

Book of Life

Two main coins of the Bible

Law vs. Grace

I. The Two coins of scripture

- A. There are many themes in the Bible but they are headed up under two overarching themes- Grace vs. law or faith vs. works of law. These are the two coins of the Word of God each having two sides. These are two main covenants. Two testaments. Two ways of approaching God. One brings blessings and the other curses.
- B. Law is based upon man meeting God's holy standards in order to be right and as one ought to be. The principle of law is based upon the knowledge of right and wrong. This knowledge was first present in human conscience after partaking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and manifested later in a written form with the Law of Moses.
- C. Grace is God providing for man by His own work and action which is born out of love for man.
- D. These two systems or themes are opposed to each other.
- E. Faith is man's trust in God's grace. There is no such thing as bible faith that is not founded in the grace of God. Faith without grace is works. This is simply man trying to believe to get God to move for Him.

- F. Works of law are man's efforts to perform the known will of God in order to be right or obtain from God.
- G. Faith and works of the law are direct opposites.
- H. You can follow these themes throughout the Bible.
- I. I am going to boil down these four themes into two principles- Righteousness by faith, and righteousness by works.
- J. Righteous means to be just as one ought to be.

II. Dispensations

- A. Seven dispensations
- B. Dispensation- means house rule
- C. First- Innocence- Before the fall
- D. Second- Conscience- From fall to flood
- E. Third- Human Government- from flood to Law
- F. Fourth- Law- From Mt. Sinai to Day of Pentacost
- G. Fifth- Grace- Day of Pentacost to rapture
- H. Sixth- Tribulation- Seven years completing the fourth dispensation
- I. Seventh- Millennium- 1,000 reign of Christ
- J. An eight would be the ages of ages- eternity

III. Righteousness in Genesis

- A. God placed two trees in the Garden of Eden- Gen. 2:9
 - 1. Tree of the knowledge of good and evil- All the other trees God caused to spring up. The trees of life and knowledge of good

and evil were already. These did not spring up. Both have been from everlasting. Both are from God. God possesses both life and the knowledge of good and evil. God wants man to partake and live from the Tree of Life and not the other one.

2. Tree of life- Revelation 22:2- This tree is in Heaven! The tree (singular) are on both sides of the river of life. How can this be? This tree is a vine. This tree represents God Himself. We are His branches that bear fruit! John 15:1-5
3. These two trees represented the two types of righteousness.
4. The tree of knowledge represented the law and works (trying to become like God).
5. God warned man not to eat from its fruit. The wages of law is death. You shall surely die! In the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil we have a symbol of law. It is not the Law of Moses put the principle of law. Many try to live under the principle of law even if they are not living under the Mosaic Law.
6. Eve added to God's command and said she was not allowed to touch it or eat it. This is called a fence law. This is making a law that will keep you from even getting close to breaking the first law! The Jews of Jesus time had thousands of fence laws!

7. They were not to eat from its fruit. What was the fruit of the law? It was death- Roman 7:5- God warned that if they ate of the fruit it would kill them and it did!
8. Romans 5:17-19- We all became sinners by this tree. We all become righteous by the tree of life!
9. The tree of life is becoming right and as we ought to be by receiving God's own righteous life as our own as a free gift. It is receiving the gift of righteousness. Romans 5:17. This cannot be earned or merited by our behavior. Holy behavior was to be the mere fruit of God's righteousness not the cause of it! Romans 6:22 God wanted to get into us so that He would be our life source which our actions (production) would proceed from.
10. The tree of knowledge looks really good, and it looks like wisdom, but it produces death because it severs one from God in order to try to be like Him. Adam and Eve were already like God. Satan promised this tree would open their eyes. This tree actually blinds you! 2 Cor. 3:14 Grace opens up your eyes! 2 Cor. 3:16,18
11. Adam and Eve sowed aprons of fig leaves on them. Aprons represent work! If you want to earn righteousness then you will need to work and never quit! This actually was a loin cloth. Why did man

