

## Episode 10: Jude 10

In our last episode, we covered some extreme examples which the Spirit used to make His point about apostasy and the judgment that will come from the direct hand of God to those who pervert the grace of God. Let us pick up in **Jude 10** with an ongoing description of these “dreamers,” these apostate teachers.

### *Jude 10*

But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.

### Triad 10: “these people blaspheme,” “destroyed by all they understand instinctively,” and “like unreasoning animals.”

For all those who have been raised in a culture where we must be so careful with what we say, never wanting to offend anyone, the Spirit clearly does not share those politically correct sentiments.

Remember that the Spirit is addressing those who had crept into the church and introduced perversions to the grace of God. The Spirit is **WARNING** that despite their seductive words, which tend to sound so right because they sound so “religious,” these people are led (and judged) by their instincts. As such, they are like wild or unreasoning animals. If they do not like or understand something, they will revile it or speak impiously about it (which is what it means to blaspheme). And they exercise their blasphemy and perversions from within the church—they may be those who themselves have a pulpit or a platform, or who have corrupted those with a pulpit or a platform.

To properly understand the Spirit’s admonition, we need to first look at the concept of grace, as clearly anything which adds to grace, or which takes away from the grace of God is heresy.

### **WHAT IS GRACE**

**GRACE IS CAPTURED IN ALL THAT GOD FREELY DOES FOR US,  
AND IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT WE CAN DO FOR HIM.**

Grace is a gift, and it is experienced in freedom from the requirements of the Law.<sup>1</sup> Jesus said He came to fulfill the requirements of the law,<sup>2</sup> and the Spirit tells us that He completed His mission. Jesus literally fulfilled the requirement of the law on behalf of those who are now and continually walking in the Spirit.<sup>3</sup> He did this not because we deserved it, in fact, it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us fulfilling all the requirements of the Law.<sup>4</sup> He did not wait for us to get it right, He made it right for us. The Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. For of His fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Ephesians 2:5, 8, 3:7, 4:7; Acts 15:11*

<sup>2</sup> *Matthew 5:17*

<sup>3</sup> *Romans 8:3-5*

<sup>4</sup> *Romans 5:8*

<sup>5</sup> *John 1:14-18*

Jesus expressed His grace by fulfilling the law on behalf of those who are now believing (those who have chosen to bet their lives upon His name, **Yahweh**) simply because it was how He chose to express His great and abundant love for them. But this promise of grace is conditional.

### **Romans 8:1-5**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are **in** Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law **might** be fulfilled in us, who do not **walk** according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

This passage in **Romans** is quite interesting for a couple of reasons. In the transcript to this podcast, which you can download for free from [threshermediagroup.com](http://threshermediagroup.com), I have highlighted the key words. Let's start with the word "**might**" or in other translations "may." Hence, the fulfilling of the law is not a set determined action, as it is rendered in the *subjunctive* mood, meaning it may or may not be realized, as it is dependent upon something else. The dependency is found in this word "**walk**" which is in the *present active participle* and refers to those who **now** and **continually** are walking not according to the *flesh* but according to the Spirit.

Thus, the law has been fulfilled on behalf of those who now and continually walk in the Spirit or said another way, are found to be **in** Christ. But for those who are now walking in their *flesh* (*albeit their religious flesh*), they continue to be bound by law; hence, bound by condemnation and judgment. No condemnation applies to those who live with no law, for without the law a person cannot break the law, and therefore cannot be guilty of sin. That may sound like blasphemy to some of you, but we will continue to analyze this passage and we will **STICK** to the **CODE** to ensure we get the proper understanding.

It may be unnerving but saying the sinner's prayer does not make this promise of "*no condemnation*" realized in a person's life. Rather, being **in** Christ or now walking according to the Spirit of God (where He is leading), is how this promise of "*no condemnation*" is realized through living in freedom from the requirements of the law.

