

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Joel 1:11-13
Salvation Has Always Been by Faith Alone
by Eric Douma
June 7, 2020

The Groups Addressed

1:2-4	elders
1:5-7	drunkards
1:11-12	farmers
1:13-14	priests

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 1

God Destroys Israel's Crops
Joel 1:11-12
Be ashamed O farmers, wail, O vinedressers, for the wheat and the barley; **because the harvest of the field is destroyed.** 12 The vine **dries up** and the fig tree fails; the pomegranate, the palm also, and the apple tree, all the trees of the field **dry up**. Indeed, rejoicing **dries up** from the sons of men.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 2

God Won't Allow Superficial Worship
Joel 1:13
Gird yourselves with sackcloth and lament, O priests; wail, O ministers of the altar! Come, spend the night in sackcloth O ministers of my God, **for the grain offering and the drink offering are withheld from the house of your God.**

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 3

The Problem With Superficial Worship
Isaiah 1:11-12
"What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?" Says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle; and **I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats.** 12 When you come to appear before Me, Who requires of you this trampling of My courts?"

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 4

The Problem with "Ex Opere Operato"
"By the act done"
1. Animal sacrifices never could save!

Hebrews 10:4-5
For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME..."

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 5

The Problem with “Ex Opere Operato”

2. Even God’s ordinances today don’t necessarily save.

New Covenant Ordinances:

1. Baptism
2. Lord’s Supper
3. Fellowship
4. Prayer
5. Word of God
6. Church Discipline

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 6

The Problem with “Ex Opere Operato”

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; 2 and all were **baptized** into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 and **all ate the same spiritual food**; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 7

Lesson: Salvation Has Always Been by Faith Alone

Romans 4:1-3

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “**ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.**”

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 8

The Great Transaction by Faith

Imputed Righteousness

His righteousness
Your sin debt

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 9

What Is Saving Faith?

1. **Noticia** = Knowledge of facts
2. **Assensus** = Mental assent to facts
3. **Fiducia** = Trust

James 2:19

You believe that God is one. You do well; **the demons also believe, and shudder.**

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 10

Benediction

Jude 24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 11