

## Grace and Sin

Although we as humans have sinned and warrant the wrath of God (Romans 1:17-18), God in His mercy has forgiven the obedient Christian through His Son, Jesus. Paul told the Christians in Thessalonica, "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him" (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10). Were it God's desire to destroy all mankind eternally, He would not have sent His Son to die on the cross. In fact, God has no desire that any should perish and would rather that all come unto repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

Nonetheless, throughout the Bible, focusing on the New Testament, Christians are warned to continually be aware of their conduct and attitude toward God. Writing to the Christians in Ephesus, Paul states, "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 5:6). What things you ask? Fornication, all uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking, coarse jesting - these things will put a Christian at odds with the Almighty God (Ephesians 5:3-5).

Sadly, Christians forget sometime that continuing in sin provides no ground for grace to abound (Romans 6:1-6). In other words, when one obeys the Gospel sin is renounced and left behind, thereby placing the individual (now a Christian) in the grace of God having done away with sin. The devil knows what the Christian has done through obeying the Gospel and such just makes him more intent on doing his job. Temptations will continue after obeying the Gospel, perhaps focusing on sin that once entangled the individual (Hebrews 12:1). We need to focus our efforts upon God's grace in forgiving our sins, submissively appreciate His love toward us by sacrificing His Son (Romans 5:8), then reciprocate our love for Him by walking in the "light of the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8). Thankfully for the child of God, if/when we sin, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

God desires that all get to heaven, especially those who have put on the name of His Son through obedience. Let each of us as Christians live in such a manner that we are "denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, living soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age" (Titus 2:12).