

GRACE PURIFICATION

In our last study of James' doctrinal solution to hedonistic reversionism (Jas.4:1-10) we covered the desire for worldly pleasure and rejecting the truth of the word of God regarding it.

I was emphatic on James' approach to recovery from hedonistic reversionism (backsliding) (Prov.14:14) from the standpoint of New Covenant Grace theology.

PERSONAL NOTE: "Do not mistake my approach to James's instruction as my believing that the Book of James is not part of the Inspired Word of God. My point about the Book of James is that it is one of the most quoted books of the New Testament by legalists. But I believe like so many New Covenant Grace students of the Word of God that God put the Book of James in the Canon of Scripture to challenge our New Covenant theology of Grace.

Every New Covenant Grace theology teacher must supplement New Covenant teachings when they teach from it. Years ago, when I taught from this passage in James people gave me a doctrine of it by Bob Thieme. This year I was given one by Gene Cunningham. Listen, "I recognize and appreciate your concern".

Last week I used the teaching of Jesus from the parable of the prodigal son as a supplement to James' view. I chose to bring a New Covenant Grace view from the same period of Old Covenant teaching in order to teach cleansing based **solely on the blood of Christ** out of the Shadow Christology period.

(Heb.9:15) "How much more will **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works** to serve a living God?"

<p style="text-align: center;">This lesson will study <u>three aspects</u> of Purification from Old Covenant to New Covenant doctrine (Lev.11-15).</p>

1. The Book of James was written mid to late 40 AD. The first church conference was held about 50AD.

James was the pastor of the Jerusalem church. He and Paul were the leaders of two groups:

- James Old Covenant legalism and New Covenant Grace
- Paul New Covenant Grace without Old Covenant legalism.

They came together to become of one mind on the message and mechanics of Grace Salvation (Acts 15:1, 5-6, 11).

- Peter (Acts 15:7-11/ 9-10)
- Paul (Acts 15:4, 12)
- James (Acts 15:13-21)

Like spoke and then wrote of a unified church decree (Acts 15:22-35) [to avoid division in church] (Acts 15:24-25)

2. On Paul's third missionary trip late 50's AD, Paul took the special gift offering to Jerusalem against the directive revealed will of God (Acts 21:4, 10-11) [Agabus' warning].

(Acts 21:17-18) "After we arrived in Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. And the following day **Paul** went in with us to **James** and all **the elders** were present." (Acts 21:21-26)

James:

(Acts 21:24) “Take them (Jews) and YOU purify (hagnizo/ p.a.impv.2ps) [Old Covenant purification of Nazarite vow] yourself along with them, and YOU pay (dapanao/ a.a.impv.2ps) their expenses so that they may shave their heads; and all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, **but that you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the Law.**”

Paul:

(1 Cor.9:20) “To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews, to those who are under the Law, as under the Law **though not being myself under the Law**, so that I might win those who are under the Law.” (mid 50’s AD/ earlier)

(Acts 21:21-24): “Paying part or all of the expenses of the sacrificial victims, eight pigeons and four lambs. (Num.9:9-12). Living in obedience to the Law.” NIV (Paul expense)

3. Here is what you may be missing from (James 4:6-10).

James gave ten aorist imperatives (commands) to be absolutely obeyed.

Theme and central promise:

(Jas.4:6) “But He gives greater grace: Therefore, it says, ‘God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to humble.’” (Prov.3:34)

Submit to God – promise (hupotasso) [respect for the chain of Divine Command] (1 Cor.11:3) Resist the devil – promise (anthistemi) [to be in opposition to] (Matt.4:1-11; Eph.6:10-17) [Angelic warfare]

Draw near to God – promise (eggizo) [approachable because Jesus guarantees a better covenant] (New Covenant) (Heb.7:18-22)

Cleanse (katharizo) [The blood of Jesus in confession of personal sins] (1 John 1:7, 9) **your hands Purify** (hagnizo) [to make pure from guilt of sin] (2 Cor.7:11; 1 Tim.5:22) your hearts, you doubled-minded. (Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (worldly Thinking) verses New Man Divine Viewpoint thinking)

Be miserable (talaiporeo) [to develop callous, to be afflicted from hedonistic reversionism] Mourn (pentheo) [external grief of soul (1 Cor.5:2) [life choices]

Weep (klaio) [external grief of soul (Jas.5:1; Rom.12:15; 2 Cor.2:5-11) [personal misery]

Let your laughter be turned (metastrepho) [a change to something different] into mourning and your joy to gloom – No promises (This is not remorse, but a sense of loss of fellowship like the prodigal son) (Prov.14:13.)

NOTE: Did you notice what I did to the six steps that DID NOT have a promise in order to get New Covenant Grace believers to the Humble with a promise?

(Jas.4:10) “Humble (command) (tapeinoo) [Grace Orientation] (1 Pet.5:5-11; 1 Pet.3:8) [humble in spirit] yourselves in the presence of the Lord, (promise) and He will exalt you.”