

KNOWING GOD

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These inward trials - chapter 21

When we live out the ministry of the gospel, we magnify grace which is good but it can have an opposite outcome. It scales down sin and loses touch with the purpose of God. The problem is not theological or scriptural base but giving those truths inaccurate application.

Presenting the Christian life as a bed of roses

Play down the rougher side of the Christian life. Daily chastening, war with Satan, staying faithful in a fallen world. No problems or unresolved relationships and conquered sins. Making the Christian life happy and carefree. Long standing issues fade away.

PROBLEM: Temptations and bad habits return, all problems not solved, and people are still people. Dissatisfaction returns. Doubts wreck this person.

Presenting the Christian life as a rough, dark and dull

Play down the bright side of hope in heaven. Don't get too hopeful, deny mercy and look for the bad in all things. Dismiss any good feeling and fellowship. Remind yourself how bad you and everyone else turns out to be. No matter what always chose passivity, it hurts less.

"Ye who expects nothing shall not be disappointed" "Hope for the best and expect the worse"
Refrain from trying, because you will probably do it wrong, sinner. Anybody that enjoys life or this world is of the world.

What really happens: He tends us like a shepherd. Oftentimes we begin with great emotional joy, clarity, remarkable answered prayers because God encourages us while we are on milk. But as we grow stronger, able to bear more, God puts us through school. He builds character, strengthens and stretches our faith and prepares us for His great service. Examples of Moses, David, Abraham and Jonah show us that God does not remove hardship but raises us in hardship.

Grace is way better than both of those.

There is will of grace, the plan to save and the work of grace, the good work in you. Grace is drawing us sinners closer and closer to God. Not by shielding us from the world or protecting us from burdensome and frustrating circumstances. But rather, exposing us to all these things and finding more in Him.

Unreality toward God is the wasting disease of much modern Christianity. We should learn to hold Him fast and trust He will not let our souls ruin and use warts and all for His glory.