

Module Four: Objections to Grace– Talk Outline

Recap

Objection 1 Salvation requires faith plus works: Ja 2:26, Phil 2:12

Response 1 Faith is About a Relationship: Ja 2:18

Objection 2 Grace is Unjust: Matt 20:1–16

Response 2 Grace is Unjust: Rom 3:25–26

Objection 3 Grace is a License to Sin

Response 3 Obedience Must Follow Grace: Romans 6

Objection 4 Serving God is Burdensome

Response 4 Serving God is the key to the Good Life: Ps 19:7,10

Module Four: Objections to Grace- Group Time



Orthodox Objections to Salvation by Grace Alone	What do our Orthodox friends need to hear?
• Salvation requires Faith plus Works • Grace is Unjust • Grace is a License to Sin • Serving God is Burdensome	Discuss what you would say to them

1 Salvation by Grace

I find narrative to be impactful for our Orthodox friends. The conversation between Jesus and those crucified with is a powerful description of how God saves by grace alone.

Read Luke 23:32, 39-43

1 What does the second criminal admit about himself?

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2 What does he think is worse than death?

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This criminal has not morally purified himself, followed a program of self-denial, get baptised or do good works.

3 So how does he hope to escape judgement?

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4 What does Jesus promise him?

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.....

5 What does this tell us about:

who gets into heaven

.....

.....

the injustice of grace

.....

.....

2 Exercise: Share your Experience

In pairs explain to one another what's great about following Jesus.

Why do God's commands lead us into the best way to live?

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3 Prayer

In small groups pray that your Orthodox friends God would understand how salvation depends on God alone. Ask that God would compel them to give up trying to be good enough for Him but instead that they would throw themselves upon His mercy.

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Before Session Five

Discuss the Luke 23 passage with your friends.

Read and discuss Chapters 13 and 14 of *Certainty for Life* with your friends. They consider the order of works and grace and the Good Life into which Christ invites us. Also between chapters 9 and 10, there is a "A Word about Justice and Judgement" which explains how the cross demonstrates God's commitment to justice.

And as we discuss the relationship of grace and works with our friends, it may be helpful to point out that not only is faith without works dead, but works without faith is also dead (see Philippians 3:2-9 where Paul considers the rigors of his Christ-less Pharisaic religious purity to be "dung" compared to the righteousness that can only be granted through faith in Jesus)

Module Four: Objections to Grace– Leader's Notes

Orthodox Objections to Salvation by Grace Alone	What do our Orthodox friends need to hear?
• Salvation requires Faith plus Works • Grace is Unjust • Grace is a License to Sin • Serving God is Burdensome	Discuss what you would say to them 1 Salvation is not a co-contribution of faith and works but the faith that saves us leads to works. The order is critical. 2 Grace <i>is</i> Unjust. What would be just is for all to be condemned 3 Those who are saved must respond in obedience 4 Serving God delivers the Good Life

1 Salvation by Grace

I find narrative to be impactful for our Orthodox friends. The conversation between Jesus and those crucified with is a powerful description of how God saves by grace alone.

Read Luke 23:32, 39–43

1 What does the second criminal admit about himself?

v41– He admits that unlike Jesus he is not an innocent victim unlike Jesus he has committed a crime worthy of capital punishment (the Greek adjective in Luke means evil-doer; in Matthew a different word suggests they may have been revolutionaries or terrorists)

2 What does he think is worse than death?

v40– he fears the judgement of God; he knows he deserves to be condemned

This criminal has not morally purified himself, followed a program of self-denial, get baptised or do good works.

3 So how does he hope to escape judgement?

he believes Jesus is innocent
he trusts the King of God's kingdom to intercede for him
he puts his trust in Jesus to rescue him by asking him

4 What does Jesus promise him?

v43– certainty of salvation
today ie he has been transferred now from death to life
also no need to pass through tollhouses (some Orthodox believe souls will be tested by demons and accused of their past sins in the 40 days after death as they journey towards heaven)

5 What does this tell us about:

who gets into heaven

undeserving sinners
only those there by grace

the injustice of grace

those who deserve judgement are admitted

2 Exercise: Share your Experience

In pairs explain to one another what's great about following Jesus.
Why do God's commands lead us into the best way to live?

3 Prayer

In small groups pray that your Orthodox friends God would understand how salvation depends on God alone. Ask that God would compel them to give up trying to be good enough for Him but instead that they would throw themselves upon His mercy.

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