



GLOBAL GRACE NEWS

GGN is a teaching resource for ministers and churches all over the world. We advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ - Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone. Our purpose is twofold: to help the Church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world.

JULY - AUGUST 2010

### Not our son, but God's Son!

It is such a huge difference between living in the Old Covenant and living in the New Covenant. In the Old Covenant God said he would not forget the sins and iniquity of the people, even to the third and the fourth generation. In the New Covenant God says in Hebrews 8:12, "their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

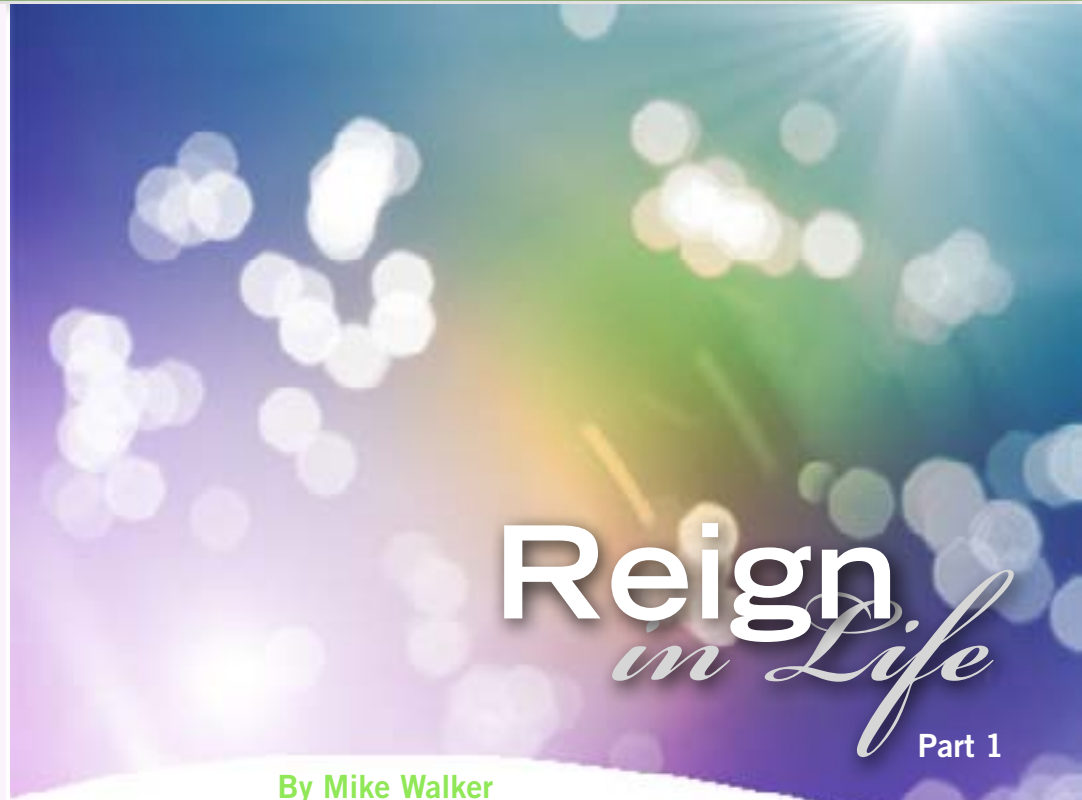
When David committed sin, his child had to die. However, in the new covenant, our son doesn't have to die. Why? Because God's Son died for our sins! How blessed we are that live after the cross, after the judgment of sins came upon Jesus. That is the amazing Gospel of the Grace of God.

David envied us and spoke of the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works. In Romans 4:6 he spoke about the Old Covenant, "blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered", and then he continued in verse 7 about the New Covenant, "blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin". How blessed we are! And how that awareness changes our lives! We love Him because He first loved us!

In this newsletter we present teaching about how Jesus causes us to live in victory over sin, defeat, poverty and sickness. Pastor Åge Åleskjær also gives important explanations to some of the misunderstandings about the teachings of Grace. We pray the teachings will bring great revelations and clarifications.



