

**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH  
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**EPHESIANS - 0290-028  
DOCTRINE OF GRACE, 4  
3 WITNESSES IN ANGELIC CONFLICT.  
PSA 23; LUK 11:1-26.**

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We begin with EPH 1:2 Paul where the apostle Paul says;

EPH 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This brings us to our next word in verse 2 which is grace.

And therefore, we have begun.

The Doctrine of Grace, Part 4.

Now, we had some of what I'm going to mention but there's a lot more that needs to be covered especially when we deal with the subject of witnessing for Christ.

First of all, what did the most intelligent individual have to say about witnessing?

Turn to Mat 4, but he's not the one I am talking about who is the wisest man ever, that would be TLJC.

MAT 4:18 And walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

MAT 4:19 And He \*said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

MAT 4:20 And they immediately left the nets, and followed Him.

MAT 4:21 And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.

MAT 4:22 And they immediately left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

1. A fisherman must have a desire to fish.

Our desire to fish is 2CO 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have com.

This is the first principle in witnessing for Christ, you must be enthusiastic about the Lord and about seeing men saved.

2. A fisherman must be equipped to fish. You cannot fish without some sort of equipment. To be a fisher of men you must know pertinent doctrine.

2TI 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2TI 3:17 that the man of God may be adequate, *equipped* for every good work.

3. A fisherman has to go where the fish are located.

You can't go to a pond just because it's big and expect to catch fish when there are none to catch.

AMO 3:5 Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground when there is no bait in it?  
Does a trap spring up from the earth when it captures nothing at all?

Though this passage is not mentioned in the N.T. the principle of the bait is true.

4. A fisherman must know how to bait a hook.

There are different ways of baiting different categories of fish.

There are many ways to approach people with the gospel.

5. A fisherman has to keep out of sight. If he doesn't, he frightens the fish.

I think of Sarah, Abraham's right woman and what Peter said about her in 1PE 3:1-7.

1PE 3:1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,

1PE 3:2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

1PE 3:3 And let not your adornment be merely external braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

1PE 3:4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

1PE 3:5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands.

1PE 3:6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

1PE 3:7 You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Casting a shadow over the water can frighten the fish.

Do not frighten those you're trying to catch.

The principal s that the issue must be the gospel, not our personality.

6. A fisherman will be rewarded.

2JO 1:8 Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

REV 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

And then finally, the #7.

7. A good fisherman is patient, he never gives up.

PSA 37:7 Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.

Now, with all that in mind, let's go back to

The importance of the three witnesses.

1. The first witness is our Lord Jesus Christ; REV 1:4-6.

REV 1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne.

REV 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood,

REV 1:6 and He has made us {to be} a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him {be} the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Notice that He is the first witness, but He also gave us the opportunity to be witnesses ourselves.

For in the Word of God we have three witnesses

1. The Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The Church-age believer

3. Christian marriage with the right-man-right woman analogy.

For the second and third witnesses which means that God knows best.

That is why we have so many divine commands that run counter to our desires in life.

Because of His perfect sovereignty, God is able to pick the right time, place, and conditions of your death.

God predestined all this in eternity past.

Love (personal love between right man and right woman) is stronger than death, SOS 8:7.

SOL 8:7 "Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised.

Love is a motivation and is stronger than any fear of death.

This is also true of category one love for God the Father and occupation with Christ.

However, It is also true in the right-man-right woman relationship, especially when it comes to the third witness in the Angelic Conflict.

The third witness is Christian marriage or the "right man-right woman" relationship.

So, in the Angelic Conflict we have three Church-age witnesses.

One is the Lord Jesus Christ is called the faithful witness.

The second is the believer who fulfills the plan of God for his or her life.

A third witness is not necessarily needed in a Jewish trial but there is a third witness in the Angelic Conflict (i.e., the witness of Christian marriage).

And if you think you have one, congratulations if you do, but that doesn't mean your marriage is not going to have a lot of trouble.

Turn to 1CO 7:17 where the apostle Paul talks about the fact that the Lord picks your mate,

In 1CO 7:17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And thus, I direct in all the churches.

Notice the word for assigned is the Greek word "meros" which means to be assigned, appointed, chosen, arranged,

Then in 1Co 7:28.

1CO 7:28 But if you should marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin should marry, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.

This principle of love and then the three witnesses in Christian marriage definitely needs some concentration and requires an understanding of the importance of comparing scripture with scripture.

The Bible states that only two witnesses are needed concerning a legal dispute or proof for evidence.

Remember once again this passage because we are going to read it again unless you did not hear last Sunday.

“On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death.” Deu 17:6.

