Many theologies and philosophies can be gracefully disagreed with.
    1. Tongues, prophecy, gifts, the end-times
    2. But not false-grace
    3. Eternity is at stake, and many worshipping, bible reading, tithing professing Christians have been deceived and Hell is being made ready for them.
- d. Many in the false-grace movement have already been shocked on the day of their death to find themselves escorted not into the presence of God by glorious angels, but rather by the most horrifying of demonic creatures into their new, eternal residence in Hell.
  - i. It happens every day. I’m grieved and broken.
- e. The Apostle Paul accurately predicted, *“The time will come when men will not put up with sound [doctrine](#). Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to MYTHS” (2 Tim. 4:3,4).*
- f. The GOOD NEWS is that God loves us. Period. It’s settled.
  - i. We don’t have to feel it. We don’t have to experience it. He loves us.
  - ii. No amount of work or activity will cause him to love us more.
  - iii. The question isn’t his love of us, it’s our love of him.
  - iv. He already responded to our condition—by his true grace.
  - v. Now, we have to respond to his condition. He is a holy and fearful God.
- g. I’ll make it very clear: We are righteous because of Jesus, not our [works](#) of our flesh.
  - i. There’s a huge difference between works of the flesh and works of righteousness.
    1. We cannot reject the sacrifice of Jesus in favor of making it to heaven in our own ability.
    2. Read my article titled, “Are works a part of our salvation? Let’s talk about Ephesians 2:8-9.”

3. Misunderstanding grace as it relates to salvation has compromised the theology of millions.
4. They have been so inoculated by this belief system that anybody who suggests that faith is not enough, or that [works](#) play a part in [salvation](#), must be following another Jesus and subscribing to another gospel.
5. [Antinomianism](#) is often the result for those who reject works in relationship to [salvation](#). [Antinomianism](#) states that God forgives sins fully, and [sinning](#) has no disadvantage. Additionally, obedience has no impact. If it did, it would taint what Jesus did at Calvary.
  - a. **Wikipedia:**
  - b. [Antinomianism](#) in Christianity is the belief that under the gospel dispensation of [grace](#), moral [law](#) is of no use or obligation because faith alone is necessary to salvation.
  - c. **Regarding Antinomianism, [Steve Hill](#) wrote:**
    - i. Purveyors of this poisonous teaching fail to realize that Jesus calls us beyond the requirements of the [law](#) in His teaching, stating, for example, that adultery refers to adultery of the heart and not just the physical act (Matt. 5:27-28).
6. This, folks, is an eternally destructive [theology](#).
  - a. *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? **James 2:14 (ESV)***
  - b. The question is answered several verses later:
    - i. *You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. **James 2:24 (ESV)***
  - c. In order for that verse to register rightly, we'll have to talk about the difference between our own works and works that are graced and mandated by God. There is much more to the salvation equation than simply exhibiting faith.
  - d. **Hebrews 5:9 (ESV)**<sup>9</sup> And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him...
7. We can have 'intimacy' with Jesus without works, and death is the result. We can also have works without intimacy and the result is also death.
  - a. Being intimate with Jesus doesn't not automatically mean we'll do good works, and doing good works doesn't automatically mean we'll be close to God.
  - b. Attention must be given to both endeavors.

- c. In Matthew being known by God intimately AND doing God's will are required.
  - d. We can't call him Lord without doing his will, and we can't do works without also knowing him:
8. **Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV)** <sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'
9. **From Dake:**
- a. Here Christ promises not to blot the name out of the book of life of any man who will obey the commands of Rev. 3:2-3. If some refused to obey these commands, would their names not be blotted out? If we say such is impossible we accuse God of using vain threats on His people. He definitely promised Moses, "Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of my book" (Ex. 32:32-33).
  - b. Again, we see obedience, works, directly involved in the salvation equation.
  - c. The call to wake up and strengthen is a call to works! If that work is not done, that person will in fact one day be cast into Hell.
10. Are our sins forgiven past, present and future?
- a. *Steve Hill: [Hyper-grace](#) teachers ignore mountains of other scriptural truths and draw wrong theological conclusions. For example, they rightly teach that Jesus died for all our sins—past, present and future—but wrongly conclude that as believers we no longer have to deal with sin (meaning we never have to confess sin or repent of sin, and the Holy Spirit no longer convicts us of sin).*
11. Again, Jesus told us that his job is finished. He died and rose and that was sufficient to cover every sin, past, present and future.
- a. *Are our sins forgiven past, present and future? PAST: Yes. PRESENT: Why are you sinning right now? FUTURE: No.*
  - b. No? Jesus did his part, but we must do ours. We can absolutely lose our salvation due to a decision to sin.
  - c. **Hebrews 10:26-27 (ESV)** <sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer

remains a sacrifice for sins,<sup>27</sup> but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

12. The sacrifice that was fully sufficient for the Believer at the time of his conversion to Christ can be invalidated based on our behavior.
  - a. Additionally, this scripture clearly reveals that Jesus paid the price for our past sins:
13. **Romans 3:23-25 (ESV)**<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,<sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.
  - a. **Leonard Ravenhill** said:
    - i. "I've heard people say "Jesus died for you sins past, present and future." Imagine a judge tell a thief "you are forgiven of all the purses you stole in the past, the ones you stole today, and the all of the ones you'll ...steal in the future." If that's insane in real life is just as insane in so called doctrine."
    - ii. Our [works](#) is an evidence of his righteousness applied in our lives.
      1. Our repentance comes when there is a collision between the reality of our righteousness in Christ and our choice to sin.
    - iii. The two can't mix. If we do repent, righteousness remains. If we don't repent, it does not.
      1. It's as simple (though not always easy) as living a life that's alive to Christ and quick to repent as his wonderful Holy Spirit convicts us.
      2. It's when we presume sin and [holiness](#) can coexist that eternity is provoked.
    - iv. There is a true-grace message that is more powerful, freeing and desirable than anything the false-grace message promises.
  - h. Our works APART from the cross are meaningless. Filthy rags. Even deadly.
    - i. But in response to the cross of Christ, our obedience is beautiful indeed!
      1. If we believe, we will respond to his instructions out of the fear and love of the Lord.
      2. Yet, if we are not *truly* in Christ, we do have reason for concern.
    - ii. **Jesus taught openly that sin can drag any person guilty of lust to hell:**
      1. *But I tell you that **anyone** who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part*

*of your body than for your whole body to be **thrown into hell.** (Mat 5:28,29)*

- iii. *The Lord also stated the stipulation for a Christian to get his sins forgiven, that is, **he must forgive others who sin against him.** Such a teaching would be impossible if his future sins were all automatically forgiven even before they were committed. If that was true then there would be no conditions to get forgiven, unlike what Jesus stated:
  - 1. *For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But **if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.** (Mat 6:14,15)*
  - 2. *Then the master called the servant in. “You wicked servant,” he said, “I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?” In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, **until he should pay back all he owed.** This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you **unless you forgive** your brother from your heart. (Mat 18:32-35)**

#### IV. Five Marks of False-Grace

##### a. Recap

- i. Hyper-grace, distorted-grace, unbiblical grace
  - 1. Possibly the most dangerous threat today, even greater than abortion!
  - 2. 54 million babies in Heaven vs. millions of casual Christians in hell.
- ii. Yes, it is my conviction that many in the church, many in even the most fiery, vibrant and alive churches in the world, are convinced they are saved while living in an unsaved state.
  - 1. Rich Young Ruler
  - 2. Correctly understanding Ephesians 2:8-9
  - 3. Watch last week's video.
- iii. If you are given a scholarship to college, you don't graduate unless you do what is required to graduate.
  - 1. Salvation is the same.
  - 2. It's a gift. Paid for.
  - 3. Yet it only results in graduation if you work it out with fear and trembling and if you endure to the end.
  - 4. Skylar got a job before graduation and bar exam.
- iv. Last week I shared about my encounter with Hell.
  - 1. Many Christians will be shocked to find themselves in Hell one day.
  - 2. Someone shared a story of a man who was passionate for Jesus, but fell into false-grace.
    - a. He had a stroke and went to Hell.

