

A Graceless Heart

OUT OF THE WORD

By: Minister/Teacher of Bible, Joshua P. Yonts at First Christian Church of Pinckneyville

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I am quite sure that many Christians could put their definition of what they think a graceless heart might look like. I am also quite sure that some could give illustrations or Bible biographical character examples too. For the true believer, the devil wants to get any fight out of you and eradicate it so that you do not toil in prayer or do not crave the presence of Christ, instead you can sit and just watch TV and you and your family go to hell. The LORD'S church becomes an afterthought, and the next thing you know you have become graceless. When you have satisfied your conscience to a point where you are happy attending the assembly just once a month and ignoring God, you are graceless. It is greatly to your loss, that you live at such a distance from God, and are seldom with him. There is no preacher, no books, no summer camp, and no politician, that will ever be able to satisfy your doubts and comfort your heart friend. Your communion with the LORD has been let down to such a low degree you have become graceless. Many have all the toys and earthly pleasures they could ever want. Many will ride their chariots of earthly pleasures straight to hell, won't they? Meanwhile, others feel they have been whipped to heaven by the rod of Christ's discipline and affliction (Hebrews 12:5-6). The dividing factor here is how much grace dwells in the heart. I have never seen grace thrive in careless, slothful, or negligent Christians. The folks who bear the name and only care about filling their office or are careless about their Christianity are graceless. What is amazing is that God still uses the graceless as a conduit from heaven to water those who are growing in grace. The watering usually develops in the sense of, "I don't want to have a relationship like that with my God." So, the graceless... becomes a teaching instructor to the followers of Christ of what not to become. The graceless is then actually an act of grace to the graceful. The graceless neglect the greatest Christian duty and that is heart guarding (Proverbs 4:23). Instead of heart guarding, the careless heart is neglected thus, like a leak in the kitchen sink, grace is dripping out. The result is a graceless heart. Jesus said that a graceless heart does not possess any heavenly influences (Matthew 13:3-4). So, let the graceless realize that Christ is the gift of God and that you don't bargain with Jesus, you receive the free gift (Eph. 2:7-8). Let us remember that when grace is strong (2 Tim. 2:1), humility will be present (James 4:6), and when humility is present holiness is the outcome (Psalm 101). What else will be present when one is growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18)? You will see a Spirit-filled effect and experience God's enjoyment and presence. How so? You will find yourself living at the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16), drawing near so that you may receive mercy and find grace to help in your time of need. These are the ones walking by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). This makes sense when the Hebrew word for "walk" is *halak*. *Halak* means "the path

you travel,” and more specifically refers to the way you apply Scripture to your life. What does your walk of faith say about the grace you have claimed to receive in Jesus Christ?