DEU 17:1 "You shall not sacrifice to the Lord your God an ox or a sheep which has a blemish or any defect, for that is a detestable thing to the Lord your God.

DEU 17:2 "If there is found in your midst, in any of your towns, which the Lord your God is giving you, a man or a woman who does what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, by transgressing His covenant,

DEU 17:3 and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the heavenly host, which I have not commanded,

DEU 17:4 and if it is told you and you have heard of it, then you shall inquire thoroughly. And behold, if it is true and the thing certain that this detestable thing has been done in Israel,

DEU 17:5 then you shall bring out that man or that woman who has done this evil deed, to your gates, that is, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them to death.

And then here it is again.

DEU 17:6 "On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.

A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed.

Next since we are in the book of Deuteronomy there is the evidence of two or three witnesses where a matter shall be confirmed; Deu 19:15.

Here is another gem I found.

DEU 19:15 "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.

Just as the Lord Jesus Christ and the winner believer are tested and interrogated separately, so too will Christian marriage be tested and interrogated separately.

You must go it alone, but you're never alone because He is with you forever.

Turn to Mat 28:19-20.

MAT 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

MAT 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. "

And speaking of going it alone in death, turn to PSA 23.

PSA 23:1 (A Psalm of David.) The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

PSA 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

PSA 23:3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

PSA 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

PSA 23:5 Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

PSA 23:6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The individual witness or invisible hero is of great importance as the second witness, but a good Christian marriage carries a strong message to Satan and the fallen angels as well.

Why?

Because in the Christian marriage Christ loves the Church as husbands are to love their wives.

EPH 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

EPH 5:26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

EPH 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

EPH 5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

EPH 5:29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also {does} the church,

EPH 5:30 because we are members of His body.

EPH 5:31 For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.

“shall cleave” has to do with both the spiritual and the sexual, the spiritual is the husband thinking with the mind of Christ and loving his wife as Christ loves the church.

And then, with the idea that the Lord gave me concerning Christian marriage being called a mystery, I asked the Colonel what the mystery was concerning marriage?

And that is found in the last two verses which we are about to study in some detail.

EPH 5:32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

EPH 5:33 Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband.

Back to the Shulamite woman.

Most scholars believe that this is story about Solomon and Shulamite woman having a great relationship with each other and nothing could be further from the truth.

After going back and forth with the truth of who the Shulamite woman wants to marry, a man with all the riches in world or the poor little shepherd boy we read in SOL 8:7.

SOL 8:7 "Many waters cannot quench love, Nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, It would be utterly despised."

In verse 7, the shepherd lover continues: the durability of category #2 love when it says "Many waters cannot quench love."

SOL 8:7 "Many waters cannot quench love, Nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, It would be utterly despised."

This is love between the right man and the right woman relationship.

‘Many waters’ means the pressures, the disasters, the difficulties, the misunderstandings, nothing is going to put out the fire.

ISA 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you.

The pressures, the disasters, the difficulties, the misunderstandings, nothing is going to put out the fire of those who honor and respect God.

Including all things Paul went through as we noted on Sunday morning,

5 times he received 39 lashes from Jews.

Three times I was beaten with rods.

Once I was stoned to death.

Three times I was shipwrecked.

A night and a day I have spent in the deep.

Dangers from rivers,

Dangers from robbers,

Dangers from my countrymen,

Dangers from the Gentiles,

Dangers in the city.

Dangers in the wilderness,

Dangers on the sea,

Dangers among false brethren;

I have been in labor and hardship,

Through many sleepless nights.

In hunger and thirst,

Often without food,

In cold and exposure.

Also, There was the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches.

And then, how about this one?

I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.

And after all of that, he asked the Lord three times to remove this thorn from Satan, and the correct translation tells us the Lord's answer to Paul.

In 2CO 12:7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!

2CO 12:8 Concerning this I entreated or begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

Three time he asked the Lord.

Three times he received no answer.

So, He figured that the silence of God was there because the Lord already had taught him and given him the answer in precious doctrinal teaching.

And then here's the corrected translation.

2CO 12:9 And He had said to me years ago "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

So, back in Song of Solomon,

First, notice the first part of the verse in SOL 8:7 is "Many waters cannot quench love"

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When you pour water on this fire it just becomes strong, there is no way you can put it out.

We have the Hebrew word "hophal" meaning to seduce, quench,' which is in the passive stem in the Hebrew meaning that "many waters are not able to extinguish this type of love out.

It has the same connotation as Eph 4:30.

EPH 4:30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.

Also, even better with the word "quench."

1TH 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;

When you do, you may allow the intensity of attempts to produce a pressure that often becomes too intense to destroy it.

