

Background

The term “**Prosperity Gospel**” used **TODAY** has taken on a meaning to describe a message that is lopsided primarily focusing only on:

- e.g. 1 financial-wealth and health - Part 1
- e.g. 2 the love and grace of God largely disregarding other admonitions of scriptures - Part 2 [email]



Wrong Thinking #1

“**Age of Grace**” means that sins do not carry any consequences.



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- A. The bible clearly warns that all sins have consequences.



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Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Wrong Thinking #1 - “**Age of Grace**” means that sins do not carry any consequences.

- B. Believers will suffer for their own sins, errors and mistakes.

1 Peter 2:20a

For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently?

Faults: sins, weakness, infirmities, foibles, wrong doings..




Examples of **Wrong Things** that We Do and Suffer for it

- Bad Attitudes
- Not Diligent
- Poor diet leading to heart-related or health problems
- Lack of self-control
- Spending money beyond our means ending up in debt
- For being Naive
- Rude
- Impatient
- Lost Your Temper
- For being Foolish
- Lazy




Examples of **Wrong Things** that We Do and Suffer for it

- Refusing to heed wise counsel
- Poor Parenting
- Heart-broken as you broke off with your unbeliever friend
- Did not put effort in studying for major examination and end up in no university / no where
- Unwise investments -losses
- For being Ignorant
- Hanging out with wrong-corrupt company
- The curses placed upon ourselves
- For being Greedy



B. Believers will **suffer** for their own sins, errors and mistakes.

1 Peter 4:15
But let none of you **suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.**




Wrong Thinking #1 - "Age of Grace" means that **sins** do not carry any **consequences**.

C. Believers will also suffer by living in this **fallen** world.

John 16:33
These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation;** but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."


1 John 5:19



The fallenness of **man** and works of the **evil one** results in:

i. All kinds of **conflicts** between man.

Covetousness	Robbery	Quarrels	Murder	Envy	War
Taking Advantage of Others		Hatred	Unforgiveness		
Offenses	Arguments	Jealousy	Exploit the Ignorant		
Greed and its Consequences			Fights		
Sins of the flesh - Galatians 5:19-21					



The fallenness of **man** and works of the **evil one** results in:

ii. Physical **death**:

- Aging Process** [affecting life-span]
- Sickness** and **Disease**
- Corruption** and **Mortality** of the physical body.




The fallenness of **man** and works of the **evil one** results in:


iii. Fracture of the physical **earth** and corruption of the **environment**.

Romans 8:22
For we know that the **whole creation groans** and **labors** with **birth pangs** together until now.

Droughts and Floods	Tsunamis	Tornadoes
Earthquakes	Typhoons	Volcanic Eruptions
Extreme Weather resulting in Hurricanes		



Wrong Thinking #2
We **only** need to ask God to provide all our needs and we will receive it.




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A. This is true but **inadequate**.

❖ **Matthew 6:33**


- Seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness
- His Reign and Rule
- His Word - Instructions
- Laws and Principles of Life



Wrong Thinking #2 - We **only** need to ask God to provide all our needs and we will receive it.

B. We must also **activate** the laws of sowing and reaping.


Galatians 6:7
Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap**.



Wrong Thinking #2 - We **only** need to ask God to provide all our needs and we will receive it.

B. We must also **activate** the laws of sowing and reaping.


Genesis 8:22
While the earth remains, **seedtime and harvest**, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.




Wrong Thinking #2 - We **only** need to ask God to provide all our needs and we will receive it.

C. We need to apply the biblical exhortation to:

- Seek God for **wisdom** (James 1:5)
- Have **integrity** (Luke 16:10-12)
- Apply what the **Holy Spirit** draws to our attention (Romans 8:16; 9:1)




Wrong Thinking #3
We will not face trials and tribulations due to our grace covering.




Wrong Thinking #3 - We will not face trials and tribulations due to our grace covering:
A. We live in a fallen world.
Romans 3:23
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God


All Suffering in our lives are Trials!