cover his groin? What made them cover that part of them and not others? They were ashamed of that part of themselves. This was the place of human production. In the fall human production became cursed and shameful. The fig leaf over the place of human production represents that all that man can produce is shameful acts. It is worthy of judgment. They put fig leaves. They put on salad dressing! Fig leaves are a type of religion and works righteousness. Israel is described as a fig tree. (Matt 24:32) Jesus cursed the fig tree because it boasted of what it did not possess. (Matt. 21:19) When Jesus came Israel proclaimed itself as righteous by its works of the Law and not as a gift from the Messiah's sacrifice. The tree Jesus cursed had leaves but no fruit. The fig tree usually put out leaves and fruit at the same time. The tree had no fruit, just leaves. Adam and Eve had leaves but no fruit of righteousness! Jesus was not yet crucified and the Pharisees proclaimed righteousness without him.

12. The eating from the tree of knowledge produced conscience. In Romans 2:15 it is called the work of the law. It is an inner knowing of right and wrong. Before the Law of Moses people lived by this internal but flawed work of the law. They did what they saw as right and avoided what they

saw as wrong. They used each other as measuring sticks.

13. Gen. 4:23- Lamech compared Himself with Cain. He killed a man because he wounded him. He felt more justified than Cain.
14. Those who tried to earn God's favor by doing right and avoiding bad were religious. Those who rebelled away from the doing good and followed the bad were wicked, living without conscience. Both ways were living by the flesh and by the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God wanted man to live from God as the tree of life in which He would place His love in them and empower them to bear holy lifestyles and fruit from Him and not works. Instead of living by rules of right and wrong, God wanted to be inside of man and man being directed by the inward witness on what to do and not his emotion, will, or intellect. We today can and should be led by the inward witness and revelation of the Word of God by the Spirit of God and not rules and regulations. Sadly few do!
15. God made for Adam and Eve coats of skin, thus shedding the blood of an innocent animal and covering their nakedness.

16. Gen. 2:3- God rested on the seventh day and blessed it and sanctified it. Gen. 2:15- And Jehovah God took the man and caused Him to rest in the garden of Eden, to serve it, and keep it. God made Adam on the sixth day and gave him a job. But first he rested his first whole day after his creation with God before he worked. God's work comes from rest.

17. Gen. 3:22-Adam and Eve were put out of the garden for their own good. Their sin did not cause God not to speak to man any longer. He spoke and listened to man after their fall both inside the garden and on the outside of garden!

18. Cherubim were placed to guard the way to the tree of life. They had flaming swords that went in every direction. The flame represented God's perfect holiness. The sword represented God's judgment for sin and imperfection. The flaming sword went in every direction. In every way God is pure and He only accepts perfection in every way. To take the path to the tree of life by your own merit you will have to be pure in every way and if not there is condemnation and judgment. It is interesting that on the veil under the Law that separated the Holy of Holies from the outside had cherubim on it. (Ex. 26:31) This veil guarded the way unto God and

life. This veil represented the body of the Lord Jesus Christ that was torn for us!
(Matthew 27:51)

B. Cain and Abel

1. Gen. 4:1-7-Cain was a gardener and Abel was a flock herder. Cain labored in the cursed soil. This was a type of the toil of the flesh.
2. Cain means to acquire; and Abel means empty. Cain tried to acquire God's blessings by works and Abel had nothing to offer God but the blood of the lamb that represented the perfections of God's Son. Abel was empty in himself so He looked to God for all!
3. They both brought an offering- Cain brought the works of his toil from the ground, or flesh. Abel a blood sacrifice. God rejected Cain's offering because it was from the cursed ground which represents the flesh. Abel offered a sheep blood sacrifice which represented Jesus becoming man's righteousness by faith. Hebrews 11:4- Abel offered by faith. Faith comes by the rhema word of God. God had told both boys what he desired in way of sacrifice. Cain had a better idea and Abel obeyed in faith.
4. The law and works produce anger, depression (a by-product of anger), hate,

and murder. Peace, joy, and love can only flow out of grace and faith.