- b. God brought him back.
    - c. Sin matters!
    - d. Obedience matters!
  3. [Antinomianism](#) is often the result for those who reject works in relationship to [salvation](#). [Antinomianism](#) states that God forgives sins fully, and [sinning](#) has no disadvantage. Additionally, obedience has no impact. If it did, it would taint what Jesus did at Calvary.
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  4. This, folks, is an eternally destructive [theology](#).
    - a. *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? **James 2:14 (ESV)***
    - b. The question is answered several verses later:
      - i. *You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. **James 2:24 (ESV)***
    - c. In order for that verse to register rightly, we'll have to talk about the difference between our own works and works that are graced and mandated by God. There is much more to the salvation equation than simply exhibiting faith.
    - d. **Hebrews 5:9 (ESV)**<sup>9</sup> And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him...
- b. ONE. We believe in a *theology of exemption*.
- i. A [theology](#) of exemption states that since we are saved, we are exempt from the penalties of sin. That there are parts of the Bible that no longer apply to us. Yes, it's a heresy. False-grace removes bible-based responsibilities to respond to God in [holiness](#).
  - ii. The number of people who subconsciously or unwittingly embrace a theology of exemption is far greater than those who explicitly pronounce their agreement with this doctrine. Many subscribe to false-grace doctrines without realizing their deception.

- iii. Many have been lulled into a false sense of security while actually existing in an unsaved state. They are confident they'd enter Heaven if they died, yet the reality is that they would not. They have come to believe they are exempt from certain parts of the Word of God that requires response.
- iv. **1 Peter 1:15-17 (ESV)** <sup>15</sup> *but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,* <sup>16</sup> *since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."* <sup>17</sup> *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,*
- v. Be holy. God judges according to one's deeds. Those who hold to a theology of exemption don't believe they are subject to what this verse is communicating. The command to be holy is to them a great goal, but not a mandate. A principle not a command.
- vi. Our name can actually be removed from the book of life—and that is determined by our obedience, our holiness. Sin can still separate a follower of Christ from him. The Rich Young Ruler saw that this was the case. He wanted to follow Jesus, but could not. He was not exempt from judgment even though he wanted to follow Jesus.
- vii. The argument of grace is actually quite revealing. People in the false-grace movement would say, "It's not possible to be holy, or to avoid sin, so thank God for his grace that covers those sins. In fact we are automatically holy... innocent by association!"
- viii. Grace isn't meant to cover up sin, grace is power! Those who walk in true grace would never say that we, as Christians, are predisposed to sin! True grace enables us to do the impossible! False-grace confesses that we cannot. Because of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus, we now have something they didn't have in the Old Covenant—we have the power to obey! We can do this!
- ix. In fact, not only aren't we exempt from obedience in the New Covenant, the call to obedience is even more humanly impossible than in the Old!
- x. **Matthew 5:21-22 (ESV)** <sup>21</sup> *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'* <sup>22</sup> *But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.*
- xi. We as Christians are not exempt from judgment or from the repercussions of sin. If we are in Christ, there is no condemnation, but if we are deceived by false theology into thinking we are in Christ, while actually living in disobedience, we are in trouble. We are not in Christ and there is condemnation. No [salvation](#). The wrath of God remains on us. False-grace doctrine is eternally deadly. *There are many people following Jesus today in an unsaved condition.*