Wrong Thinking #3 - We will not face trials and tribulations due to our grace covering:
B. Both believers and unbelievers will face trials and tribulations due to the fallenness of man.
John 16:33
These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.




Wrong Thinking #3 - We will not face trials and tribulations due to our grace covering:
C. Whenever there is a ground of sins, the evil one works to steal, kill and destroy - John 10:10a.
Ephesians 2:2
in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience




C. Whenever there is a ground of sins, the evil one works to steal, kill and destroy - John 10:10a.

Ephesians 4:27 (NIV) ... and do not give the devil a <u>foothold</u> [<u>doorway-ground</u>].	Ephesians 4:27 (NKJV) ... nor give <u>place</u> to the devil.
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Wrong Thinking #3 - We will not face trials and tribulations due to our grace covering:
D. God is **NOT** the author, direct, specific, explicit source of all our troubles - sicknesses, earthquakes, flood, etc.



“God allows” has various meanings:

Examples:


- i. Directly specifically **caused** it - **NO**
Luke 11:13; James 1:17
- ii. Endorse with active **approval** - **NO**
Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9
- iii. He **knows** the **outcome** according to Laws and Principles of Life that He placed on earth - **YES**
Psalm 139



Wrong Thinking #3 - We will not face trials and tribulations due to our **grace** covering:


E. Notwithstanding the troubles we face, we can always go to **God** who is merciful and gracious.

Romans 8:28
And we know that all things **work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.




E. Notwithstanding the troubles we face, we can always go to **God** who is merciful and gracious.

Genesis 50:20
But as for you, you meant evil against me; but **God meant it for good**, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.




Wrong Thinking #4
Prosperity from God means mainly **material** wealth to be given to us when we ask for it.



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A. Prosperity from God relates to our **whole** being of spirit, soul and body.

1 Thessalonians 5:23
Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your **whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



A. Prosperity from God relates to our **whole** being of spirit, soul and body.

3 John 2
Beloved, I pray that you may **prosper in all things** and **be in health**, just as your **soul prospers**.




Wrong Thinking #4 - Prosperity from God means mainly **material** wealth to be given to us when we ask for it.

B. In the area of material resources, we are blessed:

- i. means we have **more** than enough so as to be a **blessing to others**.
- *Ephesians 2:10*


For those struggling - NO Condemnation
Hebrews 4:16 - Seek Wisdom and Favor
Handicapped - Permanent - His Grace is sufficient




Wrong Thinking #4 - Prosperity from God means mainly **material** wealth to be given to us when we ask for it.

B. In the area of material resources, we are blessed:

- ii. to the degree we are **able** to handle the material resources.
- *Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 16:10-12*




Wrong Thinking #5
The OT is not applicable as we live in the NT "**Age of Grace**".



Wrong Thinking #5 - The OT is not applicable as we live in the NT "**Age of Grace**".


A. The Death of Christ and His blood shed, **supersedes** the old sacrifices of goats and bulls.
- Only the **ceremonial** laws in the OT were superseded.



Wrong Thinking #5 - The OT is not applicable as we live in the NT "**Age of Grace**".

B. The New Covenant of Grace did **not** make the Ten Commandments obsolete.

- i. All the moral laws are **still** valid as they are given by God for men's protection and safety.



B. The New Covenant of Grace did not make the Ten Commandments obsolete.

- ii. The New Covenant of Grace by the power of the Holy Spirit, **enables** us to fulfill the Commandments of the law of love.



- ii. The New Covenant of Grace by the power of the Holy Spirit, enables us to fulfill the Commandments of the law of love.

Matthew 22:37-39

37 Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” **38** This is the first and great commandment. **39** And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’



- B. The New Covenant of Grace did not make the Ten Commandments obsolete.
- iii. Grace is not lawlessness.

We cannot “commit adultery”, “steal”, “lie”, “covet” under the New Covenant by saying the Ten Commandments are obsolete.



- B. The New Covenant of Grace did not make the Ten Commandments obsolete.

- iii. Grace is not lawlessness.

Titus 2:11-12

11 For the **grace of God** that brings salvation has appeared to all men, **12** teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts**, we should **live soberly, righteously**, and **godly in the present age**.



