

Put On Christ!

How? By He Who Believes...

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We put on Christ like putting on a garment, a coat, or as Elijah passed on his mantel to Elisha (II Kings 2). When we wear a garment we are covering ourselves just as Adam and Eve needed covering from their nakedness and shame. Without the garment of Christ we are also naked, empty, exposed, and shamed; however, now that Christ has destroyed the works of sin and the curse removing its judgment against us on the cross we are in a different place. In this new place we can now walk in ***the gift of righteousness*** putting on Christ like putting on clothes to cover our reproaches and condemnations.

Completely Covered

This is great good news to know that we are completely covered in Christ ***as we believe in Him***. Like a garment we put on Jesus and wear His life in ours (Gal. 2:20); unlike a garment which has no personhood ***we fellowship and relate to the Lord of life***.

Comparing Relating to the Law verses Christ

Before under the Old Covenant we related to rules and regulations, we were under the law that directed and demanded. The law was unbending, strict, penetrating, precise, and unmoving requiring perfection. Under grace we relate to Jesus in a personal way who leads and guides us, showing us the way, the truth, and life (John 14:6). Under grace there is forgiveness,

patience, kindness, goodness, forbearance, tolerance, meeting us where we are in need and **supplying and providing life**. Under grace Jesus has become our perfection taking away every reproach and condemnation. Under grace Jesus saved us from wrath, judgment, and condemnation taking it upon Himself.

Comparing Obedience before under Law verses Grace

Before under the law it was upon us to obey and keep the commandments in order to be blessed and accepted. Under grace the law is fulfilled in the cross delivering us from its righteous judgments against our sins (Rom. 7:6). Under grace God **has supplied our obedience in Jesus** who became our victor over the law. Before we could not keep the law to be blessed but instead continuously **fell from grace into the curse of the law**. Now, under grace the law's requirements have been met and **as a free gift of righteousness** (through the work of the cross), we are no longer cursed. We through our relationship to the Lord and believing in Him are blessed. As we believe in Him, relate and behold Him, put on the garment of righteousness as a gift, believing the right things, it produces in us obedience of faith which manifests in right living. By believing the right things at the **root of our heart** and being right living becomes the **fruit** showing forth as rivers of living waters in our life.

Believing Was upon us under law to now being upon Christ under Grace

Before it was upon us to believe: **all things are possible to him who believes!** Standing alone and upon our own effort who among us believes all things? Who among us has no unbelief or

doubt? The law requires perfection and belief; however, all have fallen short, all have gone astray and each has turned away. Sin and selfishness and willful disobedience have perverted our hearts and skewed our believing. No one can believe **nearly enough** to believe all things are possible. Under grace that too has changed; we are no longer under the law **to believe** anymore than any one of us can keep the law. **Under grace is it upon the Lord in whom we are to believe.** Jesus said, “He who believes in Me...” (John 14:12). “Do you believe in the Son of God?” (John 9:35) Jesus asked. In another place, “He who believes in the Son...” (John 3:36) this places our believing upon the Lord! Can we believe in Him? Can we trust in the Son of God? Can we place our believing in His believing? The scriptures witness, “and **by Him** everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.” (Acts. 13:39). Our believing is established in His believing; our trust is in His strength to trust!

A Different Walk!

Under the law it was upon us to walk righteously to do the right things and to live Holy, “*Be Holy for I Am Holy!*” Under grace it is upon the Spirit. As we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). As we relate to Jesus our Lord, fellowship in Him, see and behold His glory in us, **we are putting on the garment of Christ!** The power to live holy comes **from being Holy.** The fruit of anything comes from the root! When we became born again a **new root of righteousness** was born into us—**put on Christ!** This means believe and live to Him instead of the old ways. Before the law was impersonal and had no power to change hearts to make us holy; under grace **a new law of liberty in the law of the Spirit of life** has been born into us and has the

power to produce the ***fruit of righteousness*** in us. As we awake to righteousness in believing in Him and believing the right things that have been accomplished in the new birth, we will be putting on Christ and ***see the fruit of it in our lives.***

Grace is the Spirit Not a teaching or thing

The gospel of grace is not a thing, place, or some special teaching it is the ***Spirit of Christ***. Grace is a being...it is Jesus Christ come to us to live and abide in us. When we are ***in right relationship to the Lord*** we are in righteousness before the Lord. This relationship changes everything we were once on our own now we are no longer alone forever! He that is born of the Spirit is One with the Lord. Jesus prayed,

John 17: 21 "...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Jesus has come to cover us completely and to save us to the uttermost. There is no portion of our being that is not covered and not saved; there remains nothing for us to be responsible for—we died! (Heb. 7:14). Jesus said that without me you can do nothing (John 15:5)!

Grace is God's love in us!