- xii. **John 3:35-36 (ESV)** <sup>35</sup> *The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.* <sup>36</sup> *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*
- xiii. *“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.” (John 3:18–19, ESV)*
  - 1. Deeds. Fruit. Works. They are evidences of our position in Christ.
  - 2. Yes, it’s hard to get saved, hard to stay saved, but if we walk in humility and grace and in the Spirit, eternity with Jesus is our inheritance!
- xiv. Consider Corrie Ten Boom.
  - 1. You may have read her story in the book *The Hiding Place*. She was a general in the faith as she and her family hid Jews during the Holocaust. Eventually they were discovered and were put into a concentration camp. She ministered Jesus in inhuman conditions. She was faithful in a time where all faith was lost. Ultimately, after torture at the hands of one particular guard and countless horrors, her entire family was killed. The war ended and Corrie was released.
  - 2. Shortly after Corrie was walking down the road when a man approached her. He said, “Excuse me, you were in the camp, weren’t you?” Corrie affirmed that she was. He continued, “After the war I gave my life to Jesus. I prayed that he would allow me to find one person that I hurt so badly in the concentration camp.” It was the guard—the one who brutally tortured and killed her family. He said, “I told God that I wanted to seek their forgiveness. Would you please forgive me?”
  - 3. Corrie, in her own words, shared her reaction. She said that she simply could not forgive him. As that thought consumed her soul, God spoke to her. He said, “Corrie, if you don’t forgive him, I won’t forgive you.” She knew, as a general in the faith, if she refused to forgive that man than she herself would die in her sins. Hell was her future. She then looked at the man who brought so much horror to her and took his hand and said, “I do forgive you.”
  - 4. She said the love of God shot through her hand into the former guard’s.
  - 5. Tragically, so many Christians today presume they are exempt from such truths in Scripture.
  - 6. *For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:14-15*

- V. TWO. Sin is treated as temporally troubling but eternally benign.
- a. **Hebrews 10:26-27 (ESV)** <sup>26</sup> For if we go on *sinning* deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.
    - i. That verse stands on its own. The false-grace teachers emphasize that our sin may cause problems in the here and now, but there is no risk of Hell. This has to be one of the most troubling positions those in the false-grace movement take.
    - ii. Universalism is creeping into the church very subtly.
    - iii. *False grace teaches that Hell is not a concern for Christians and Christian Universalism teaches that there is no Hell. Different twists on the same *false doctrine*.*
    - iv. Yes, sin does result in trauma here on the Earth. But, it doesn't end there.
      1. If we embrace a lifestyle of sin, we are not saved. We won't go to Heaven. The day of judgment will be a day of horror.
  - b. The false-grace/semi-universalist position is one that would adhere to "once saved always saved." My belief is actually quite the opposite—once saved rarely saved. The road is not wide. It's narrow and it's rare to find people on it... and people who decide to stay on it.
    - i. **Revelation 3:5-6 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup> *The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.* <sup>6</sup> *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*
    - ii. If we don't conquer, don't work out our salvation with fear and trembling, our name is blotted out of the book of life.
  - c. **Galatians 5:16-21 (ESV)** <sup>16</sup> *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.* <sup>17</sup> *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.* <sup>18</sup> *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.* <sup>19</sup> *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,* <sup>20</sup> *idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,* <sup>21</sup> *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.*
    - i. If we walk in the Spirit, our flesh is subdued. However, if we aren't walking in the Spirit, we are under the law because Christ's sacrifice has been made of no effect.
    - ii. Therefore, even though we may have said the sinner's prayer, paid tithes and lived a good life, that salvation is nullified for us.

