

To Boldly Go Where No Grace Has Gone Before

Introduction. Star Trek has been a part of American culture since before I was born. In the futuristic world of Star Trek, there is no problem which cannot be solved, and no place which cannot be explored; but, it is a fantasy world!

Unfortunately, a lot of people live in a fantasy world regarding the grace of God. They "boldly" venture to take it "where no grace has gone before." Some people in the New Testament were guilty of the same (Jude 1-4). People have to see the reality that God's grace cannot go where man will not meet His requirements.

I. ***God's Grace Cannot Go Where Man Will Not Break The Yoke Of "Law"***

- A. Justification by the Law demands perfection (Galatians 3:10-12).
- B. Trying to be justified by the Law is a yoke which needs grace (Acts 15:10).
- C. Following the Old Law severs us from grace (Galatians 5:1-4).

II. ***God's Grace Cannot Go Where Man Will Not Be "Taught"***

- A. We must hear and learn about God (John 6:44-45).
- B. The grace of God teaches us how to live (Titus 2:11-12).
- C. A perverted grace will condemn us (Galatians 1:6-9).

III. ***God's Grace Cannot Go Where Man Will Not "Believe"***

- A. The Jews were saved by faith and grace just like the Gentiles (Acts 15:11).
- B. The jailor and his house were saved by faith (Acts 16:31).
- C. Faith is man's part and grace is God's part (Ephesians 2:8).

IV. ***God's Grace Cannot Go Where Man Will Not "Repent"***

- A. We cannot continue in sin that grace may abound (Romans 6:1-2).
- B. We have to repent because God demands it (Luke 24:46-47).
- C. True repentance equals regret and most importantly change (Acts 26:20).

V. ***God's Grace Cannot Go Where Man Will Not "Obey"***

- A. We cannot practice sin just because we are under grace (Romans 6:15-18).
- B. Continued sin insults the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:26-29).
- C. We cannot practice sin lest we "fall short" of grace (Hebrews 12:14-15).

VI. ***God's Grace Cannot Go Where Man Will Not Be "Humble"***

- A. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6-10).
- B. God wants people who possess a contrite and humble spirit (Isaiah 57:15).
- C. As the elect of God, we should "put on" humility throughout our lives (Colossians 3:12).

Conclusion. Let us not be presumptuous and adventuresome with the grace of God. Instead, let us learn, believe, repent, and humbly obey. We cannot earn salvation by perfect obedience. We need grace but we have to accept the reality of God's revelation concerning grace.