

Reaction to Grace

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BIG SANDY, Texas—As many Church of God congregations approach the spring feast days, I began a series of six articles discussing principles that can be rehearsed at this time of year.

Here is the list of articles in this series that have been written so far.

- March 23—"Overview of Passover in Book of Exodus."
- March 30—"The Night in Which He Was Betrayed."
- April 6—"Do This in Remembrance of Me."
- April 13—"Are You Worthy?"
- April 20—"Reaction to Grace"

Acknowledging God's grace

Although a disciple finds it comforting to remember God's grace every day of his life, the spring feast days are a clear reminder about the importance of God's grace.

Do you remember the three powerful events mentioned in Philippians 3:10? (Allow me to rearrange the three events in chronological order.)

- The fellowship of His sufferings
- Being conformed to His death
- Knowing the power of His resurrection

Disciples can clearly see that this time of the year is a powerful reminder about the grace of God.

- The commemoration of the suffering and death of our Lord (picturing the night in which He was betrayed) with New Testament symbols is a celebration of tremendous grace.
- The personal reflection upon the Lord's death on the next day at 3:00 p.m. is an introspective reminder about God's wonderful mercy.
- The personal reflection about the resurrection of our Lord (three days and three nights later) is an additional opportunity for God's spectacular grace to flood the minds and hearts of disciples.

Does grace endorse sin?

The apostle Paul realized that some people allowed the concept of grace to influence them to endorse sin. He wrote about this phenomenon in the book of Romans.

- Romans 6:1-2
- Romans 6:15

What should we do?

I believe that the lesson for disciples “before” the commemoration of the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord is about grace.

I believe that the lesson for disciples “after” the commemoration of the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord is about the reaction to grace.

The Father’s expectations

- Ephesians 2:8-9 mentioned being saved by grace.
- Ephesians 2:10 mentioned a proper reaction to grace—“good works.”
- Titus 3:4-7 mentioned being justified by grace.
- Titus 3:8 mentioned a proper reaction to grace—“good works.”

While I believe that it is ridiculous for disciples to argue about the subject of God’s grace, it is understandable for people to form different interpretations about the Heavenly Father’s expectations of His children. (Discussing differences can be healthy. Arguing, debating and fighting can be a colossal waste of time.)

Days of Unleavened Bread

The spring feast days are a yearly reminder about the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord. Thank God for truth about God’s grace.

As you observe the Days of Unleavened Bread, allow that appreciation for God’s grace to remind you about the various expectations that your Heavenly Father has of you.