5. God told Cain that if he did well would he not be accepted. What is doing good to God? It is believing and trusting in God's sacrifice and the obedience of faith. Abel was accepted because of the sacrifice of the blood of the lamb. John 6:28-29- What is the work of God that He is looking for from us?- To believe upon Jesus Christ!
6. If we do well by having faith in God then sin will be held off. If we try our own efforts to merit acceptance sin will be strengthened. The strength of the sin is the Law. 1 Cor. 15:56

C.Noah

1. Gen. 6:8-Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Grace was Noah's wife! No, this means that Noah trusted in the Lord to make him righteous.
2. Gen. 6:9- He trusted God that God would send a redeemer and forgive His sins and make him what He ought to be. He trusted in God's performance instead of his own. Notice God called Him just and perfect. Noah was righteous and blameless, and he walked with God. This is the order of God. He was righteous because he found grace! Not because he walked with God. His walk was caused by God's grace!

3. Gen. 7:1- God saw his righteousness by his obedience of faith in building the ark. God wants for His righteousness to be seen in our actions! This was because the righteousness of God was imputed to him. God was just and perfect and gave it to Noah as a gift. Noah was not perfect in his performance! He got drunk after he got out of the boat!
4. Throughout the Bible man always became right with God by faith in His grace. OT looked to the redeemer and we in the NT look back on his finished work.
5. He was called build an ark. There were three arks in scripture. All of them were for protection against judgment and death. 1) Ark of Noah. 2) Ark of bulrushes- Moses. 3) Ark of the covenant. All three arks were a type of Christ.
6. The ark is a type of Christ according to 1 Peter 3 A)The ark of Noah was made of trees. Life comes out of death- live tree cut down. The implement for our salvation was a tree. B)This ark was pitched inside and out. The word pitch in Hebrew was used for atonement. God's blood atones for our inward and outward sins and delivers from God's judgment from without and bears the judgment of God for us while we are safe in Him and his perfection! C) The ark was not of Noah's invention. It came from God.

The plan of redemption came from God and not man's idea. D) The ark both received the judgment of God upon it and protected those within from it! E) The ark had only one entrance on it. Jesus is the door of salvation. F) The opening was in its side. Jesus side was opened for us. G) Noah was invited to come and not told to go. The word come means God's presence was in the Ark. We are invited into God's presence. H) There were three levels to it. Redemption is provided for our spirit, soul, and body by the trinity- The Father, Son, and Spirit as seen in Ephesians 1-3 I) The only window was at top so that Noah could only look towards heaven and not towards the death and decay of the earth.

7. The ark rested upon Mt. Ararat. The ark rested upon this mountain in the Jewish month of Nisan the 17th day. This is the same day Jesus Christ rose from the dead.. The Passover was killed on the 15th of Nisan. Three days was the 17th- the same day the priest were waving the first fruit of the barley harvest. This was called the wave offering. This mountain called Ararat means "The curse reversed!" This mountain symbolizes the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The ark a type of Christ goes through the waters of Judgment is raised up with believers in Him upon

resurrection ground. The curse of sin, sickness, poverty, and oppression has been reversed by His resurrection and new life!

8. The rainbow is a type of Christ eternal work. The rainbow was given as a token that God will no more condemn the earth again in judgment. Because of Jesus taking our judgment we will never be condemned and destroyed again for our sins. Rev. 4:3- A rainbow circles around the throne of God as a pledge that we will not come under condemnation any longer because God's judgment was poured out on Jesus in our behalf. We have passed from death to life and will not come into condemnation any more. The rainbow is not actually a bow. If you were high enough up to see the entire rainbow it would be a circle with no end. This means that Jesus has forever judged all your sins and you are forever forgiven in Christ and forever righteous! It was a perpetual token of the covenant.
9. The seven colors represent Christ's perfect work. He perfectly satisfied God's holy laws and gives you his perfect righteousness.
10. These come only after the rain. There is still a curse in the Earth. However, we can claim His covenant symbolized in the rainbow that is around His throne! When things come against us he wants us to

remember the rainbow, and that it has not come from Him. He judged you in Christ. He will not judge the same sins on you that Christ was judged for. The bad things that come against you are from Satan and not God.