

past offenses and perfect obedience in all future actions, its judgment upon nonfulfillment of its requirements is condemnation, including a guilty status and the penalty of death; its judgment upon fulfillment is justification, including a non-guilty status and the reward of life.

At this point we must distinguish between Law and Grace as principles and as system.

### LAW AND GRACE AS SYSTEMS AND PRINCIPLES

TO BE UNDER LAW means to be under the jurisdiction of a system in which perfect righteousness is required and rewarded, and sin is condemned and punished.

For an unsaved sinner, TO BE UNDER LAW means to stand under the sentence of condemnation and eternal death, and to be enslaved to the sin-principle in a State of spiritual death.

TO BE UNDER GRACE means to be under the jurisdiction of a system in which perfect righteousness is required, provided through Christ, and rewarded, and sin is condemned and punished in Christ.

For a saved sinner, TO BE UNDER GRACE means to be delivered from the sentence of condemnation and eternal death to stand under the sentence of justification and eternal life; and it means to be delivered from spiritual death to spiritual life, and from slavery to the sin-principle to slavery to the righteousness-principle.

A person who operates under law seeks by his own righteous acts to merit a righteous standing before God, seeks by his own good works to earn just rewards from God, and seeks by his own efforts to make his character and conduct worthy of God's approval.

A person who operates under grace seeks by God's grace to recognize and act in accordance with his righteous standing before God through Christ, seeks by God's grace to bring forth good works as an expression of faith in and love to Christ, and seeks by God's grace to use the divinely-provided means of spiritual growth to bring his character and conduct into greater conformity with those of Christ, in order to please and glorify Him.

As a principle, Law pertains to what I do for myself, by my own righteousness, my own merit, my own works; what I earn and fully deserve.

As a principle, Grace pertains to what God does for me and in me, by Christ's righteousness and merit, and by the working of the Holy Spirit; what I cannot earn and can never deserve.

As dispensations (economies under which God operates), Law and Grace pertain respectively to the pre-Fall and post-Fall periods of time. In Eden before the Fall all mankind was tested in respect of the specific revelation of the will of God that He gave to Adam and Eve. That was the dispensation of Law. Since the Fall men have not been tested as though each new period of time brought a new probation of their obedience to God's revelation; rather, all men were justly condemned once for all, and some of these men have been graciously justified. The entire post-Fall period is the dispensation of Grace.

However, it is necessary to add that since the Fall men have operated either according to the Law principle or the Grace principle. They have tried either to establish their own righteousness, or they have accepted and trusted in God's righteousness. Thus both principles have been operative during the dispensation of Grace.