

Counterfeit Grace

Matthew 25: 1 to 13

In the world to-day, there are many choices. If you only have so much money, what kind of products will you buy? There are two possibilities. The first choice is; brand name goods; but they are usually a lot more expensive. Your other option is for a substitute; a generic, a replica, or an outright fake. And we all know what countries specialize in counterfeit goods. How many of you lost your jobs, because your company just could not match those cheap, but inferior goods?

Well 2000 years ago, Our Heavenly Father sent the real thing; when He sent His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. John 1: 17 - For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. Did you hear that? Grace and truth were given to us. How evident are they in the world now? What is grace? Strong's 5485, charis. AV-grace 130, favour 6, thanks 4, thank 4, thank + #2192 3, pleasure 2, misc 7; 156

- 1) grace 1a) that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech**
- 2) good will, loving-kindness, favour 2a) of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues**
- 3) what is due to grace 3a) the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace 3b) the token or proof of grace, benefit**
 - 3b1) a gift of grace 3b2) benefit, bounty**
- 4) thanks, (for benefits, services, favours), recompense, reward**

Does anyone know when the first recorded act of grace is?

Genesis 6: 1 to 8 - And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, & daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; & they took them wives of all which they chose. & the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; & also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, & they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. & GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,

and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. & it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, & it grieved him at his heart. & the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, & beast, & the creeping thing, & the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. Noah and his family were saved from destruction by the Grace of God.

Does it have anything for us to-day? Acts 15: 11 - But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

How did Our Lord Jesus Christ do it? John 1: 1 to 18 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, & the world knew him not. He came unto his own, & his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace & truth. John bare witness of him, & cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. & of his fulness have all we received, & grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace & truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

And how did God save man this time? Romans 5: 8 - But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 1: 7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Did God's Plan work? Hebrews 2: 17 - Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

And what did the shedding of Christ's Blood do? Colossians 1: 20 to 22 - & having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him I say whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. & you that were sometime alienated & enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy & unblameable & unreprouable in his sight:

So the process started with God's Grace poured out on mankind at Calvary.

Now we all know what our adversary is up to. 1 Peter 5: 8 & 9 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

You see, the devil just lost an open battle with Our Lord Jesus Christ; and he is not going to do that again for a long time. So what will he do?

I would expect him to run a big counterfeit operation; to mis-lead as many as possible. Galatians 3: 1 - O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

In fact, he has done very well. How did he specifically do it? 1 John 4: 3 - And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

2 John 1: 7 - For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an

antichrist. Strong's 500 - antichristos. AV-antichrist 5; 5 1) the adversary of the Messiah

And to be the most effective deceiver; he doesn't openly deny Our Lord Jesus Christ; he poses as the antichrist, or the instead of christ.

And every time that he gets people to do something for him instead of for Our Lord Jesus, he has scored a goal. Did you say a goal? Does that mean that sports is used of the devil to distract believers? Ah; no comment.

How else might the devil counterfeit the ministry of Our Lord Jesus?

John 1: 17 - For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

The devil scored a lot of points under the Old Covenant by counterfeiting the law. Much of Our Lord's teachings in the Gospels were correcting the errors the religious leaders had. He summed it up in Matthew 23. Our Lord even corrected the devil when he mis-used the Scriptures. And amazingly enough, he is still scoring a lot of points with it, even when we are now under the New Covenant.

Legalism is gaining ground everywhere; even in deliverance circles. The number of those caught up in the sabbath only is unfortunate.

But now, he is focusing on grace and truth. Paul warned the early Church about it. 2 Corinthians 11: 3 & 4 - But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

If you look around, there's almost more false teaching than the Real Word.

Amos' prophecy is here now. Amos 8: 11 & 12 - Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to & fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

But don't give up looking for it; there are still a few churches around that preach and practice the full gospel. Many years ago, the false doctrine of losing your salvation went around the deliverance circles. Pastor Win wouldn't even discuss it. If you believe that you can lose your salvation; you are still lost; and playing the good works game to get to heaven. And you can't do it. You have swallowed another gospel; you have accepted antichrist as your saviour; and you have a familiar or false holy spirit.

And you are still lost in your sins. There are fundamentalist pastors out there who state that at least 1/2 of their congregations are not saved. What's it like in the liberal churches?

So if you were to go somewhere else; what would you find? There will probably be many lost. And they won't be wearing signs that say, Don't follow me; I'm lost too. Again Paul warned us about them.

2 Corinthians 11: 13 to 15 - For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

For those who have a lot of discernment, Our Lord might show them something. Years ago, a man told me how when he was listening to a preacher somewhere, the form of the man turned into a wolf. Interesting, isn't it. Are you saying that there are unsaved people, who are pretending to be God's people? Why not? They have been around for a long time.

Exodus 12: 38 - And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, *even* very much cattle.

Numbers 11:4 - & the mixt multitude that *was* among them fell a lusting: & the children of Israel also wept again & said Who shall give us flesh to eat?

Nehemiah 13: 3 - Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.

In the New Testament, they are called by another name. 2 Corinthians 11: 26 - *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils

by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; etc.

