

1. Intro

2. What is Common Grace?

a. Definition

- i. God's kindness and goodness in and towards all people regardless if they are saved or not.
- ii. By definition, it is common to all people and all living things.
- iii. Common grace deals with the environment, the enjoyment of this life, and it extends to everything in it.
- iv. Common grace allows us to enjoy life and recreate.

b. Where do we see common grace in the Bible?

i. Gen 8-9 -

1. 8:22 - There will be rain, sun, evening, morning
2. 9:1-7 - The enjoyment of life
3. 9:5-7 - We have also been given the basis for human government to help restrain evil in this world.

- ii. Matt 5:45
- c. How is different than general revelation?
 - i. Rom 1
 - ii. Ps 19:1-6
 - iii. General revelation is the understanding that all men know there is a God.
 - iv. Along with common grace, this is why there are laws against murder and theft (sort of) in most cultures.
 - v. Yet, general revelation cannot save you. It only condemns.
- d. Where is Common Grace Limited?
 - i. Common grace is limited in one major way. It is limited to the physical aspects of this life and does not extend to the immaterial or the spiritual realities.
 - ii. Common grace cannot save anyone and does not provide the transformation people need.
 - iii. "Specialized discoveries about creation are not inherently common grace. Based on the above observations, common grace at best facilitates these discoveries by providing a world where discovery can take place." - Abner Chou
 - iv. We must be careful not to allow our pride to think that just because we came up with something, or that someone else came up with something that seems to help people, that then it is part of common grace. And if it is part of common grace then it must be grace. And if it is God's grace, then it must be true. And if it is true then it must be okay to be used alongside the Bible.

- v. Common grace only can lead us to man's knowledge. To what man can know. It can never lead us to God's knowledge.
- e. Why do some of the secular therapies seem to work then?
 - i. They may "work" by parroting biblical theories.
 - ii. The claims that they "work" may be untrue.
 - iii. They may "work" by operating at a surface, rather than a deep level. Focusing merely on the external issues rather than getting to the heart of the issue.
- 3. What is Special Grace?
 - a. God's special revelation to his people through his Word.
 - b. Ps 19
 - c. What about God's special grace is different than his common grace?
 - i. It is through God's special grace that we can finally deal with the spiritual issues and struggle of man.
 - ii. Man cannot be saved through common grace but He can through the Word of God.
 - iii. Man cannot be transformed into Christlikeness by common grace but by the Word of God alone.
- 4. Why Does this Matter?
 - a. Sanctification
 - i. John 17:17
 - ii. 2 Tim 3:16-17

- iii. Ps 119:9, 11
 - iv. 2 Peter 1:2-3
 - v. Trying to use something other the Word of God through the Spirit of God to help in one's sanctification will not result of actual spiritual growth.
 - vi. Change may take place and a person may feel better, but change does not always equal sanctification. Christlike growth starts must include true repentance, a change in worship and desires, a recognition of sin, growth in the character qualities of Christ, and a view of God's care and sovereign control over one's life that see their current struggles not merely as something to seek relief from but as a means of God to grow their trust in Him.
 - vii. It is somewhat a false gospel because if we are merely seeking relief from the pressures of life and we achieve it without Christ and His Word, then we are trusting in ourselves, our work, our ideas to save us from the trouble we face.
- b. Threats to the Church
- i. Pragmatism will rule the day
 - ii. A low view of the Bible. If we think that the Bible is insufficient to help with our modern issues, then we have a distorted and arrogant view of God.
- c. 2 Kings 1:3
- i. Why do many professing Christians seek out other sources for answers to their issues? Sometimes it is because they don't want or

like God's answer. **They like their sin, and they want to find a way to stay in it but to seek out some relief to their struggle.** They are looking for something that will "help" and not the true answer.

- ii. We need to ask ourselves when tempted to look to the world, to other solutions, to the ideologies and views of modern psychology and psychiatry, as solutions not derived from God but from man and from Satan. By looking to and accepting their methods is really the belief that there is no God who is actually able to give me the help that I need.
- iii. We can all be tempted to think and live this way. Even by simply find relief by entertainment or recreation is like saying "God isn't able to help me with this so I need something else that works."
- iv. God's Word is actually enough to help us and give us the grace we need in all and every situation.