

Have you ever been accused of preaching “easy believe-ism?” & “cheap grace?” like Paul preached?

“Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?” Rom 6.1

“slanderosly reported. . .let us do evil that good may come” Rom 3.8

Philip J. Myers — I’m guilty as charged.

“If you’re not being accused of antinomianism occasionally,
you’re probably not preaching the Gospel.
St. Paul himself had to answer criticism on precisely this point.”

Aaron Zimmerman, chairman, Mockingbird blog

When people hear you explain salvation, do they ever accuse you of being easy on sin after one is saved?

Maybe your message isn’t the same as Paul’s. His opponents were accusing Paul of preaching “we [*may*] continue in sin that grace may abound?” Rom 6.1

For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner?

And not *rather*, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come; whose damnation is just. Rom 3.7,8

Romans 6.12-19, Paul pleads with the believers in Rome not too allow sin to rule their lives.

Rom 6:12 **Let not sin therefore reign** in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

- Implicit; a believer can allow sin to reign.

Rom 6:13 **Neither yield** ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: **but yield yourselves** unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

- It is a choice of the believers to yield or not to yield.
- Romans 12.1,2: Paul & Jesus plead with us to “present your bodies . . .” It is a choice.

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
Slaves to Righteousness

Rom 6:15 What then? **shall we sin**, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

- It is a choice to sin or not to sin. Big sins, or little bad habits.

Rom 6:16 Know ye not, that **to whom ye yield yourselves** servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; **whether of sin unto death**, or of obedience unto righteousness?

- Believers may yield to sin.

Rom 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Rom 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

- Context: Believers are freed from the penalty of sin, not the power of the Old Nature.

Rom 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so **now yield** your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

- We are encouraged to yield to holiness. Little disobediences? Big disobediences? Little bad habits? Big bad habits? Little grudges? Big grudges? They are all possible for the believers.

The above paragraph is not written to “professing” believers but to true believers.

To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. 8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. Rom 1:7,8

You may be afraid that the doctrine of eternal security will lead to loose living. I understand that. And yes, I'm sorry to say, I know of a few believers who have abused God's grace terribly. I'm sure you do, too. But let me give you a very simple personal testimony of grace.

My friend, Dan, gave me a nice station wagon when he upgraded into an SUV. We had 9 children and his used vehicle seated 11. What a treat! Do you think that Dan expected me to abuse it just because I didn't have to pay for it? No. it was his special treat to us because my wife had helped his wife over a couple humps in her life. Was Dan worried that I wouldn't change the oil or that I would deliberately scrape fence posts or be too careless about avoiding hitting fire hydrants? Of course not. It made him happy that the vehicle which had cost him a great deal of money would help our family, and he wanted us to get many years of enjoyment out of that car.

Now, it is also true that I once gave a car to a friend and he didn't change the oil and burned up the engine. I was disappointed, but I didn't take the car back. It was still his car—a gift—in his name.

God also realizes that not all who receive eternal life and the forgiveness of sin will be as grateful as others. But let me encourage you that having been a member of 8 churches in as many states (*in 50 years*), I personally know thousands of godly friends who believe in eternal security and whose lives have been focused full-bore on pleasing God. Just because they believe in eternal security and “easy-believe-ism” doesn't mean that they take sin lightly. Just as you do, they hunger after God and get a great deal of enjoyment out of receiving the smile of God on their lives.

They are living the kind of life you would be pleased to see. It isn't necessary to have the “carrot” of heaven and the “stick” of hell to coerce them into living godly lives. They (we) serve Him joyously for the thrill of seeing His smile on our lives. All people are grieved by those who abuse our kindness, and we're hurt by those who abuse the Father's grace: e.g., David, Abraham, Solomon, Demas, Ananias, and others in Scripture.

If simply believing that Jesus died for my sins and took my place on the Cross is called, “cheap grace,” then I was saved by a message as simple as that—at the age of five—in the back seat of a 1949 Chevy. My dad pulled off to the side of the road and led me to meet the Savior on the way home from church. “Easy-Believism” - I wear the badge gladly.

I think “cheap grace” is an oxymoron. As a father of nine children I've extended unmerited grace to my children for years and years. It costs me to love them unconditionally, but it costs them nothing. My own father probably had to extend more grace to me than to my brother and sister combined.

Unfortunately, many assume that more is required for a lecherous woman to be saved than is expected of a thirteen year old girl. Many think it must be made harder for a serial killer to be saved than it is for a third grader. If a kid can come to Christ by child-like faith, so can a hardened criminal, an atheist, a rabbi (Nicodemus?), a terrorist (Paul), a teenager, or the woman at the well. No one comes to mind from the Scriptures as example who came to faith in Christ after years and years of hearing the Gospel presented. I can hardly think of anyone in Scripture who even hesitated before he/she trusted in Jesus. Though I do have one friend, Bob, who told my friend that he was waiting to put his trust in Jesus until he was also ready to make the decision to serve Him for the rest of his life.

God is not waiting for us to make a lifetime commitment to obey before we are saved. He is waiting for us to believe He died in our place.

NOT BY WORKS
9 times in 3 paragraphs, one context
“justified by faith without works”

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Rom 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Rom 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Rom 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Rom 4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

Rom 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Rom 4:6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works.

Rom 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised; that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

Rom 4:13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Salvation is free, apart from works. Discipleship is expensive and costs us everything!

It all starts with child-like humility—faith. . .and only faith.