

CHAPTER 9 LAW VS. GRACE

This is the ultimate battle for true worship, the supreme foe that we must face and it is best known as RELIGION, or LAW, mans attempt to reach God by his works. We will concentrate on the subject of worship here but the principle is equally as crucial in every other aspect of your Christian walk. It is what Jesus came to confront in Gods' people. It is what John the Baptist came to prepare the people to receive from Jesus, relationship rather than religion.

Think of it, the whole nation of Israel was following the Jewish religion when Jesus came. Pretty impressive to get the whole nation to follow the laws of God, yet Jesus didn't think it was very impressive. Also note that when Jesus started His ministry it says in Luke's gospel chapter 4 verse 16, that Jesus was in the temple when he delivered his famous words from Isaiah:

“ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”.

Jesus was in church talking to church people when he talked about being poor, brokenhearted, captive, blind and oppressed.

When religion prospers those are the earmarks of the people who are caught in that type of system. You can see it all around the world, where ever there is a religious system that the people have embraced you will find they are poor, brokenhearted, in religious bondage, blind and oppressed. Also note that these terms have a spiritual connotation to them. In the book of Revelation the 3rd chapter Jesus is addressing the Laodicean church and they think they are rich and in need of nothing. Meaning they have by natural standards a good, prosperous, healthy church. Yet Jesus says they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and

naked. It is clear that what you see on the outside may not be the spiritual reality.

Herein is the crux of New Testament worship, you can worship Him with your mouth, with all the right songs and all the right actions and yet have your heart far from Him. It can sound excellent, look excellent and have scripture to back it up yet miss the mark by a mile. Wow that is scary.

There was always meant to be a certain fear of the Lord involved in our daily walk. For we must all work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. We need to again learn to humbly follow Him and seek to hear His voice and follow what he would have for us to do and not give our responsibility to follow Him over to someone else like the children of Israel did. *“Moses you go talk to Him and find out what he wants us to do and then come tell us so we can do it and then get back to our lives and never have to meet with Him or talk to Him”*.

Worship is personal, one on one with God. Not to be shrouded in a service time and made to be like a ritual, that when once completed it gives you a sense that you are ok for awhile, when in reality you are no better off then when you started and sometimes worse.

Gods' people are at a cross road in this area. Can we once again get back to the place where God is everything in our lives? Or more likely, will we heed the call of God when He reaches out to a generation on the brink of rewriting the idea of God in our lives? We have some how watered down the gospel to the point where it has become almost powerless in our lives. The saints of past generations did mighty works for God. People were healed by the shadows of the apostles. Saints would gather and pray until the buildings shook with the power of God, and men would rip off the roof to get to God. It is interesting to note that Jesus came at a time in history when religion had sapped Gods' people to the point where they were powerless. Gods' word says when the appointed time had come the Messiah came to earth. It seems that once again the time is right for Jesus to show up. I don't mean a church movement but Jesus himself speaking to his people. That happens during true worship.

True worshipers are emerging everywhere, they are not at the top of the spiritual circuit usually but they are out there doing the works of Jesus. Helping the down trodden, feeding the hungry, helping Gods' people to follow Him and not taking them for themselves. They're the ones that are truly touching lives and allowing people to walk with Jesus and hear His voice. It's a ground swell of loyal, humble worshipers. They are in every nation, every denomination, and they are not bound by their titles. Because they walk in His presence they are not moved by false doctrines, false teachers, numbers, riches or any other thing that might cause them to loose their focus. Their only quest is to know Him and be with Him. It is their joy, their desire and the driving force that causes them to fulfill Gods' plan in their lives. That is what He is looking for, He is seeking such to worship Him.