It cannot be destroyed.

The word for love should be translated 'the love that the right man, right woman relationship has, which is designed or assigned by God.

1CO 7:17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And thus I direct in all the churches.

There is no way to destroy what God has designed.

You can distort it, you can run from it, you can destroy capacity, you can knock out the happiness connected with it, but you can't change it.

If a man would give all the substance of his house for love, he would utterly be despised.

The word for 'give' means he would give all of his substance says Qal imperfect of the Hebrew verb "Nathan" which means he would make payments.

If it was in the perfect tense, he would pay it all at once, but the qal imperfect means he would keep on giving for the rest of his life just to buy this love.

But it can't be bought.

To try to buy it, "it would be utterly contemned," = the verb "buzh" and the word means to despise.

Prin: You cannot buy category #2 love.

Second prin: You cannot buy what God has designed.

Now, continuing our study concerning death turn to JOH 14.

Death means a new home, JOH 14:1-3.

We missed some points here.

First of all, concerning the death of a believer.

JOH 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

JOH 14:2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

JOH 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

And we noted that death means realization of eternal life, JOH 10:28; 11:13; 1JO 5:11-12.

Here are the passages, though I didn't give you the correct reference in Joh 11:13, but I will this evening and you will see why!

In JOH 10:28 we have our first passage, I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.

Go forward to JOH 11, and here's the passage I want to note for you and it's a great passage.

It all began as our Lord was going to visit his friend Lazarus.

All of a sudden, a friend of the family of Lazarus, named Mary and Martha, apparently sent word that Lazarus was sick and he died.

He said to the rider, ***“Go and tell them I’ll be there!”***

So, Martha and Mary ran up to Jesus basically rebuking Him for not coming quick enough.

But on His way there Martha and Mary ran to meet Him.

1. Martha = blamed the Lord from not being there in time.

2. While Mary said, “even now the Lord would hear your prayer because you are the resurrection and the life; and he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies; JOH 11:25.

Mary said something to the effect that even now God would grant the Lord whatever He asks heart, including bring Lazarus back from the dead.

Let’s read the whole passage this time.

JOH 11:1 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

JOH 11:2 And it was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

JOH 11:3 The sisters therefore sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

JOH 11:4 But when Jesus heard it, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

JOH 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

JOH 11:6 When therefore He heard that he was sick, He stayed then two days longer in the place where He was.

JOH 11:7 Then after this He \*said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

JOH 11:8 The disciples \*said to Him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?"

JOH 11:9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.

JOH 11:10 "But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

JOH 11:11 This He said, and after that He \*said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, that I may awaken him out of sleep."

JOH 11:12 The disciples therefore said to Him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover."

JOH 11:13 Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep.

JOH 11:14 Then Jesus therefore said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,

JOH 11:15 and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him. "

JOH 11:16 Thomas therefore, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

JOH 11:17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.

JOH 11:18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off;

JOH 11:19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother.

JOH 11:20 Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him; but Mary still sat in the house.

JOH 11:21 Martha therefore said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

JOH 11:22 "Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

JOH 11:23 Jesus \*said to her, "Your brother shall rise again."

JOH 11:24 Martha \*said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

JOH 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies,

JOH 11:26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this? "

JOH 11:27 She \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."

JOH 11:28 And when she had said this, she went away, and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here, and is calling for you."

JOH 11:29 And when she heard it, she \*arose quickly, and was coming to Him.

JOH 11:30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him.

JOH 11:31 The Jews then who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

JOH 11:32 Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

JOH 11:33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her, also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit, and was troubled,

JOH 11:34 and said, "Where have you laid him?" They \*said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

JOH 11:35 Jesus wept.

JOH 11:36 And so the Jews were saying, "Behold how He loved him!"

JOH 11:37 But some of them said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of him who was blind, have kept this man also from dying?"

JOH 11:38 Jesus therefore again being deeply moved within, \*came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

JOH 11:39 Jesus \*said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, \*said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days."

JOH 11:40 Jesus \*said to her, "Did I not say to you, if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

JOH 11:41 And so they removed the stone. And Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank Thee that Thou hearest Me.

JOH 11:42 "And I knew that Thou hearest Me always; but because of the people standing around I said it, that they may believe that Thou didst send Me."

JOH 11:43 And when He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."

JOH 11:44 He who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings; and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus \*said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

JOH 11:45 Many therefore of the Jews, who had come to Mary and beheld what He had done, believed in Him.

JOH 11:46 But some of them went away to the Pharisees, and told them the things which Jesus

Because of His perfect sovereignty, God is able to pick the right time, place, and conditions of your death.