Mary Felde  
Editor



# Reign *in Life*

Part 1

By Mike Walker

**The Bible tells us that we shall reign as kings in life. We shall reign over sin, sickness, poverty, defeat, depression, and over the devil and all his plans. So what is the secret to reign in life?**

**2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (KJV)**

We are destined to reign in life. We are called by God to be a success, to enjoy having enough - that we are blessed to be a blessing, to enjoy health and to enjoy a life of victory. We can see in this scripture that by His divine power He has already given to us all things - through the knowledge of Him! It's not His desire that we live a life of defeat, poverty and failure.

He has called us to be the head and not the tail! If you're a business person, God wants you to have a prosperous business. If you're a homemaker, you are anointed to bring up wonderful children in the Lord. If you're a student, God wants you to pass all your classes. If you're trusting the Lord for a new career, He doesn't just want you to have a job. He wants you to have a position of influence so that you can be a blessing and be an asset to your organization!

We are designed to reign in life because Jesus is the Lord of our life! When we reign

## The power to reign is based entirely on Jesus alone!

in life, we reign over sin, we reign over the powers of darkness, we reign over depression, we reign over poverty and over every curse, we reign over sickness and disease, we reign over the devil and all of his plans. When Jesus and the disciples were on the stormy sea, Jesus reigned in life!

### The Power to Reign

The power to reign does not depend on our background. It does not depend on our education, on how we look, or how much savings we have in our bank account. The power to reign is based entirely on Jesus alone! This declaration, that we will reign in life, is based on a promise that has been recorded in the Word of God.

**Rom 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. (KJV)**

**Reign: Gk. basileuo-** 1) to be king, to exercise kingly power, to reign a) used of the governor of a province b) used of the rule of the Messiah 2) metaphorically, to exercise the highest influence, to control.

## Many people think that for God to bless them, they need to deserve that blessing

The secret of reigning in life lies in receiving everything that Jesus has accomplished for us on the cross!

If we are living a life of defeat, of being defeated by sin and guilt and condemnation, by anxiety attacks, or financial lack, we are not living the abundant life that Jesus came to give. Based on the authority of God's Word, we are destined to reign in life as a king - to have kingly dominion over all the challenges of life that come our way. We are called to be above them all. We have the God-given right to reign in life. Jesus was also in the storm on the sea, but He was not being defeated by the storm!

**Rom 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. (KJV)**

Because of one man's sin, Adam in the Garden of Eden, death began to reign. We are sinners not because we sin, but because of Adam's sin. Many believers still think we become sinners by committing sin, but that is not what the Word of God says. What it says is that we are sinners because of Adam's sin. But we are also made righteous in the New Covenant not because we do righteous deeds but because of one man's obedience - Jesus on the cross.

The secret of reigning in life lies with receiving everything that Jesus has accomplished for us on the cross. We can see very clearly here in the Word of God that we are to reign in life through Jesus Christ just by receiving two things from Him: the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness!

## The world's way is to tell us to work harder.

Many people think that for God to bless them, they need to deserve that blessing, or they need to earn that blessing so that by their own efforts they receive God's favor. Many think that God's blessings are based on performance and good works.

### The World's System

But God's ways are not about achieving, but about receiving! He promised that when we receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness, we will reign in life. He did not say that when we achieve grace and our own righteousness, we would reign in life. But for some reason many Christians still continue to live their lives based on the world's system of achievement.

But if it is really that easy, why aren't more Christians reigning in life? Most people believe that they have to work hard to achieve success in life. They build their lives on effort and diligence. I believe in hard work; I believe in being faithful and diligent. But the problem then comes that we begin to believe that our doing and self-effort is what causes us to succeed in the things of God concerning our life.

**2 Cor 1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us-- by me, Silvanus, and Timothy-- was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. 20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. (NKJV)**

## Stop trying to do what is already done!

We are driven to do, do, do - forgetting that Christianity is done, done, done. The world tells us that the more we do, the harder we work, the more hours we put in, the more success we will achieve. The world's way is to tell us to work harder, forget about attending church regularly, spend less time with our families, and spend more time focusing on our work. It's time to pay the price to get ahead...no pain, no gain!

What some believers do is take the system of the world and apply it to the Christian life. Instead of depending on God's grace for His favor and blessings to flow, they depend on self-effort to try to deserve God's favor and blessings. But God's way is not for us to be blessed by our own efforts.

