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ABUSING GRACE VERSES: MISREADING PROSPECTIVE IDEALS

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TEXT: Ecclesiastes 7:25 I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness:

26 And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.

27 Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account:

28 Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: **one man among a thousand** have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found.

29 Lo, this only have I found, that **God hath made man upright; but they** have sought out many inventions.

8:1 Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing?...

Job 33:6 Behold, I am according to thy wish in God's stead: I also am formed out of the clay.

7 Behold, my terror shall not make thee afraid, neither shall my hand be heavy upon thee.

Job 32:1 So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

2 Then was kindled the wrath of Elihu...against Job was his wrath kindled, because he justified himself rather than God.

3 Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.

4 Now Elihu had waited till Job had spoken, because they were elder than he.

12 Yea, I attended unto you, and, behold, there was none of you that convinced Job, or that answered his words:

18 For I am full of matter, the spirit within me constraineth me.

33:14 For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not...

19 He is chastened also with pain upon his bed...

17 That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man.

18 He keepeth back his soul from the pit...

23 If there be a messenger with him, **an interpreter, one among a thousand**, to shew unto man his uprightness:

24 Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit...

31 Mark well, O Job, hearken unto me: hold thy peace, and I will speak.

32 If thou hast any thing to say, answer me: speak, **for I desire to justify thee**.

33 If not, hearken unto me: hold thy peace, and I shall teach thee wisdom.

36:2 Suffer me a little, and I will shew thee that I have yet to speak on God's behalf.

"[God's uprightness]...to show him the uprightness or righteousness of God in his afflictions, that they are designed to lead him to repentance..." (*FBN*)

"[Man's uprightness]...to teach man his duty, or to direct him to the right way and method how he may please God, and procure that mercy and deliverance which he thirsts after; which is not by quarrelling with God, as Job did, but by a humble confession and hearty detestation and forsaking of his sins, and supplication..."
(Poole)

"The uprightness, the reformation, that should be." (Matthew Henry)

Job 33:23 If there be a messenger with him, an interpreter, one among a thousand, to **shew unto man his uprightness:**

24 Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.

26 He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him: and he shall see his face with joy: **for he will render unto man his righteousness.**

27 He looketh upon men, and **if any say, I have sinned**, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not;

28 He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

34:31 Surely it is meet to be said unto God, I have borne chastisement, I will not offend any more:

Ezekiel 18:21 But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

22 All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: **in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.**

Psalms 73:2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.

14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.

16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

17 **Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I** their end.

21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: **I was as a beast before thee.**

Proverbs 14:2 He that **walketh in his uprightness** feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

Proverbs 24:24 He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; him shall the

people curse, nations shall abhor him:

25 But to them that rebuke him shall be delight...

Proverbs 17:15 He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil...

23 Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

Ezekiel 13:17 Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people...

22 Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad...and **strengthened the hands of the wicked**, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life:

Malachi 2:17 Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

Proverbs 25:12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a **wise reprover** upon an obedient ear.

13 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a **faithful messenger** to them that send him...

14 Whoso boasteth himself of a **false gift** is like clouds and wind without rain.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but **I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit**, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 15:4 **Abide in me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 **If** ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, **ye shall ask** what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Titus 3:14 And let ours also learn to **maintain** good works for necessary uses, that **they be not unfruitful**.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore **we** labour, that, whether present or absent, **we may** be accepted of him.

10 For **we** must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

1 Thessalonians 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

1 Thessalonians 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

1 Thessalaonians 5:9 For God hath not **appointed** us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

2 Chronicles 33:8 Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have **appointed** for your fathers; **so that they will take heed** to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law...

2 Kings 21:8 Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; **only if they will observe to do** according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law...

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Ephesians 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, **which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

5:7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but **now are ye light** in the Lord: walk as children of light:

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