- iii. The above scripture reveals what clear evidence to look for when analyzing our position in Christ.
  - d. I've heard of pastors who boast that they no longer preach on the cross, sin or Hell because we are in the age of grace. My God! The cross must be central to our churches!
  - e. There can be pastors who preach powerfully, pray in tongues and lead large, growing churches who won't inherit the kingdom of God.
    - i. If they are driven by jealousy of other pastors or embrace division, the Bible is clear. If they don't repent, Hell is in their future.
    - ii. Do you have any idea how much of the fear of the Lord is on this [pastor](#)?
    - iii. I tremble continually.
    - iv. False-grace provides temporal security in exchange for eternal torment. The enemy is more than happy to make this exchange.
- VI. **THREE. Repentance and confession of sin is not necessary after we have been saved.**
- a. False-grace teachers proclaim that our sins are forgiven past, present and future. This is simply not true. If we repent, we are forgiven. If we retain our sins they are retained. The provision for forgiveness has been made, and the true grace has been given to us to respond.
    - i. The Lord's Prayer itself makes it clear that we must both ask for forgiveness and forgive!
    - ii. **Matthew 6:12 (ESV)** <sup>12</sup> *and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*
    - iii. **1 John 1:9 (ESV)** <sup>9</sup> *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
    - iv. **1 John 1:6 (ESV)** <sup>6</sup> *If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*
  - b. The false-grace theology commonly teaches that we, as humans in a fallen world, are expected to sin and that it's the focus on sin, not sin itself, that puts us into bondage.
    - i. The reality is that people are becoming affirmed in a sinful state with no fear of the Lord or fear of damnation to be found.
    - ii. Of course, false-grace teachers don't encourage a lifestyle of sin, but they also don't sound the alarm communicating any sort of eternal threat.
    - iii. To them, there is no eternal risk whatsoever.
  - c. Simply put, repentance and confession is absolutely critical to our position in Christ after salvation. Most are unclear on their identity... they presume themselves to be 'in Christ' though they very well may not.
    - i. If we are 'in Christ', there is no condemnation, but if we analyze our position wrongly, presuming to be 'in Christ' when in fact we are not, we are still condemned.
  - d. Repentance is actually a very wonderful, joyful, fulfilling lifestyle!

- i. The closer I get to God, the deeper into my heart I allow him to peer, the more wonderful repentance comes flowing out.
- ii. I love to repent! Even if it's grieving, my heart comes alive as I realign with the Lover of my soul!
- iii. The more I turn, the deeper into God I go! Ignoring sin, unbelief and other barriers to intimacy just can't be our strategy!
- iv. Presuming they aren't there when they are just doesn't work.
- v. Repent continually and enjoy an indescribably journey into intimacy with Jesus!

VII. **FOUR. A biblical works message is renounced as legalism.**

- a. It's striking to me how often I hear that a focus on holiness and obedience equates to [legalism](#). How far from orthodox Christianity has the church fallen?
- b. The only point at which it's [legalism](#) is if we were to reject the cross and resurrection of Christ by attempting to work our way into Heaven.
  - i. But, if we agree that Jesus is the only one who could have paid for our sins yet we also refuse to work, our salvation is a myth.
- c. Legalism is our attempt to get to Heaven by bypassing the cross of Jesus.
  - i. Holiness and works are our response to the cross of Jesus.
    1. **Luke 6:46 (ESV)** <sup>46</sup> "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"
    2. **Luke 8:21 (ESV)** <sup>21</sup> But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."
    3. **Luke 11:28 (ESV)** <sup>28</sup> But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"
    4. **John 8:51 (ESV)** <sup>51</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."
    5. **John 14:15 (ESV)** <sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
    6. **John 15:10 (ESV)** <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.
    7. **John 15:14 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you.
    8. **Philippians 2:12-13 (ESV)** <sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
    9. **Matthew 25:23-30 (ESV)** <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no

*seed,<sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’<sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?’<sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.<sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.<sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.<sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

- d. Throughout the New Testament it’s proven over and over again that obedience, works and production (fruit) is mandatory if we are to be—and stay—saved.
- VIII. **FIVE. Salvation is depicted as easy and/or permanent.**
- a. ***Jesus didn’t die on the cross to make it easy for us to get saved. He died so it would be possible for us to get saved.***
  - b. There is a temptation to withdraw from the pressures of persecution, the call to holiness, surrender and the cross, and a false-grace message is the perfect solution to that problem.
    - i. It offers an escape from an urgent and fervent focus on obedience by dis-joining it from our position in Christ.
    - ii. The false-grace doctrine teaches that our eternity and our relationship with Jesus is already settled and we can simply relax and enjoy God.
    - iii. Our obedience is in no way joined to our relationship with Jesus or our eternal destiny.
  - c. Additionally, there is a misunderstanding of the process of salvation.
    - i. Those impacted by the false-grace movement tend to believe that they play no part in salvation other than believing that Jesus was the Son of God.
    - ii. Anything other than that would scream of works and false-grace teaching has convinced them to have an averse reaction to anything that feels like human effort.
  - d. The scripture that most often comes to mind is Ephesians 2:8-9:
    - i. ***Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)*** <sup>8</sup> *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,* <sup>9</sup> *not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
      - 1. First, this scripture is quite often misunderstood. It is NOT saying that works don’t play a part in salvation.
      - 2. It IS saying that works ALONE can’t save us.