And this is all because we are saved by **grace through faith** (through our active belief) and not because of any deeds we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy.<sup>6</sup> Grace therefore is about what God has done for us; thus, our lives **in** Him **MUST NEVER** be wrapped up in what we can do or must do for God other than be **willing** to let Him cause us to believe what He has said.

Have you noticed that anytime we try and be good for God, we inevitably end up failing, feeling guilty, shameful, as if we could have done it better, should have done it better, and then we determine that the next time we will do it better? That is because the law produces death and not life; in fact, it literally kills those who are bound by it. This was true in the days of the Old Testament, even so far as 3,000 dying in one day for its sake,<sup>7</sup> and it is true in our New Testament experience.

<sup>6</sup> **Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5**

<sup>7</sup> See **Exodus 32** and the 3,000 who were killed for the Law's sake.

**Romans 8:5-8**

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh **is death**, but the mind set on the Spirit **is life and peace**, because the mind set on the flesh **is hostile** toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who **are** in the flesh **cannot** please God.

Once again, this passage is brought to life by a few key words: “**is death**,” “**is life and peace**,” and “**is hostile**.” These are **all** nouns and therefore state what is reality. For the person who is purposed on *flesh*, death and hostility define their existence, which is not to be confused with their actions. They may still do things in this world such that we would consider them to be good people, even wonderful Christian people busy in ministry, but they exist in death and in a state of hostility to God.

Whereas the person who is purposed on Spirit, life and peace define that person’s state of existence—they exist in Christ who is life and peace, and they are marked by no condemnation.<sup>8</sup> And this is true whether they do things right or wrong according to the dictates of our religion.

Lastly, “**are**” and “**cannot**” give a poignant exclamation mark to this truth. Those who now and continually are purposed on *flesh* (rendered in the *present active participle*) cannot please God because He will not let them, and that is a statement fact (rendered in the *present passive indicative*)<sup>9</sup>

**THE MISTAKE WHICH MOST PEOPLE MAKE IS THAT THEY EQUATE THE “FLESH” WITH EVIL, DARKNESS, LUST, SELFISHNESS, HATRED, WICKEDNESS, CONTEMPT, AND SO ON. WHILE THAT DESCRIBES THE “DEEDS” OF THE FLESH,<sup>10</sup> THE “FLESH” IS EVERYTHING WITHIN US THAT IS HOSTILE TO GOD, DOES NOT SUBJECT ITSELF TO GOD, AND CAN NEVER PLEASE GOD.<sup>11</sup> EVERYTHING THAT FIGHTS HIM BEING OUR I AM.**

For instance, our desire to be like God—that religious part of our being that ardently believes we can be good for God (I call it the Eve-Imprint, more on that later). It is a religious lust that is tantamount to blasphemous idolatry.

Our idolatry might be expressed by requiring one little adder to the grace of God, such as circumcision, or celebrating certain days and season, eating certain foods, avoiding certain drink, or following the Sabbath day (such things being merely a shadow of what is to come).<sup>12</sup> Then again, our idolatry may be expressed more surreptitiously by dealing with our sin and failures, and that of others, as if we or they could have done it better, should have done it better, and next time we will do it better (and, regardless

<sup>8</sup> **1 John 1:1-2, 5:11-13, 20; Judges 6:11-24**

<sup>9</sup> Note: without faith it is impossible to please God, **Hebrews 11:6**

<sup>10</sup> **Galatians 5:19**

<sup>11</sup> **Romans 8:7-8**

<sup>12</sup> **Colossians 2:16**

of whether we do it better, at least they better do it better).

However, the Spirit declares that since there is now no law for those who are now walking in the Spirit, there can be no breaking the law, and therefore if the law is not broken, there can be no reference to sin. Hence, the statement, there is no **condemnation** for those who are **in** Christ Jesus, for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.<sup>13</sup> There is therefore only a life to be lived in **unrestrained freedom**. Accordingly, life and peace define that person's existence as opposed to shame, guilt, penance, and fear. After all, it was for freedom that Christ set us free, for we were called to freedom not slavery.<sup>14</sup>

*By the way, **condemnation** is a noun.*<sup>15</sup> Those who are not free, those who are not now walking in the Spirit, are defined by condemnation (just like they are defined by death), **it is their state of existence**.

