

LAW AND GRACE (Galatians 2 - 4 / Ephesians 1)

Grace refers to the beneficial actions of God in which He reveals Himself, His gifts, and His life - all bestowals which grow out of His love rather than any sinful person's worth or merit.

THE FUNCTION		THE EFFECT	
Of Law	Of Grace	Of Law	Of Grace
Based on works (3:10)	Based on faith (3:11,12)	Works put us under a curse (3:10)	Justifies us by faith (3:3,24)
Our guardian (3:23; 4:2)	Centered in Christ (3:24)	Keeps us for faith (3:23)	Christ lives in us (2:20)
Our Tutor (3:24)	Our certificate of freedom (4:30,31)	Brings us to Christ (3:24)	Adopts us as sons and heirs (4:7)

The law functions to:

1. Declare our guilt
2. Drive us to Christ
3. Direct us in a life of obedience

However: The law is powerless to save.

The blessings of God's grace applied (from Ephesians 1): The salvation of the believer is ensured by the work of all three Persons of the Trinity - the loving choice of the Father, the redeeming work of the Son, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit.

- 1:3-6: **The Father planned the Church** (election) - meaning that He choose us before the foundation of the world (eternity past) and so we are blessed, predestined, accepted.
- 1:7-12: **The Son purchased the Church** (redemption) - meaning in time and space by His blood the Church is redeemed, by lifting our penalty He provides forgiveness, by making known God's will He provides wisdom to live as the Church, and as God's heritage we receive His reward.
- 1:13,14: **The Spirit protects the Church** (protection) - meaning that the Spirit: 1) Seduces us - works within us enabling us to hear and believe; 2) Seals us - marks our ownership (brands us), guards us, protects us, pledges us for heaven; and 3) Sanctifies us - works within us according to our ultimate destination.
- 1:15-23 Paul's prayer is that we would understand these truths.

Benefit: Christ's spiritual blessings in heaven (1:3); the forgiveness of sins (1:7)
Origin: Divine choice from eternity past (1:4); the good pleasure of God's will (1:5)
Purpose: Love manifested in holiness and blamelessness (1:4); to be joined with Christ (1:10)
Privilege: Adoption into God's family as beneficiaries of Christ (1:5)
Cost: The blood of Christ (1:7)
Means: Having heard the truth, trusting in Christ (1:12,13)
Assurance: The Holy Spirit as the down payment of our inheritance (1:13,14)