

2023 GraceLife Conference (Session 4)

Michael Smith

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Message Date: 7/14/23 ● 10:00 A.M.

Scripture References:

- John 1:1-5, 14, 17, 18, 27
- John 3:28
- Luke 13:10-16
- Matthew 7:12
- John 14:7-9
- Luke 9:51-55
- Luke 23:34
- Acts 10:11-16
- Acts 9:1-6
- Romans 14:14
- Galatians 3:28

Summary:

*God created the heavens, the earth, and everyone in it out of love; the Jews were His chosen people, and for thousands of years, they thought they were the only ones God loved and cared about. They saw their surrounding environment through the lens of Old-Testament law and waited expectantly for their promised Messiah; when He finally arrived, they were caught off guard and completely unprepared for the message of grace, mercy, and forgiveness He preached. Jesus demonstrated, by example, God's loving and compassionate nature. Changing the way we think and seeing God through the lens of Jesus Christ gives us progressive and continual revelation; it opens our spiritual eyes so that we can see God as He really is.*

Notes:

1. The Jews saw their world only through the context of themselves; Jesus changed all that. They believed in the concept of "oneness;" they were convinced that there was only one law of God, one temple of God, one nation of God, and one family of God, and that *they* were the people.
2. When God finally arrived in the person of Jesus Christ, the Jews didn't recognize Him; the religious leaders were so caught up in preserving their rules and regulations that they didn't understand what Jesus was doing.
3. The grace message Jesus brought to the people challenged their entire way of thinking. Instead of changing the way they thought about God after seeing Jesus and watching Him during His earthly ministry, the people instead chose to cling to their religious beliefs; killing Him was their response to Him.
4. *Jesus'* response to being beaten and crucified was not what the people expected; they had a false expectation of Him. Instead of anger and punishment, Jesus offered forgiveness.
5. Through Paul, Jesus persuaded the people to rethink everything they thought they know about God. He powerfully worked through Paul to accomplish this. Under grace, it is based on what Jesus did, and our faith in that.

Category: grace

Keywords: love, law, Messiah, grace, mercy, forgiveness, loving, compassionate