



Creyentes Bíblicos de la Gracia
Grace Bible Believers

www.badnewsgoodnews.net
info@badnewsgoodnews.net

Apartado 143
29631 Arroyo de la Miel (Málaga)
ESPAÑA / SPAIN
Tel.: (+34) 636 993 444

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ENEMIES OF GOD AND WORSHIPPERS OF SATAN

Many religious but unsaved people will not accept the fact that they are enemies of God, and fail to understand why the Bible should insist that they are. The Bible says so in "...we were enemies..." (Romans 5:10) and in "...the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not..." (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The trouble is that, not knowing God, they have conjured up in their minds a 'god' of their own, a 'god' who says: "Be good and do good, and I will accept you". *This 'god'* they revere and may even worship. Certainly they are *not* at enmity against *him*.

But the God who says that they are sinners, worthy of everlasting judgment; that their only hope of salvation lies in the One who poured out His life's blood to pay the penalty for their sins – this God, the God of the Bible, they cannot abide.

Let one of His servants tell them what *He* says about them and they are insulted. When this God, the true God, refuses to accept their 'good' works or their 'righteous' conduct they react like Cain, of whom we read: "**And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell**" (Genesis 4:5). They simply will not bow to this God, and their attitude betrays their enmity against Him.

But *why* will they not turn away from their selfrighteousness and trust in Christ, who died for their sins? Simply because they worship satan, "the god of this world", who "hath blinded the minds of those who believe not".

Worship satan? This too is hard for the unregenerate man to believe about himself. As he has his own conception of God, he also has his own conception of satan – *a wrong one*.

Unbelievers do not know that the real satan, the satan of the Bible, has a vast wardrobe and, in this dispensation of grace, doubtless appears most often as "*an angel of light*" with "*ministers of righteousness*" (2 Corinthians 11:14,15). *This* satan they do indeed worship. They adore him, and try to live by his precepts, convinced that the way of salvation is *to do and be good*.

God's Word plainly states that no unrighteous man shall inherit the kingdom of God. The same Word plainly declares, "There is none righteous, no not one." But over against this bad news God's Word declares good news for sinners; for God's Word tells plainly how an unrighteous, lost sinner can be saved and become righteous.

- We learn, in 1 Corinthians 1:30, that Jesus Christ is the believing sinner's righteousness, holiness and redemption;
- We learn, in Ephesians 2:14, that Jesus Christ is the believer's peace;
- We learn, in 1 Timothy 1:1, that Jesus Christ is the believer's hope;
- We learn, in Colossians 3:3 and 4, that Christ is the believer's life;

- We learn, in Colossians 2:10, that the believer is complete in Christ;
- We learn, in Ephesians 1:3, that the believer is blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ;
- We read, in Acts 13:39, that believers are justified from all things through Christ, the eternal Son of God.

How wonderful to have all our sins pardoned, forever put away, and as though we had never committed one sin! This is good news; the gospel. This is the grace of God. This is what the precious shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ does for the guilty, condemned sinner when that sinner, by simple faith, trusts the Lord Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour.

(Sources: 'Two Minutes with the Bible' by Cornelius R. Stam and 'The Knowledge and Joy of Salvation' by J.C. O'Hair)