Grace is God's love **demonstrated** in us through Jesus. The law exposes the ***root of the problem*** that sin nature is self centered, prideful, blind, and without God's love. Under grace God's love has come to us:

Ro 5:8 But **God demonstrates His own love toward us**, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Under grace the love of God is demonstrated twenty-four hours a day seven days a week because of what was done in the atonement! Under law the only way we could see God's love, if at all, was through the physical or natural realm. We could appreciate His love through creation, through other people, through circumstances, situations, and provisions, coming to us through our senses. The love of God was distant coming to us from outside of us. It was more or less second hand. **Under grace the love of God has been poured out through His Spirit (Rom. 5:5)**. We now have full access **to know and experience God's love** through faith in His grace. This love abides within us, in our spirit, in our heart, **we can know by faith from within that we are forgiven, accepted, and beloved**. When we experience peace, joy, comfort, and abiding love, (through faith in His Word of grace), we are experiencing grace within us! There is complete connection, Spirit to spirit, and nothing can separate us from God's love ever again (Rom. 8:35-)!

Grace is God's presence and power!

When we know God's love, peace, and acceptance we are experiencing **transformation**. God's grace is working in us **to will and to do as His good pleasure!** God's presence isn't just to keep us company so that we are not lonely but to change us from glory to glory!

Php 2:13 "...for it is **God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**"

God's presence within us through Jesus even changes our desires so that we want to do His good pleasure! **Grace supplies** and our hearts are changed so that we are like Him. We put on Christ and Holiness living to the gift of righteousness and it produces right living in us.

2Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are being **transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as **by the Spirit of the Lord**.

As we put on Christ, that is behold Him, see Him within us, fellowship in His peace, praise, honor, and give thanks, basking in His glory; we are also being transformed, through no work of our own, from glory to glory into the same image! It is vital that we see Jesus! One of the chief ways to see Jesus is to cast away the law.

Under Law We Were to Observe to do all that was written!

Under the law we were instructed to read, study, and know the law through and through meditating upon it night and day:

Jos 1:8 "***This Book of the Law*** shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate in it day and night**, that you may **observe to do according to all that is written in it**. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

The problem is that no one could keep it. The result was falling from grace and into the curse of the law. If we could observe and do it we would be blessed and have good success;

however, since no one can the law therefore held us in bondage to sin. For the power of sin is the law (I Cor. 15:56)! Under grace having been freed from the law and its requirements, we focus on Jesus **who is superior to the law in every way!** The new covenant isn't based on keeping the law but in **staying in Christ**. As the apostle Paul wrote:

Php 3: 8-10 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the **excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, **that I may gain Christ**
9 **and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law**, but that **which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith**;
10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Under law we focused on the law! ***Under grace we focus on Jesus!*** The law, although holy and perfect, was limited and could not change anyone's heart (Rom. 8:3); therefore its ministry to sinners was condemnation and death:

2Co 3:7 But if the **ministry of death, written and engraved on stones**, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away,

The final result of pursuing the law even as a Christian is condemnation and death keeping us in bondage and estranging us from grace (Gal. 5:1-4). Under grace a new law of liberty has come!

Ro 8:2 For **the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** has made me free from the law of sin and death.

In putting on Christ we are transformed by the **power of grace in the Spirit**. The law brings death; the Spirit brings life. Under the law we were to live by every word written; now under grace we live by every word of the gospel!

Joh 6:63 "**It is the Spirit who gives life**; the flesh profits nothing. **The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.**

Jesus appointed the apostles to establish the church and its teachings and it is the letters to the churches that are authoritative to understand and interpret all other scripture including the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (I Cor. 3:10). We understand grace through what Paul, John, and Peter wrote that supersedes the law and in fact makes it obsolete!

Heb 8:13 In that He says, "A new *covenant*," **He has made the first obsolete**. Now what is becoming **obsolete** and growing old is ready to vanish away.

The law required right living; Under Grace it is right Believing!

The **Spirit provides (gifts) right standing** in righteousness as a root in ***right believing***. The fruit of right believing ***activates the new covenant*** based on better promises and a new relationship based on grace! We are being saved and made a new creation in Christ Jesus by faith in what God did in the atonement. When we become born again everything changed from being

under the law to being under grace! **Right believing is accepting what God has done** in grace by His Spirit in us. We are blessed because we received Him who fulfilled the law on our behalf and gave us newness of life in the Spirit. Under the law we were under sin's dominion with its passions, lusts, and lawlessness; under grace we are under the dominion of love, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Under law we were condemned in trespasses and sins; under grace we are accepted and beloved and kept by the Spirit.

Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, **by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved**.

Under sin there was nothing ***we could do*** to deliver us from it; under grace as a born again son of God there is ***nothing we can do*** to lose it—it is a gift! Through the Spirit and grace we have been made righteous and by **obedience of faith** ***our perfection in Christ*** is exposed and brought to light. It is an exchange: our sin for His righteousness. He was made poor, punished, chastised, and put to death so that we could be rich, delivered, forgiven, redeemed, and made alive. We exchange clothes!

God demonstrated His love for us by sending us His Son. His Son is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. In Christ we are made free by the truth, given His peace, His name, His presence, His Joy, His authority, and when we accept it and exercise it we bring glory to the Father. When we manifest His Spirit and grace and shine forth in the truth of our salvation, ***we are walking in the demonstration of His love. We are putting on Christ!***

God's love has been poured out into our hearts. God's love is fully come to us. It is constant and overflowing on our behalf. His love is complete, full, and certain. He loves us as His only begotten Son (John 17:23). His love never fails, never leaves, never forsakes, and never lets us down. His love needs no break, no incentive, no pumping; it is an everlasting love that is brighter than the sun. His love never stops, never dips, never ceases, never fades; it is an intense love, passionate, pursuing love...His love and grace are greater than sin and the law!