But those who are **in** Christ are free from that wretched existence. This is the reason the religion of Christianity is so dangerous and has become the pathway to apostasy. It has so many people convinced they are on the right road because of all they have done for God, all they are now doing for God, and all they hope to do for God. Some are even convinced they are on the right road because they said a prayer "accepting Jesus" sometime in their life. But this mindset has them bound to the *flesh*—albeit their religious *flesh*. Thus, they live in condemnation and death.

The unalterable truth is that **Only God is Good**, Jesus made it clear, "**No one is good except God alone**".<sup>16</sup> Consider the implications of this truth. If only God is good, then we are not good and therefore cannot do good; we do not even have the capacity for good. Spiritually speaking, human goodness is a myth, a fiction, a complete lie. All our so called "good" is tainted with a rotten sickness; hence, the impossibility of our vain attempts to be good for God.<sup>17</sup>

### **AS WE HAVE LEARNED, THE SOURCE MATTERS: THE SOURCE IS EVERYTHING!**

We must come to accept the truth that goodness is not determined by our actions, but only by the source. If it is God at work in and through our lives, then what we do is good because He is good. But if we are trying in any way to be good for God, whether it is reading our Bibles, praying, serving, teaching the Bible, loving others, etc., then, by definition, it is not good no matter how "good" and "Christian" it seems or feels and regardless of the personal and beneficial impact to others.

This is the reason why those who called Jesus "Lord, Lord" and performed miracles *in His name*, cast out demons *in His name*, and prophesied *in His name* were deemed to practice lawlessness or unauthorized works.<sup>18</sup> It is shocking, that such amazing Christian deeds, with such obvious beneficial impact, are evil. However, **Goodness is all about the source and not about the action!**

<sup>13</sup> **Romans 4:15, 5:13, 8:1-2**

<sup>14</sup> **Galatians 5:1, 13**

<sup>15</sup> **Romans 8:1**

<sup>16</sup> **Mark 10:18; Luke 18:19**

<sup>17</sup> **Isaiah 64:6**

<sup>18</sup> **Matthew 7:21-23**

All that is in our being (our heart, mind, soul, and strength) is tainted with selfishness, regardless of our “good” intentions. In fact, intentions are meaningless to God. This is the reason why it was necessary that God imbue our being with a **New Creation** that is the abode of the Holy Spirit.<sup>19</sup> The old simply could not contain His goodness. The Spirit makes this point abundantly clear, “*There is none righteous, not even one...There is no one who does good, there is not even one.*”<sup>20</sup> Therefore, all our “good” behavior and our “good” choices to serve God and honor people are tainted with a selfish attempt to manipulate life, God, and others, to treat us good.

The truth is our hearts are sick and more deceitful than all else; yes, all else!<sup>21</sup> That means they are even more deceitful than the devil, if you can imagine that. Hence, Jesus says that we do not even realize that the light which think we have (the goodness we think we are capable of) is darkness, and how deep that darkness runs in-and-through our being.<sup>22</sup>

The delusion of our own personal goodness is one of the biggest deceptions in which most of us live, and it is the crux of the religion of Christianity and the strong delusion which God has sent. Yet, if only God is good, then only God can do good; we cannot! Remember, **the source matters, the source is everything!**

This truth is so radical that the Spirit says even our ability to believe has come from God, as He is the one working in us to cause us to be **willing** to believe.<sup>23</sup> Can you imagine, we cannot even take any credit for our belief much less our willingness to believe. In addition, all our “good” works have come from God and not from ourselves.<sup>24</sup> Yes, any goodness we have comes from the one who is good.<sup>25</sup>

