

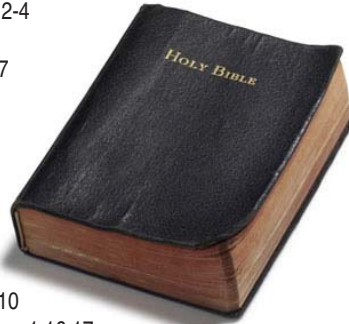
# The Lessons of God's Grace

## I. "...Denying Ungodliness" (vs. 12).

- A. God is angry with ungodliness. Romans 1:18
- B. Vain babblings increase ungodliness. II Timothy 2:15-18
- C. Ungodly men turn God's grace into licentiousness. Jude 3,4
- D. The fate of the ungodly. Jude 14,15

## II. "...And Worldly Lusts" (vs. 12). Luke 22:15 / Colossians 3:1

- A. The world is corrupted through lust. II Peter 1:2-4
- B. Lust is the seed of sin. James 1:13-15
- C. Worldly lusts are passing away. I John 2:15-17



## III. "...We Should Live Soberly" (vs. 12).

- A. Sober-mindedness reflects our view of ourselves. Romans 12:3
- B. Sober-mindedness prepares us for Christ's coming. I Thessalonians 5:1-8

## IV. "...Righteously" (vs. 12).

- A. Those born of God practice righteousness. I John 2:29
- B. Those who do not practice righteousness are not of God. I John 3:10
- C. Righteousness is known through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Romans 1:16,17

## V. "...And Godly in the Present Age" (vs. 12).

- A. Godliness is also known through the gospel of Jesus Christ. II Pet. 1:2,3
- B. Godliness is profitable for all things. I Timothy 4:8
- C. Godliness with contentment is great gain. I Timothy 6:6-8

We do these things... "Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (vs. 13).

Faithful Sayings Issue 12.35 August 29, 2010

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13).

## Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.  
Please come again.

■ Let us know if you have any questions.

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ISSUE

12.35

BULLETIN OF  
THE OLSEN  
PARK CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Faithful Sayings

August 29  
2010

## Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM  
10:20 AM  
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Pat Ledbetter  
Jeff Nunn  
Kyle Pope

## Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Steve Dixon  
Pat Goguen  
Jack Langley  
Neil Ledbetter  
Brady McAlister  
Walker McAnear  
Lance Purcell  
Rusty Scott

## Evangelists:

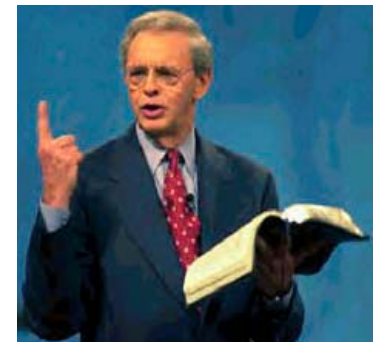
Kyle Pope  
Jason Garcia



## "No Strings" Grace

By Kyle Pope

Charles Stanley, the popular denominational radio and television preacher some years ago broadcast a series on "Eternal Security." As he argued for the false doctrine of "once saved always saved," he made the statement, "if our salvation has any conditions or strings attached then it isn't grace!" At the end of the program, as the announcer solicited contributions for their broadcast, he made a statement which contradicted Stanley's own teaching. The announcer said, "please remember, this program is only on the air by the grace of God and your continued contributions." How can it be that in financial affairs it can be said that human effort can be a condi-



tion which allows God's grace to operate, yet in matters of salvation it cannot? Aren't they suggesting that a financial contribution is a "string attached" which allows God's grace to operate? Why can't the same be said of the conditions God has set to accept salvation?



Olsen Park church of Christ

It is true that grace is the divine attribute that is responsible for the forgiveness of sins offered in Christ Jesus. Paul told the Ephesians, **"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast"** (Ephesians 2:8,9, NKJV). No amount of human effort merits forgiveness. Only God can choose to grant forgiveness. This text teaches that He does so "by grace." Yet, this text also sets a condition upon which this grace depends—it comes—*"through faith."* This doesn't mean that one earns salvation by believing in Christ. Rather, faith is a condition which God sets for acceptance of His grace. The Hebrew writer says, **"without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him"** (Hebrews 11:6).

What Mr. Stanley seems to misunderstand is the difference between obedience and merit. Since we cannot earn forgiveness, our only hope of receiving it rests in trusting in God to grant forgiveness. God insists that we have this trust or else He will not grant forgiveness. This trust is not demonstrated simply by what takes place in the heart, but also by what we do. Paul told the Romans, **"with the heart**

**one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"** (Romans 10:10). In this text confession is set as a condition of salvation. Jesus taught that He will confess to God the Father those who confess Him, and deny those who deny Him (Matthew 10:32,33). Would Mr. Stanley suggest that someone can be saved without confession? Would he claim that one who does so is not saved by grace? Obviously, confession is a divine "string attached" to God's grace.

In many cases what proponents of this view are really doing is picking and choosing the conditions which they want to insist are binding and those which are not. They may insist that faith and confession are essential but then argue that baptism, repentance, and faithful obedience are not. What gives us the right to exclude what God has commanded? Peter taught that baptism **"now saves us"** not as some act of merit, but **"through the resurrection of Jesus Christ"** (1 Peter 3:21). Paul taught that **"godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation"** (2 Corinthians 7:10). Jesus told Christians in Smyrna, **"be**



**faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life"** (Revelation 2:10). Obviously we will fall short at times. That is why we need grace to begin with. But heaven forbid that anyone should teach that when the Lord commands something it is not a condition which He expects to be met!