Jesus is Lord of all things including the Law!

Jesus is Lord of all things past, present and future. He is the great I AM, the eternal Holy One of God, the creator, the pure and perfect one, the beginning and the end...If God be for us who can stand against us? If God delivers who can overcome it? If God, in Christ has set us free what can hold us? Can sin hold us? Can the law keep us from His salvation? There is no condemnation because if God has made us righteous who is there to countermand it? If God doesn't condemn us who can?

If God declares us holy, forgiven, freed, what law or sin or demon can keep us bound? **The only hindrance is what we believe!**

We get what we believe not what we deserve! As we believe we wake up to righteousness and put on Christ in our salvation. God has subjected His whole salvation of grace and truth ***to our believing Him! Yet even our believing Him means our believing is in His believing!***

Under Law our words entrapped Us Under Grace they set us Free!

Under law our unbelief lead to wrong speaking; under grace our right believing leads to right speaking. Because we believe right we will speak right because under grace through faith in Jesus we get what we say...

What we believe comes out of our mouths all the time. It may be mixed with a lot of chatter on this or that but if we'll pay attention we'll find out exactly what we really believe just by listening to our own conversations. When we get serious and lay aside the jokes, the wisecracks, and the poking fun, our words reveal what is in our heart. **What should we be looking for?** We should be looking to see if our words are filled with natural understandings verses supernatural. If our solutions, issues, and complaints of the day center on natural things we can know that we are ***still babes in Christ*** who are trusting and driven by the flesh (I Cor. 1:3).

We need to put on Christ and that includes our language.

We grew up speaking "world" now we need to learn to speak "faith." Our language determines or releases our authority. ***Faith is voice activated*** (Mark 11:23, 24). Under the law our words condemned us or they justified us (Matt. 12: 37). Under the law we will be judged by every idle word we speak (Matt. 12:36). Under law life and death are in the power of our words (Prov. 18:21). ***These laws are still operating when we speak "world"*** instead of faith in God's grace! Do not ignore so great a salvation and continue to walk according to the flesh and judge things by our words according to the ways of the world.

Under grace we get to use the Word of God mixed with faith in His grace to reverse the curse, cast down imaginations, arguments, and thoughts contrary to His will. Under grace, **knowing God's will**, we get to use His Words and prophecy in His name. Under grace we get to use God's word to bless, deliver, heal, and redeem from all manner of sickness and disease, cast out demons, and overcome evil. Under grace by the Spirit of God all authority has been given to us to use according to the name of Jesus (Luke 10:19)!

When we speak "world" we are speaking from our natural man and human resources; when we speak "faith" we are speaking from our born again spirit and Godly resources. Which one do we depend on? Which one do we really trust? Which one do we live to and speak to the most? It matters because by our words we are set free or we entrap or become ensnared.

Pr 12:13 **The wicked is ensnared** by the **transgression of his lips**, But the righteous will come through trouble.

Let us put on Christ and speak from the righteousness born into our Spirit **despite** what the circumstances are or situations look like or what our friends, family, or worldly powers say. Stay in faith and begin to only speak faith. When we mess up, as we are bound to do, catch yourself and turn away from it. Say to yourself, "That was worldly and of the flesh; I renounce it, and I speak faith now to countermand it because I have the gift of righteousness in Me and in Christ I overcome. Amen." (Isa. 54:17).

Under the law:

Mr 9:23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes."

Under grace:

Joh 3:18 "**He who believes in Him** is not condemned; but he **who does not believe** is condemned already, because he has not believed **in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

Joh 3:36 "**He who believes in the Son** has everlasting life; and he **who does not believe the Son** shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Joh 7:38 "**He who believes in Me**, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Acts 13:39 "**and by Him everyone who believes** is justified from all things from which you *could not be justified by the law of Moses.*

Ro 4:5 But to him who does not work **but believes on Him** who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

Ro 10:4 For **Christ** is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

1Jo 5:5 Who **is he who overcomes** the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Consider this in conclusion

This passage from Isaiah is prophecy fulfilled in our day. The gospel of grace has made us as trees of righteousness and given us the garment of praise!

Isa 61:3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, **The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness**; That they may be **called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.**"

We are the planting of the Lord! But receive now the implanted word of God which is able to save your souls...

Jas 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness **the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.

In other words, take off, lay aside, the garment of heaviness, the burden of life under the law and put on Christ!

Matt. 11: 28 **"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden (under the law of condemnation), and I will give you rest.**

29 **"Take My yoke upon you** (put on my garment of righteousness) and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls.**

30 **"For My yoke is easy and My burden is light (It's all on me!)."**

**Parenthesis are mine*

The rest is love, joy, peace, living by faith in God's grace which **is putting on the garment of Christ.**