### ***Grace and the Principal of Substitution***

These teachers do not understand the practical reality of living by grace which is captured in the principle of substitution (which is at the center of grace):

**SUBSTITUTION: OUR “GOODNESS” IN TOTAL EXCHANGE FOR HIS GOODNESS.  
HIS LIFE LIVED THROUGH OUR LIFE.<sup>26</sup>**

This reality is captured in His name **Yahweh Tsikdenu**, as He alone is our righteousness.<sup>27</sup> This name speaks of the greatest freedom as **Yahweh Tsidkenu** (**Yahweh** our righteousness) declares that we do not have to be good, we don’t even have to try, for He alone is our goodness! This is so hard for those captured by the delusion of goodness to accept, which is why the religion of Christianity has so much power in the lives of believers.

<sup>19</sup> ***Ephesians 4:24, 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:10; Romans 6:4, 7:6***

<sup>20</sup> ***Romans 3:10-21; Psalm 14:1-3, 53:1-3***

<sup>21</sup> ***Jeremiah 17:9***

<sup>22</sup> ***Matthew 6:23; Luke 11:34***

<sup>23</sup> ***Philippians 1:29, 2:13***

<sup>24</sup> ***Isaiah 26:12***

<sup>25</sup> ***See Psalm 16:2, 73:28***

<sup>26</sup> ***See Galatians 2:20-21***

<sup>27</sup> ***Jeremiah 23:5-6. Yahweh Tsidkenu – the Lord our Righteousness.***

But these teachers, these dreamers, blaspheme the name **Yahweh Tsidkenu** and instead teach what is to them instinctual religious wisdom, and it is this very teaching that will destroy them. For argument's sake, let us consider a triad of instinctual religious wisdom which I have heard in many places, over-and-over again. There are likely more issues to consider, but here are three views that are often espoused within the religion of Christianity.

- 1) There are many ways to God; Jesus is just one of the ways.
- 2) We can be good enough to be pleasing to God, to earn His favor, approval, and to earn His blessing.
- 3) We will always be under the rule of sin in our lives, and there is no way we can ever be free from its domination or control.

Thus, what is instinctual is on-the-one-hand to elevate man to a level of spiritual capability and authority, and on-the-other-hand to doom such a person to a life of moral frustration, failure, and bondage in an iron cage of legalism. "These people" say that if you do this-or-that or do not do this-or-that (including all manner of religious disciplines), then \_\_\_\_\_ {fill in the blank with a myriad of outcomes}. It is an if/then formula that seems to always be changing.

In fact, the one constant is that the promised outcomes always change once the formula does not seem to deliver on the promise (and as we have experienced, it has never delivered).

**WHETHER IN SO CALLED SPIRITUAL "SUCCESS" OR IN "FAILURE," INSTINCTUAL  
RELIGIOUS FICTION IS ALL CENTERED ON THE "ME" AND THE MYTH THAT WE CAN BE  
SOMETHING OTHER THAN WHAT GOD HAS SAID: 100% NEEDY FOR HIM IN ALL THINGS  
ALL THE TIME.**

## The Eve-Imprint

This "instinctual" elevation of the ME (and the inevitable failure of the ME) comes from what I like to call the "**Eve-Imprint**." The Eve-Imprint was set into motion when Eve swallowed the very first lie ever spoken to mankind; the lie that says we can be like God.<sup>28</sup> If you think about it, this was the same lie that the devil told to the fallen angels. And this lie has been imprinted onto the soul of every man, woman, and child. In fact, it is this Eve-Imprint that drives the theology of every religious system, as these systems categorize what is good in contrast to that which is evil behavior or thinking. And because these religious systems are built on a lie—built on fiction—they destroy all those who lean on them for hope.

