

God's Ways vs. Man's Ways (Part 2)

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Broadcast Dates: 9/7/23, 9/8/23 & 9/11/23

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Scripture References:

- Isaiah 55:8, 9
- Romans 12:1
- 2 Kings 1:10-14
- Luke 9:52-55
- Romans 2:4
- John 8:3-11
- John 3:17
- Colossians 3:1, 2, *NLT*
- Hebrews 12:2, *NLT*
- Titus 2:13, *NLT*

Summary:

God doesn't operate the way we do; His thoughts and actions are completely different from ours, and on a much higher level. Unlike religion, which tells us we must earn God's blessings, God blesses us not because of what we do, but because of who He is. Religion says God will punish us with curses if we do not behave properly; however, Jesus took all of the curses meant for us when He went to the cross. Unlike under the law, under grace, God shows us mercy and favor without us having to deserve it; realizing that He's no longer our harsh judge but now our loving Father increases our faith in Him.

Notes:

1. God doesn't operate like the world; He shows us grace, first, before appealing to us. Under grace, God's way does everything apart from human merit.
2. God doesn't punish or kill people; He uses mercy, not condemnation, to change us. God's appeal to us has no force if we ignore His mercy and grace; omitting it brings us back down to the natural, where the law operates.
3. Jesus came into the world to show God's love and forgiveness, not to judge or condemn. Two things God uses to draw men's hearts away from the present world are by setting before us the attractiveness and stability of things above, and by faithfully declaring the evanescence, impermanence, and transient nature of this world.
4. The things of earth won't last; God wants us to focus on heaven, which is eternal. While grace is teaching and disciplining us to guide us into a godly lifestyle, we also must keep our eyes focused on heaven and the things above; it's important to remind ourselves of where we're going.

category: grace

keywords: higher, level, blessings, punish, curses, grace, mercy, favor