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**“GRACE or GOOD DEEDS”**

**Galatians 2:9-10**

**9**James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. **10**All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

**Gal. 2:10** *“*All they asked was that we should continue to *remember the poor,* the very thing I had been eager to do all along.”

**Luke 4:16-19** “**16**He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17**and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

**18**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me  
    to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,  
**19**    to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

**Acts 11:29-30**

**29**The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. **30**This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

***Mitzvah***

***Mitzvot***  (plural )

**“We are saved by Grace, Not by Mitzvot”**

Gal. 1:6 “**6**I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the **grace of Christ** and are turning to a different gospel”.

The Law – It’s not a “bad thing”, It’s actually a good thing. It gives us firm guardrails to keep us on the right path… IT JUST DOESN’T SAVE US. JESUS DOES!

Good Deeds – They are wonderful. They are fulfilling and beneficial to the giver, as well as the recipient. They are in many ways, very tangible practical methods for showing God’s love… BUT THEY DON’T SAVE US, JESUS DOES!

*[Jesus’ blood] + [keeping the commandments of the law] ?*

*Matt 25: 31-36*

***31****“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.****32****All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.****33****And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.****34****Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

***35****for I was hungry and you gave Me food;*

*I was thirsty and you gave Me drink;*

*I was a stranger and you took Me in;*

***36****I was naked and you clothed Me;*

*I was sick and you visited Me;*

*I was in prison and you came to Me.’*

*When they asked “when did we do these things”, the king says; “Inasmuch as you’ve done it to the least of my brethren, you’ve done it unto me”.*

*The ones that did not do these thing were cast into the lake of fire.*

1. It shows the Lord’s heart for those who are poor, sick and marginalized. So much so that He identifies with them when he says; “whatsoever you’ve done to the least of these, you’ve done unto me”
2. It was given during the “Olivet Discourse” (Jesus’ teaching about the end times) and is strictly eschatological. Meaning it is about what happens in the very end of time, **not to us**, but to those who survive the Great Tribulation just prior to the 1000 year reign of Jesus.

***We have to remind ourselves of who we are in Christ,***

***…more importantly who Christ is in us.***

***Gal 2:20-21*** *(ending of chapter 2)* **“**I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but *Christ lives in me*. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **21**I do not set aside the **grace of God**, *for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”*

***It’s really Uncomplicated:***

* **Jesus lives in you.**
* **He has compassion for the poor & needy and wants to seek & save the lost.**
* **So, What is he saying?**
* **What is he directing you to do? --- *Whatever it is…Do that!***