This lie destroys us because it keeps us striving, stressing, trying, and venturing down a road whose end is always a brick wall of human failure. As a result, those who follow this road do not experience life and peace, freedom, or joy. Instead, this pathway leaves everyone wanting and having to pretend that "God is so good," so no one will really know how confusing, painful, disappointing, and hopeless things really are when we live outside of grace.

I stated that the **Eve-Imprint** derived from a lie, but more accurately, it derived from a twisting of the truth. God promises those who now and continually believe in Him that they will be like Him and share in

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<sup>28</sup> *Genesis 3:5*

His divine nature.<sup>29</sup> But the implication of the serpent's assertion is that by our efforts, simply eating of the tree, we can fast-track the process and be like God. And this twist on truth, which is dependent upon on "our efforts" and the exaltation of the **ME**, is at the heart of the religion of Christianity.

However, God will make those who are now believing (continually) in Him like Him, but it will be His work and His effort as He lives in-and-through their bodies via the **New Creation** that is created in His likeness, righteous, holy, and true. This new life will then be consummated at the time of the rapture when He gives them a new eternal body that is made in His likeness.<sup>30</sup>

### ***Instinctual Religious Wisdom***

Let us examine this instinctual religious wisdom. First, this idea that there are many ways to God is more pervasive than you might otherwise imagine. This is likely to be at the heart of the **End Times** deceptions as the movement toward ecumenicalism (many pathways to the same God) and syncretism (the merging of all religious systems) has grown even amongst popular Christian leaders.

In an October 20, 1996, interview, printed in *Parade Magazine*, Billy Graham was quoted as saying, "*I fully adhere to the fundamental tenets of the Christian faith for myself and my ministry. But as an American, I respect other paths to God.*" This could be a misquoted statement; but as printed this is outrageous. This statement implies that Jesus was not telling the truth when He said: "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me.*"<sup>31</sup>

Then in 1994, many Christian leaders including Chuck Colson, Bill Bright, Pat Robertson, J.I. Packard, Mark Noll, and many other denominational leaders from the Southern Baptist Convention to the Assemblies of God and the Episcopal Church signed a document called "Evangelicals and Catholics Together," which in effect reverses the Reformation. These leaders have agreed to mend the historical rift amongst Evangelicals and Catholics saying that "*Evangelicals and Catholics are brothers and sisters in Christ who are both working toward the same goal of advancing the Christian mission in diverse ways to take advantage of, as Pope John Paul II says, a 'springtime of world missions.'*"

For those of you who are not familiar with religious history, this might not disturb you. However, the differences between Catholics and Evangelicals in regard to salvation, the role of the church, baptism, the authority of scripture, who gets to determine what the scripture means, the infallibility of the words of the Pope, who can even read scripture, the priesthood of all believers versus a ministry ordered in apostolic succession, devotion to the saints, and more importantly the adoration of Mary and the worship of idols, as well as many other differences, led to the slaughter of millions and millions of Evangelical believers since the time of the Reformation, which was roughly just over 500 years ago.

Yet, to accomplish the "common goals" of social justice, world evangelism, and political advancement in the areas of abortion and homosexuality, these Christian leaders decided that Luther and millions of others who gave their lives for their faith in Christ must have just been a bit confused and maybe exaggerated the doctrinal differences between these two diverse groups, who both claim to dwell under the "banner" of Christ.

This is shocking! According to this treaty, what unites so called believers is no longer common doctrine

<sup>29</sup> **1 John 3:2**

<sup>30</sup> See **2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 15:35-37; Romans 8:29**

<sup>31</sup> **John 14:6**



but **common experience**. And the problem is that the Catholic Church teaches a different gospel than that which has been preached by the apostles (the gospel that which was once and for all delivered to the saints), and they have perverted the grace of Christ.<sup>32</sup>

**{With that said, this is a statement on the institution and those who fight for the institution and not on the many people, Catholic or Evangelical, who love Jesus with their heart, mind, soul, and strength.}**

Moreover, except for the manner or style of worship and practice, over the centuries, the Catholic Church has not changed any of its key doctrines. And, due to its claim to infallibility, it cannot. I quote James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore and a greatly-honored Roman Catholic leader: "The Catholic Church cannot be reformed...The Church is not susceptible of being reformed in her doctrine. The Church is the work of an Incarnate God. Like all God's works, it is, therefore, incapable of reform."