3. Basically, we can't say, "Thanks Jesus for dying on the cross for me, and rising from the dead. Great job! But, you know, I'm not really interested in your version of salvation. So, I reject the cross and the resurrection... it's just too narrow for me. Instead, I will give \$1 million to a local church and will buy my way into Heaven. I'll pay the price myself."
  - a. We can't pay the price. We can't substitute Jesus' payment for our own.
  - b. But, that doesn't mean we don't work in RESPONSE to and in ACCORDANCE with the price that only Jesus could pay.
  - c. We love Ephesians 2:8-9, but usually leave off verse 10:
  - d. **Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)** <sup>10</sup> *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*
    - i. We were created for good works. Paul reveals that we receive the Spirit via hearing by faith and not of works, yet that does not communicate to us that works are not to be expected.
    - ii. First faith, then works and not the other way around.
- e. **James 2:14 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?*
  - i. It's a rhetorical question. The answer, of course, is no.
  - ii. Faith without works cannot save us.
  - iii. This means, if we have faith in Jesus, worship him, pray to him, honor him... but don't obey, we cannot presume to be saved.
  - iv. False-grace theology would not agree with this.
- f. **James 2:18-20 (ESV)** <sup>18</sup> *But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.* <sup>19</sup> *You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!* <sup>20</sup> *Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?*
  - i. The false-grace movement is shouting, "Show me your faith apart from works!" The question must be, "Are we like demons who have faith (believe) or do we also work in response to the mandates of God?"
- g. It's easy and common to be *falsely saved*, but to truly be saved requires an extreme price—both on the part of Jesus and on our part.
  - i. We can't do his part and he can't do ours—and this does have eternal implications.
  - ii. The false-grace message that minimizes obedience and works absolutely does result in people being cast into eternal fire.

## IX. Conclusion

- a. **Check out this lengthy but wildly troubling story of an encounter by John Mulinde, a leader with a world ministry on every continent except Antarctica. God told him, “If I had come today to take My Bride, you wouldn’t be part of that. I wouldn’t take you.” :**
- i. Then suddenly a bright light hit my eyes. My eyes were closed. I was on my knees with my head on the ground, but a bright light hit me. I lifted up my eyes and said, “What is this?” I opened my eyes and I couldn’t look in the light. Even when I closed them, it pierced into my eyes. I bowed my head again, and I was trembling and thinking, “What on earth is going on?” Then I heard a voice, deep and calm. He called my name three times. I couldn’t answer. There was no strength in me to answer, but inwardly I was saying, “I’m here.” He called me—“John”—three times. Then He said to me, “I knew you before the creation of the world, and I chose you and set you apart to serve Me as a witness in these last days. I want to say to you, if I had come today to take My Bride, you wouldn’t be part of that. I wouldn’t take you.” I can’t describe the shock that came upon me. I think I was in shock. I didn’t even respond. It hit me. He repeated it. He said, “I wouldn’t take you. For it is written, ‘He will appear to those who wait upon Him’ (Isa. 49:23, paraphrased). You’re not living your life as a person waiting upon Me. You’re allowing all kinds of filth to come into your life. You’re living like one who cares not.” As I said, I couldn’t speak with my lips. At that moment I was thinking, “This can’t be happening to me. I gave up my job to serve the Lord; I gave up my house that my father had given me because I wanted to go to the mission field. I gave up this, I gave up that; this can’t be God saying to me that He wouldn’t take me.” None of my theology and teachings could accept that. He spoke to me these words written in the book of 1 Corinthians 6. He quoted them; I found them later. I couldn’t even remember that they were in the Scriptures, but later on I found them in the Scriptures. It says: “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 6:10). “THE HEART IS DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND DESPERATELY WICKED” He went on to say to me, “Your life is so full of filth. You walk with an outward appearance, and you cover many things in your heart. You forget that I am the Lord who examines the heart. You are not ready to meet Me.” He began to say to me, “If your life is full of this and this and this and this, then are you ready for My appearance?” As He measured the various things, I could say, “OK, Lord, have mercy.” But then He mentioned one thing that my heart rejected. In my own understanding, I had never turned into that. He said, “If your life is full of fornication . . .” And everything in me said, “Oh, no. That cannot be.” I said it in

