



### **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 <u>love and grace of God largely disregarding</u> other admonitions of scriptures Part 2 [email]



# Wrong Thinking #1

"Age of Grace" means that <u>sins</u> do not carry any <u>consequences</u>.



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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 <u>wages</u> 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 <u>sins</u> do not carry any <u>consequences</u>.

B. Believers will <u>suffer</u> for their own sins, errors and mistakes.

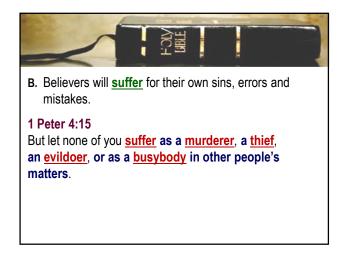
#### 1 Peter 2:20a

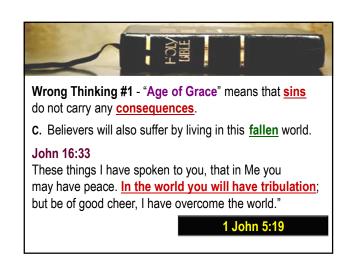
For what credit is it if, when you are **beaten** for **your faults**, you take it patiently?

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

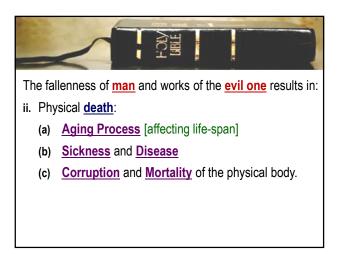














The fallenness of man and works of the evil one results in:

iii. Fracture of the physical <u>earth</u> 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 <u>only</u> need to ask God to provide all our needs and we will receive it.



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

- 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 <u>only</u> 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 <u>only</u> 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 <u>only</u> need to ask God to provide all our needs and we will receive it.

- **C.** We need to apply the biblical exhortation to:
  - i. Seek God for wisdom (James 1:5)
  - ii. Have integrity (Luke 16:10-12)
  - iii. Apply what the <u>Holy Spirit</u> 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 <u>ground</u> 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 foothold
[doorway-ground].

Ephesians 4:27 (NKJV)
... nor give place
to the devil.



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

 D. God is <u>NOT</u> the author, direct, specific, explicit source of all our troubles - sicknesses, earthquakes, flood, etc.



"God allows" has various meanings:

#### **Examples:**

- i. Directly specifically <u>caused</u> it NO Luke 11:13: James 1:17
- ii. Endorse with active <u>approval</u> 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 <u>God</u> 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.



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

A. Prosperity from God relates to our <u>whole</u> 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 <u>whole</u> 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 <u>more</u> 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 andicapped - Permanent - His Grace is sufficien



**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 <u>able</u> 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, <u>supersedes</u> 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 <u>not</u> make the Ten Commandments obsolete.
  - All the moral laws are <u>still</u> 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, <u>enables</u> us to fulfill the Commandments of the law of love.



ii. The New Covenant of Grace by the power of the Holy Spirit, <u>enables</u> 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

11For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12teaching 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 <u>not</u> 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 <u>forgiven</u> us forever even for our future sins.



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

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



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

- **Bi.** Salvation is available for all mankind but <u>not</u> all will be saved [John 3:16].
- **Bii.** Redemption has been provided for all mankind but <u>not</u> 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 <u>forgiveness</u>. He has already <u>forgiven</u> us forever even for our future sins.

- **Biii.** Forgiveness is also available for all believers but believers are <u>not</u> "automatically" forgiven.
- **Biv.** Salvation and forgiveness are available on <u>God's</u> terms.



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

**c.** The epistle of 1 John is written to <u>believers</u>.

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 <u>forgiveness</u>. He has already <u>forgiven</u> us forever even for our future sins.

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



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  - i. <u>IF</u> we say we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (v6).
  - ii. But <u>IF</u> 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. <u>IF</u> we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us (v8).
  - iv. <u>IF</u> we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (v9).
  - v. <u>IF</u> 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 <u>IF</u> 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

11For 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 <u>direction</u> (Luke 15:17-20 Prodigal Son)
  - iii. definitely a change of <u>life-style</u> (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 <u>we</u> are responsible as to how God is **pleased** with us!

God's pleasure in us is **not unconditional** but based on how we **live**!