

Lesson 11 | Wednesday, February 14, 2024

**MIND YOUR KING**, lessons from Doy Moyer's Book, [Mind Your King](#).

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From the beginning, promises about what would be the good news of God through Christ was exactly that – something God would provide. From the seed of woman (Genesis 3:15, Romans 20) to the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:3, Romans 3:25-26), Jesus is the grace that appeared to bring salvation to all men (Titus 2:15). And when other prophets foretold the coming of the age of the Messiah's blessings, they emphasized too, as we have noted, that at the end of the promise of that message, the people will respond and say, "Our God Reigns" (c.f. Isa 52:7; quoted in Romans 10:15).

**So this good news, this message of salvation, would be provided to us by grace.** Christians recognize this because Paul said it was do (Ephesians 2:8-10) and identified the condition to receive it would be faith (Romans 1:16-17). But it is not the strength of our faith that makes the offer glorious – it is the strength of the Giver – who gives it by grace (c.f. Romans 6:23). Grace can only be meaningful when God is seen as the Majestic Power He is – and the One who reigns.

**Further, we are not under law – but under grace** (Romans 6:15). Paul's discussion of grace and law never precluded obedience to the One who reigns (c.f. 1:5; 2:10; 3:22; 6:12,15-17; 16:25-27). It was the aim of the apostle – and it should be the aim of all teachers of the gospel and all Christians. There is nothing oppositional about obedience against grace.

**God is merciful to the iniquities of those with whom He is in covenant:** For *"Jesus has now obtained a superior ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been established on better promises.. [in] a second one... [where] I will be their God, and they will be my people... For I will forgive their wrongdoing, and I will never again remember their sins"* (Hebrews 8:6-12). Forgiveness, mercy and grace are all on God to exercise at His Own bidding. He is in charge. There is nothing "earnable" – but that does not mean there is nothing that must be obeyed (c.f. 1Thessalonians 1:8). Our covenant is not as equals. Only Christ is king (Colossians 1:18,13). Only Christ is Head (Ephesians 1:22-23). He is the King who lavishes showers upon us His grace (Ephesians 1:7-8). We are the lesser. And because He is the blesser, He is the greater (c.f. Hebrews 7:7).

**Though grace frees us from sin in the provision of the gospel, the grace of God teaches us to both deny things and to live out things that have been given for our instruction** (Titus 2:11-15). In fact, the very suggestion that grace has removed from us a demand to obey was scandalous. Paul said, *"What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?"* (Romans 6:1-2). And Jude said, *"For some people, who were designated for this judgment long ago,[b] have come in by stealth; they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into sensuality and denying Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord"* (Jude 4).

**But this does not mean we are "under Law"** (Romans 3:19-20). The Law showed man's sinfulness and God found "fault with his people" the Bible says and that is why He brought to fruition of the second covenant where Mercy and Grace would be found among those who *"keep His commandments"* (Revelation 22:14) and *"His commandments are not burdensome"* (1John 5:3). The more we add to what we like and feel to covenant obedience and worship indicates where He is in the Covenant. Is He King, or is a negotiable equal?

**Obedience is not self-righteousness.** If it were, then Jesus would be self-righteous since He was (Hebrews 5:8). Further is the source of salvation to all those who obey Him (5:9). How could there be a conflict where obedience is self-righteousness?

**Obedience is not counter to grace.** Again, all of the above references to obedience apply as well here. However, consider one more. God forgives because of His sovereign grace. When He healed a paralytic, Jesus said, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Jesus perceived in his spirit that the scribes were thinking that only God can forgive and said to them, "*Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'?* But so that you may know that the Son of Man **has authority on earth to forgive sins**"—he told the paralytic— "*I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home*" (Mark 2:1-12). The one way we honor GRACE is to respect His AUTHORITY to offer it.

- If relying on grace should result from our acknowledgement of our own failures and foolishness, why would we not rely on His instruction to tell the way we should go (c.f. Jeremiah 10:23)?
- If relying on grace should result from our trust in His power to make us whole again by forgiveness, why would we not rely on His will to command our attention?
- If we are acting without His instruction, His authority, are we not acting on our own? We should boast in the Lord (c.f. 1Corinthians 1:27-31). How can we do that when our words, our actions, and our worship are not what He has commanded of us?

**Grace and Authority are cohesive ideas in the gospel.** He has all authority indeed (c.f. Matthew 28:19-20). And these prohibit us from boasting in ourselves – and likewise in boasting in our own pursuits to the religious life. Grace gives us no permission to act outside of the will of the King who has given us grace (c.f. Romans 6:13; Galatians 5:4).

**Just as grace is cohesive to Authority – so is love.** If love "*is not self-seeking*" or "*seek its own*" [NASB] (1Corinthians 13:5), then pushing against the way Christ's apostles have directed the path for Christians and for churches is not loving. When we heed the culture's ideas today that loving them is telling them to go their own way in opposition to God's way, is not loving.

- "*If you love me, you will keep my commands*" (John 14:15)
- "*But whoever keeps his word, truly in him the love of God is made complete. This is how we know we are in him*" (2John 2:5).
- "*Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth*" (1John 3:18).
- "*Love one another as he commanded us*" (1John 3:23b).
- "*This is how we know that we love God's children: when we love God and obey[b] his commands. For this is what love for God is: to keep his commands. And his commands are not a burden, because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith*" (1John 5:2-4).

God's grace should humble us and cause us to see that it is only by his power and will that salvation is possible. "Your God reigns" is still alongside the announcement of the salvation the Messiah was to bring. And this should always remind us that King Jesus has always desired to lavish His grace and love upon us. And knowing this, because He is the only one with such authority to comfort us, we should respond in faithful obedience. So, let us seek to live by his grace and demonstrate our love for Him.