### God's System

We cannot earn God's blessings by our performance. God's blessings are based entirely on His grace. His blessings over our life have to be undeserved, unmerited favor. There is nothing we can do to deserve His blessings. They are based entirely on receiving Jesus and through His finished work - the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness.

God wants us to stop trying to achieve, and to begin to receive the favor, the blessings, and the healing that Jesus accomplished on the cross. When He hung on that cross, He cried with a loud voice, "IT IS FINISHED!" Everything that you and I need to reign in life was accomplished on that day. That is why we call what Jesus accomplished on the cross, the finished work of Christ. He finished it - sin, healing, provision, friendship, guidance, peace and victory. He completed the work! He achieved for us what we could not achieve for ourselves.

Stop trying to do what is already done! Stop "doing" to qualify for the blessing. Jesus did the qualifying for us - start receiving what Jesus has already done!  
**2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: (KJV)**



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By Åge Ålesjær

# Certainly Not!

An emphasis on what we are saying and what we are NOT saying.

**We do not lower the moral standard; in fact, the fruit of the life in Christ carries a higher moral standard**

Some people become confused when they hear that we are free from the law, and that the born-again Christian has one commandment instead of ten. Although this truth is straight from the Bible, I believe it is appropriate to emphasize what we are *not* saying.

We do not lower the moral standard; in fact, the fruit of the life in Christ carries a higher moral standard. The life we are describing is only attainable for the born-again Christian who allows the life of Christ to live in him. And so we say with the apostle Paul, “By No Means!” (RSV)

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” (Rom. 6:1-2)

“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!” (Rom. 6:14-15)

Paul is using this expression: “Certainly not!” or “By no means!” What Paul in reality is saying is: “That is to misunderstand the message completely!”

He uses this expression when people reach the wrong conclusions and imagine the wrong consequences upon hearing his teaching. In fact, it is he himself who arrests the thought that we shall continue in sin that grace may abound. He understands that some may think that this is what he meant, so he raises the question to give an answer to it.

Unfortunately, this is also relevant to me. After some preachers and writers have tried to misinterpret what we teach, I have to shout out loud: “*Certainly not! By no means!*”

It is obvious that some completely have misunderstood our teaching about being free from the law. People have claimed that freedom from the law leads to lawlessness. *But it is exactly this conclusion Paul is refuting in Rom. 6:1-2 and 14-15. Instead he says that this is the only “passable” way to sanctification and victory over sin!*

Therefore, it is a total misconception when some think that we are giving people a license to sin. Some people even think that if we free people from the law, it will lead to lawlessness. Then they have not understood what the Bible talks about when it says that we are free from the law. A born-again Christian, who has the seed of God in him and walks in love, will obviously submit to the laws of God written in his heart, and to the earthly government and its rules.

**It is a total misconception when some think that we are giving people a license to sin**

The lawlessness that the Bible says will characterize the end times is lawlessness in the world, among the sinners and the ungodly. It is lawlessness connected to the spirit of the Antichrist, who is the lawless one. To mix this with the fight Paul was fighting for the truth of the Gospel and the freedom from the law and legalistic ways is to miss the point completely. It is a mixture of words and phrases caused by confusion of language.

**He uses this expression when people reach the wrong conclusions and imagine the wrong consequences upon hearing his teaching**

## Sanctification is also a work of grace, just like salvation is by grace

Having the Right Understanding of Grace  
At the end of Romans 5 Paul is praising “the riches of His grace.” He says, “Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, *grace abounded much more*, so that as sin reigned in death, even so *grace might reign* through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Rom. 5:20-21)

Those who are afraid that we preach too much grace have not caught the continuation and the entirety of the message. Romans 6:1-2 is in fact a direct answer to the thought some might get - that the emphasis Paul is putting on grace might give the people a freedom to sin, since grace is so great.

It is at this point he is calling out, “Certainly not!”

### Dead to Sin

In fact, Paul is revealing a very liberating fact for us. Instead of the abounding grace giving you a license to sin, *the grace is so great that it sets you free from sin! The blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin and when dying with Him, we died to sin.*

This is the part of the Gospel where we lack proper teaching, and it makes people confused. People have missed out on the wonderful message in Romans 6:1-2, what it really is about, because traditional teaching has emphasized on the fall and the sinful nature of mankind. *The message is that Jesus has done more than*

*forgive our sins: He has delivered us from sin and its power!*

The Word is very clear on the consequence of having “died with Christ”:

“Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.” (Rom. 6:6)

The chapter continues to elaborate on this, and explains our union with Jesus in His death and resurrection. “For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. *Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin*, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body...*” (Rom. 6:10-12).