Despite such obvious heresy, major Christian leaders have called a truce with the Catholic Church. I want to examine a portion of the treaty, specifically what it says regarding salvation; and keep in mind, the Catholic Church believes a person is saved by their child baptism into the church.

Those converted whether understood as having received the new birth for the first time or as having experienced the reawakening of the new birth originally bestowed in the sacrament of baptism—must be given full freedom and respect as they discern and decide the community in which they will live their new life in Christ. In such discernment and decision, they are ultimately responsible to God, and we dare not interfere with the exercise of that responsibility.

If you did not catch it, they equated being born-again with being baptized as an infant into the Catholic Church. The *instinctual religious wisdom* of men will lead you down the path that accepts anything so long as the name of Christ is invoked and good is intended to be done.

Ecumenicalism is just the first step, the next step will be syncretism, i.e., the merging of all beliefs into the one world-wide system under the banner of Christ—it will just be under the banner of a different Christ. To quote the treatise:

We thank God for the discovery of one another in contending for a common cause. Much more important, we thank God for the discovery of one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Our cooperation as citizens is animated by our convergence as Christians.

**Make no mistake, we are being desensitized. We are being trained to accept the next step of religious convergence, and it is an abomination.** This convergence will destroy all its followers after they (those unreasoning animals) have destroyed all who truly follow Jesus Christ.

As to the second aspect of this triad of instinctual wisdom, "We can be good enough to be pleasing to God, to earn His favor, approval, and to earn His blessing," we addressed the fact that **Only God is Good** and that regardless of our "good" deeds and intentions, the only thing that matters is the source. In fact, **the source is everything**.

Again, any attempt we make to be good for God, even if it is to gain even the smallest of blessings from His hands, is corrupt and wrought with selfish interest. Only God doing His work in-and-through our lives will result in genuinely good deeds. This is the whole essence of what I call the *Design Point*—where a

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<sup>32</sup> *Galatians 1:8-9; Jude 3*



person can truthfully say, *"I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me."*<sup>33</sup> We will touch more on this in **Jude 11**.

As to the third aspect of the triad of instinctual wisdom, this notion that "We will always be under the rule of sin in our lives, and there is no way we can ever be free from its domination or control," such thinking is contrary to the reality that if we now walk by the Spirit, we **WILL NOT** carry out the deeds of the *flesh*, for we are under no obligation to the *flesh*, to live according to the *flesh*.<sup>34</sup>

Once again, "these people," "these teachers," "these dreamers" refuse to let the Word of God be authoritative in their lives and thereby reject or blaspheme the notion that we have been given a **new nature** by God making it entirely possible to live from this **new nature**, free from the sinful dominance of our *Old Sinful Nature*. After all, our **new nature** (the **New Creation**) is righteous, holy, and true.<sup>35</sup>

The point being is that the instinctual wisdom of man is entirely flawed. It is always marked by the **Eve-Imprint** which raises man to a fictional level of spiritual capability and authority and then dooms us in failure and condemnation. And since this instinctual wisdom is rooted in a lie—a twisting of the truth—it always fails to deliver on its promises; and, therefore, binds people to failure and to the perpetual battle with sin, leaving them powerless in their comfy cage of religious legalism.

We must choose to no longer live like unreasoning animals confident in our own religious sensuality—in our own instinctual wisdom. For by these things, we will be destroyed.

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<sup>33</sup> **Galatians 2:20**

<sup>34</sup> **Galatians 5:16; Romans 8:12**

<sup>35</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:15; Galatians 6:15; Colossians 3:10**