

## Does God Grade On A Curve?

This week starts a new series of weekly thoughts called New Interpretations of the New Testament.

Current day practices and teachings of so many churches have strayed so far from what the Bible actually says that many have put the man-made rules of their various religions above the rules Jesus gave us for Salvation. I felt called and compelled by my years of study and writing to revisit what Our Savior Jesus actually said about Salvation. Since faith is a matter of personal belief, I will simply present facts and pose questions that the reader ultimately must answer for themselves.

On Judgement Day we will each stand alone before the Lord and account for our actions, or lack of action, as well as for our thoughts and beliefs. There will be no attorney or arbiter to plead our case. Our fate rests in how we as individuals will have followed The Word of God.

The New Testament must of course be interpreted in context with the Old Testament. For example, there are the Ten Commandments. And Jesus gave additional Commandments such as *"love thy neighbor as thyself"* and also spoke about the Law of Moses from the Old Testament. Therefore, while focusing on the New Testament, of necessity we will also look at the entire Bible.

Why should you be interested in understanding the right interpretation of Jesus Teachings?

Let me pose this question ... what is the passing score needed to get to heaven? 100%? Or will 80% or 90% do? Does God grade on a curve? On Judgement Day will you say *"I got it 70% right and in school that was passing, so God, please let me into the Kingdom of Heaven."* ... Really?

Let's use tithing as an oft debated example. Some churches maintain that we should give according to our ability. Those with less give less and those with more should give more. Other churches strictly adhere to the 10% of your "gross income" as mandatory. Other churches fall somewhere in between, perhaps requiring only 10% of your take home pay.

Now I submit that there is only one correct answer according to Gods Will for this and many other questions. You had better know the right answer because I am not sure God grades on the curve.

For example, let's say you are affluent and could have given much more than 10% but did not. When standing Judgement will you say; *but God I gave my 10%*. Or perhaps you are poor but gave your 10% despite causing suffering and hardship to your family. Will you say; *but God I sent my children to bed hungry to follow you rules?* It's important to make sure we following God's will and not man's will. Because I'm not sure how many points we get for following man's will.

I think it's necessary to study the Bible. To understand what Jesus taught and what God requires of us. This must be a personal quest based on our faith. And not simply succumbing to what others would lead us to believe for their own interests. We must get it right. Our Salvation depends on it.

Because I don't think God grades on a curve.

What do you think?

God Bless!