Galatians 2: 4 & 5 - And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.

Strong's 5569 - pseudadelphos. AV-false brother 2; 2 1) a false brother

2) one who ostentatiously professes to be a Christian, but is destitute of Christian knowledge and piety.

Maxwell Whyte, an early pioneer in deliverance, started in the 1940s.

He had an interesting upbringing. It was nominal christian; in fact, they were spiritualists. They used their familiar spirits to help them. You can find his story in, "The Kiss of satan". He even describes how his kind would work in churches, on page 15.

There are men who creep into churches and pray for the sick, and miracles seem to take place, but they are operating in the strength and revelation of the occult spirits and thereby many are deceived. Jesus said, By their fruits ye shall know them. They often put on a false front of love to deceive, and the evil spirit shows in their faces.

Someone has described it, it has the appearance of a plastic face an unreal mask; but challenge them and plead the Blood of Jesus and their spirit will soon be revealed for what it is: an occult, deceiving, religious spirit.

Beware of false prophets. Years ago, there was a deliverance workshop; where at the mass deliverance, nothing was happening. When the leader realized that something was wrong, he went into aggressive spiritual warfare, and it finally broke the occult bondage on the meeting. Later it was discovered that half those attending were spiritualists; and their use of the familiar spirits was shutting down the deliverances. But thanks be to Our Lord Jesus; because His Name and Blood broke off their attacks on the

group.

Now how could those get into a deliverance group without being detected?

2 Corinthians 11: 13 to 15 - For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

So by putting on a false or a religious appearance; or a plastic face; or a mask; they are able to deceive many by their cunning words.

Ephesians 4: 14 - That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Remember at the beginning, we read how Grace and Truth came from Our Lord Jesus Christ? So if the devil wanted to plant his people in; he would give them a counterfeit grace and a counterfeit truth. The counterfeit truth would be the another gospel that Paul mentioned in 2 Corinthians 11: 4.

The counterfeit grace would be the false conversation; which is nothing but a phoney front; like in the movies. Would there be any passages in the Bible about this? Matthew 25: 1 to 13 - 1 Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

In the Parable of the Sower, in Mark 4:1 to 20; there are some interesting parallels. The last group is the only one that is commended by Our Lord. 20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive *it*, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

How might this be accounted for? Did they only have a religious experience, and not totally give their hearts to Our Lord Jesus? Did they follow another gospel, believe in another Jesus, and have another Holy Spirit, with counterfeit grace? They are probably sincere; but sincerely

wrong; with dire consequences.

Matthew 25: 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

John Gill has some comments on this verse. "This advice is thought by some, to be ironical and sarcastic; but it seems rather to be serious, and in good earnest; directing them to go to proper persons for grace; not to men, even ministers of the Gospel, nor to angels; but to God the Father, the Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, who sits on a throne of grace, and gives it liberally to them that come to him for it through Christ, and ask it of him; and to Christ the mediator, who is full of grace and truth, and counsels persons to buy of him gold tried in the fire, grace more precious than the purest gold; and to the Spirit of grace, who gives it to all severally as he will: who are said to sell, and men to buy; not in a proper sense, by giving any valuable consideration for the grace of God, which is impossible to be done; but in an improper sense, without money and without price; or in other words, by giving and receiving freely."

Matthew 25: 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Paul wasn't kidding, when he said in 2 Corinthians 13: 5 - Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.

Now there is another angle to consider. What if someone is really saved, but a lot of discrepancies emerge. What do you do? There is an increasing phenomenon where saved, but highly demonized people; lose control of themselves. This happens when a powerful demon, probably the strong man, rises up to the surface and effectively take over control of the person. How much control over a person can they effect?

Years ago, I was praying for a man who had very strong mind control. And as usual during prayer, he took off his rather thick glasses. When after pounding away on mind control for a while, and not getting much freedom; he suddenly looked across the house. What happened? Well without his

glasses, he could hardly see in front of him. But all of a sudden; he could see clearly across the house. However, a minute later, his sight blurred again. Obviously, when the demons were under duress; they relaxed their hold on his sight, so they could re-group to avoid major expulsion.

And we have seen major changes in people's behaviour when a powerful demon flips up and takes over. There will be a noticeable difference.

Sometimes it will be as clear as night and day; like the Gadarene demoniac. So what do you do? If you are not in a deliverance session; and just can not deal with them openly; just quietly bind up those demons that flipped up, and send them down until the next session in true deliverance.

You can also pray, asking Our Lord to show them the differences in their personality shifts. Of course, in prayer, hit on those demons; and clear off those intruders. The mind demons are the biggest area to-day that need priority. In fact, Win Worley said that the battlefield is in the mind.

Romans 12: 2 - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

And if your mind is not free; how can you function properly? And when the demons are up, and manifesting in a socially acceptable way; the person is in effect in an altered state of consciousness. And they will probably appear in a dazed state; or with a plastic face. And it takes discernment and spiritual maturity to distinguish between the two. So don't act rashly; but watch closely over time; and then with much prayer; do what the Holy Spirit directs you to do.

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