my heart, and the voice stopped. For a moment there was silence. Then He said to me, “There is no crooked word that comes out of My mouth. Do you call Me a liar? But because you don’t even know your own heart, I will show it to you. Remember this day when you were in this place at this hour?” Brothers and sisters, I didn’t even remember. I practically saw myself back in that very moment—not as a memory, but as a reality. I was back in that moment. I saw myself sitting in the taxi waiting for the taxi car to be filled. Then I was looking out at some lady with all kinds of filthy imaginations. The moment it came back, I thought, “Oh, God, I have sinned against You.” He said, “No, you haven’t sinned. You live in sin. You live in that. You live from morning to evening in such imaginations. Even in your bed at night you indulge in the same. I know every moment of your private life. I know your thoughts. You don’t even fear, even sitting in church. Someone steps up on the platform to serve Me and you strip them naked in your imagination. You imagine all kinds of things. I am the Lord who examines the heart. Have you not read that he who even looks upon a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her (Mt. 5:28)?” Pictures began to pass before me of how my imagination works. This isn’t something of which I could say, “Lord, I fell in sin. Lord, I was weak.” It was my way of life. It was my constant way of life. I was comfortable in it. I was comfortable that no one else could see it, but God was saying, “I see it. I am the Lord who examines the heart.” I was so ashamed, but then He said, “That’s not the worst of all. You still live in this.” He began to mention things that appear humanly small: the envy, the manipulation and undercutting of one another so that you remain appearing the best, so that you appear to do the best, to preach the best, to work more miracles, to be more anointed; all the manipulation and self-promotions, all the grudges we hold in our hearts when we see someone else being promoted or recognized before us. The way the Lord brought it up, it was so filthy. I cried and cried, and at some point I was so intent on my grief. Then He raised His voice and said, “Keep quiet and listen.” “I NEVER KNEW YOU; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS!” I kept quiet, and He went on and on and on, unveiling more and more things. Even the things which appear so small, at that moment appeared so rotten. I felt like I was standing before the judgment seat with everything being thrown out. I wanted to say, “Stop, stop, I accept it all,” but He wasn’t stopping. At some point I was just saying, “I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m sorry.” He said, “Keep quiet.” I wasn’t speaking loudly; I was speaking in my heart. He said, “Keep quiet and listen.” As He continued I thought, “I must have been deceived. All along I thought I was serving God and yet I’m so filthy inside. I must have been deceived. The Devil must have taken my life captive a long time ago.” At that

moment I thought of the miracles we were witnessing. I thought of the healings. I thought of all those wonderful things, and suddenly my heart sunk. I thought, “The Devil has so deceived me that he could even use me to produce counterfeit miracles; to produce things I thought God was working—and yet it was the Devil all along . . .” The voice kept quiet for a moment, and then He said to me, “Why are you imagining such thoughts? I don’t do miracles because you’re worthy. I do miracles because I love My people before whom you stand to preach. Have you never read of how they will come to Me on that day and say, ‘Lord, Lord, in Your name we worked miracles, cast out demons, and prophesied’? Then I will say to them, ‘Get out of My sight, you workers of iniquity. I never knew you’” (Mt. 7:21–23, paraphrased). He said, “Don’t depend on the miracles to assess your worthiness. Your worthiness isn’t in the signs and wonders you witness in ministry. I do miracles because I love the people, and My name shall never be left without witness on earth.” He said, “Have you not ever read that without holiness, no one will see God (Heb. 12:14)? It’s not the miracles; it’s the holiness that comes from God.” He spoke to me the scripture in the book of Hebrews.