

The God of Grace Has Many Expectations

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BIG SANDY, Texas—On the first day of Unleavened Bread (Thursday, April 9), I gave a Bible study titled "What Are the Father's Expectations?" The purpose of the presentation was twofold.

- I wanted to remind friends that a God of grace has expectations for His children.
- I wanted to remind friends that the Bible contains many, many examples of the Father's expectations.

Grace before and expectations after

Many of my friends and I celebrated the commemoration of the suffering and death of the Son of God this year on Tuesday, April 7.

It is my perspective that disciples should focus upon God's grace before the commemoration of the suffering and death of the Son of God.

It is my perspective that disciples should focus upon the Father's expectations after the commemoration of the suffering and death of the Son of God—as they observe the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Negate expectations?

Some people could ask: Doesn't the concept of grace eliminate or negate the concept of expectations?

My answer: Certainly not.

Notice how Romans 6:1-6 dispels the notion that grace gives people permission to sin.

Notice how 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 propels the notion that people who have Christ as their Passover are instructed to manifest some important expectations—avoiding malice and wickedness, while seeking sincerity and truth.

- Ephesians 2:8-9—We are saved by grace.
- Ephesians 2:10—Since we are saved by grace, display good works.

- Titus 3:4-7—We are justified by His grace.
- Titus 3:8—Since we are justified by His grace, display good works.

Many qualities listed

Please use these Days of Unleavened Bread to consider the many expectations of the Father. Here are just a few.

- Exodus 20:1-17—Because God delivered them from Egypt, keep these commandments.
- Proverbs 6:16-19—Notice items that God hates and items He loves.
- Matthew 4:1-11—The Son of God ignored temptation.
- Matthew 20:25-28—The Son of God was a servant.
- Matthew 25:31-46—The Son of God helped the needy.
- Matthew 26:36-42—The Son of God sought the Father's will.
- Luke 18:9-14—The actions of the publican were accepted.
- Luke 23:34—The Son of God asked the Father to forgive the people—even though the people hadn't asked.
- Romans 12:17-21—No revenge.
- Galatians 5:22-23—The fruit of the Spirit.
- Ephesians 4:26-27—Be angry and sin not.
- Ephesians 6:10-18—The armor of God.
- James 1:26—Bridle the tongue.
- James 1:27—Help the orphan and widow.

Final comments

Remember to show appreciation to the Father who has extended tremendous grace and mercy to us.

Because of the Father's grace and mercy, please seek during these Days of Unleavened Bread to discover and to fulfill His expectations.