Wrong Thinking #5 - The OT is not applicable as we live in the NT “**Age of Grace**”.

- C. The Ten Commandments (the law) were not nailed to the cross.

What was nailed to the cross in **Colossians 2:14-15** are all the charges against us by the evil one.



Wrong Thinking #6


We do not have to keep on asking the Lord for forgiveness.

He has already forgiven us forever even for our future sins.



Wrong Thinking #6 - We do not have to keep on asking the Lord for forgiveness. He has already forgiven us forever even for our future sins.


- A. This is a difference between provision-availability and appropriation-receiving the forgiveness of God.



Wrong Thinking #6 - We do not have to keep on asking the Lord for **forgiveness**. He has already **forgiven** us forever even for our future sins.

Bi. Salvation is available for all mankind but **not** all will be saved [John 3:16].


Bii. Redemption has been provided for all mankind but **not** all will be redeemed [1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 1:7].



Wrong Thinking #6 - We do not have to keep on asking the Lord for **forgiveness**. He has already **forgiven** us forever even for our future sins.


Biii. Forgiveness is also available for all believers but believers are **not** "automatically" forgiven.

Biv. Salvation and forgiveness are available on **God's** terms.




Wrong Thinking #6 - We do not have to keep on asking the Lord for **forgiveness**. He has already **forgiven** us forever even for our future sins.

C. The epistle of 1 John is written to **believers**.
It is written to "little children", "young men" and "fathers"




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It is written to "little children", "young men" and "fathers".

- ✓ 1 John 2:1, 12-14, 18, 28
- ✓ 1 John 3:7, 18
- ✓ 1 John 4:4
- ✓ 1 John 5:21




Wrong Thinking #6 - We do not have to keep on asking the Lord for **forgiveness**. He has already **forgiven** us forever even for our future sins.

D. The 7 "**ifs**" of 1 John 1-2.




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- i. **IF** we say we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (v6).
- ii. But **IF** we walk in the light as He is the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin (v7) .




D. The 7 “ifs” of 1 John 1-2:

- iii. IF we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us (v8).
- iv. IF we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (v9).
- v. IF we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His Word (truth) is not in us (v10).




D. The 7 “ifs” of 1 John 1-2:

- vi. My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And IF anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation (*lit. mercy seat*) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world (2:1-2).




D. The 7 “ifs” of 1 John 1-2:

- vii. Now by this we know Him IF we keep His commandments ... (v2:3).




Wrong Thinking #7
Repentance only means “a change of mind”.




Wrong Thinking #7 - Repentance only means “a change of mind”.

- A. This is true but inadequate-not complete.
- B. Repentance also includes godly sorrow for sins.



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2 Corinthians 7:9-11
9Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.



B. Repentance also includes **godly** sorrow for sins.

2 Corinthians 7:9-11


11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What **diligence** it produced in you, what **clearing of yourselves**, what **indignation**, what **fear**, what **vehement desire**, what **zeal**, what **vindication**! In all things you proved yourselves to be **clear** in this matter.



Wrong Thinking #7 - Repentance only means "a **change of mind**".


C. At times, repentance also include:

- i. **Restitution** (Numbers 5:7-8; Luke 19:8 - Zacchaeus)
- ii. a change of **direction** (Luke 15:17-20 - Prodigal Son)
- iii. definitely a change of **life-style** (John 21 - Peter)



Jeremiah 9:24

But let him who glories glory in this, that he **understands and knows Me**, that I am the LORD, exercising **loving-kindness, judgment**, and **righteousness** in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.




Romans 11:22


Therefore consider the **goodness** and **severity** of God: on **those who fell**, **severity**; **but toward you**, **goodness**, **if you continue in His goodness**. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Deuteronomy 30:19

*John Bevere conversation with 4 sons : **Love and being pleased***



God **loves** each of us the same!
Nothing can change that!
His love is **unconditional**!



But **we** are responsible as to how God is **pleased** with us!
God's pleasure in us is **not unconditional** but based on how we **live**!