He already showed us that salvation is stronger than the fall in chapter 5: “For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 5:17)

### Grace Sanctifies

T. B. Barratt wrote a book with a very nice title. In English it would be something like “The Sanctifying Work of Grace”. This is the very point: Sanctification is also a work of grace, just like salvation is by grace. Therefore, Paul is writing to Titus, “*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age...*” (Tit. 2:11-12)

In other words: Both righteousness and sanctification are given to us in Christ (1 Cor. 1:30). We are saved by grace through faith, not of works. The following verse even tells us that we are His workmanship, *created in Christ Jesus for good works* (Eph. 2:8-10).

Consequently, forgiveness and remission of sins plus a new life producing good works are included in His grace. There is no opening for self-effort and human works in any area. He who glories, let him glory in the Lord!

If our own strength or we ourselves played a part in any area, we would have something to boast about. It is natural for men to search for something we can boast about. But our boasting is excluded! If the result is good, it should all be to the praise of the glory of His grace (Eph. 1:6).

Grace and salvation is not of our works, but *of God* (Eph. 2:8-10).

The new life is not of us, but *of God* (John 1:12-13).

## It takes away the love of sin; it makes us love the things that God loves and hate the things He hates

We cannot think of anything or do anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is *from God* (2 Cor. 3:5)

*It is God* who has placed us in Christ, and He has become our righteousness,

sanctification, and redemption, so that he who glories, glories in the Lord (1 Cor. 1:30-31).

#### “The Essence In the Gospel”

A. B. Simpson wrote so beautifully about this. He describes the riches in salvation. First he speaks about the cleansing blood that cleanses from all sin, and then he continues:

“But it is more than this. It is also God’s provision for taking away the sin of the human heart and giving to weak, fallen man the power to be right before God and toward all men.”

#### He continues:

“Human nature is helpless, and *the very essence of the gospel* is that it gives the power to choose and do the right. It takes away the love of sin; it makes us love the things that God loves and hate the things He hates. It has power to cleanse, purify, and uplift human nature. It is a divine force placed within the human heart that causes us to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments.”

*This is the Gospel that we believe in and are preaching!* This message was very much in focus in the so-called “Holiness Movement” that the world experienced at the close of the 19th century. Teachers like Simpson, Kenyon, and John G. Lake brought another dimension of a Christ-centered teaching into an age that was focused on personal experiences, and we owe thanks to the Lord who lifted up these voices that continue to bless and guide us even one hundred years later.

So we want to ask people to pay attention to everything we say, and grasp the *entire* message.

Our message about freedom from the law is about God’s way of sanctification.

#### “Only He Who Is Set Free From the Law Is Set Free From Sin”

*“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”* (Rom. 6:14)

This is where the message about freedom from the law has its great strength. I will quote the Norwegian Study Bible:

“Only he who is set free from the law is set free from sin.”

*Then you have caught it!* Since “the sinful passions were aroused by the law” (Rom. 7:5), salvation had to free us from the law to give us a life in victory over sin. There is nothing wrong with the law - it is holy and just and good. The problem is sin. It was aroused by the law, so that the commandment which was to bring life, brought death. It is this fact that Romans 7 describes in great detail.

It is essential to understand that “*what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did*” (Rom. 8:3). We thank God that He, through Jesus Christ our Lord, has delivered us from “this body of death”, and made us free from “the law of sin and death” (Rom. 7:24-25 and 8:1-2).

Let me remind you again that this life is only obtainable for those who are born-again. We must be born-again to see the kingdom of God.

#### Free Indeed

Jesus preached about freedom from sin. He said that if we abide in His Word, we shall know the truth and the truth shall make us free (John 8:32). He continues, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:34-36)

So there is actually a real freedom for the slaves of sin! 1 Pet. 4:1 says that we should arm our mind with this thought: “We have ceased from sin.”

Jesus, Peter, John, and Paul all have a liberating message about freedom from sin.



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“**Certainly Not!**”

# GLOBAL GRACE NEWS

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Language: English

Coming school year begins Sept. 8, 2010

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