

## Hebrews 13:9

Verse nine gives two challenges to the readers - the first being negative and the second being positive. First, don't be influenced by false doctrine. Second, do be grounded in grace. The writer has in mind the erroneous teaching of rabbinical teaching, but certainly this admonition applies to all false doctrine.

**“Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.*”**

### 1. **DON'T BE CARRIED AWAY WITH DIFFERENT AND STRANGE DOCTRINES.**

- Does the Bible teach it?
- Has historical biblical Christianity held this belief?

The *divers and strange doctrines* is *meats, which have not profited them*.

The command to not be led away from the truth by false doctrine is in the present imperative meaning that this is a problem that some are facing.

Colossians 2:

- 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
- 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;
- 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
- 16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:
- 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.
- 18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,
- 19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.
- 20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,
- 21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;
- 22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?
- 23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

*Strange* has the meaning of new, different from that what has been taught that is biblical.

“‘Be not carried about’ is the translation of *me paraphero*, (με περιφερω) the present tense indicating that this was a present and an active danger. It is ‘Stop being carried away.’ ‘Divers and strange doctrines’ refer to the various phases of one radical error; the denial of the Messiahship of Jesus, and of His Messianic sacrifice as superseding Judaism. The Greek text has ‘Stop being carried away.’ Not only was the danger present, but some were being carried away.” Kenneth Wuest, *Hebrews*, page 139

Although the context of this verse is the warning to those thinking or actually returning to Mosaism/Judaism, it is very applicable in or day with the many aberrant movements that claim to be biblical, but are not.

For example:

- 1) Social Justice Christianity -

“There is a dangerous trend that is sweeping throughout churches, especially in America. The church has largely redefined the gospel from its most basic tenets to something tends to have a mass appeal to outsiders.–the “social gospel.” The social gospel comes in many different flavors and is advanced by those of various theological traditions, but it appears to be most prevalent in the cabal of New Calvinism. However, they are certainly not the only ones. The Gospel Coalition, which should be rightly renamed The Social Gospel Coalition, is by far the most prominent outlet for the advancement of social justice in the Church.”

*How the Social Gospel is Becoming the Dominant Theology in Evangelicalism* by News Division · Published March 16, 2017 · Updated April 28, 2018 - <https://pulpitandpen.org/2017/03/16/how-the-social-gospel-is-becoming-the-dominant-theology-in-evangelicalism/>

Following from <https://bereanresearch.org/progressive-social-justice-christianity/> (update 8/31/18)

"Do not be fooled by professing Christians who prefer either "progressive Christian" or "social justice Christian" to evangelical. It matters not what trendy terms people use to describe themselves, a progressive by any other name is still a liberal. So it should not come as a surprise to learn that some PC's are avowed Marxists. Marxism is the theory of economics and politics of atheists Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels that holds that 'actions and human institutions are economically determined, that the class struggle is the basic agency of historical change, and that capitalism will ultimately be superseded by communism.' Clearly, this theory is unbiblical."

Leaders (in no particular order)

Rick Warren	Marcus J. Borg	Gregory Boyd	Tony Campolo	Shane Claiborne	
John Dominic Crossan	Diana Butler Bass	Rob Bell	Bono	Hillary Clinton	
Bart Ehrman	Rachel Held Evans	Brandon Hatmaker	Sam Alberry		
Jen Hatmaker	Bill Hybels	Lynn Hybels	Tony Jones	Timothy Keller	Ann Lamott
Brian McLaren	Carol Howard Merritt	Jonathan Merritt	Russell Moore	Beth Moore	
Barack Obama	Elaine Pagles	Fred Plumer	John Shelby Spong	Peter Enns	
Warren Throckmorton	Carrie Underwood	Matthew Vines	Jim Wallis	Mark Dever	
Albert Mohler	Matt Chandler	Thom Rainer	Ed Stetzer	Thabiti Anyabwile	

Note: While some of the above are misguided, others (like Jim Wallis) are out right Marxists.

J.D. Greear, of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., president of the Southern Baptist Convention since June 2018 could be added to the above list as well as many others.

Social Justice Christianity is liberalism repackaged and is a replay of the Fundamentalist Modernist Controversy of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

"The fundamentalist-modernist controversy was an extended conflict in the Protestant churches and American society at large between religious liberals, who sought to preserve Christianity by accommodating the traditional faith to modern culture, and militant theological conservatives, determined to save evangelical Christianity and American civilization from the advances of modernism and Darwinism." <https://www.biblia.work/dictionaries/fundamentalist-modernistcontroversy/>

## 2. GOD WANTS US TO BE ESTABLISHED IN GRACE NOT RITUAL OBSERVANCE (MEATS).

*Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* has these definitions of the Greek word *charis* (*Strong's* #5485) which is most often translated as "grace" in the New Testament:

- to grant forgiveness, to pardon.
- good-will, loving, kindness, favor.
- the idea of kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved.
- the merciful kindness by which God, exerting His holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of Christian Virtues.
- sustaining and aiding the efforts of the men who labor for the cause of Christ.
- the salvation offered to Christians is called *charis* in Greek, a gift of divine grace (1 Peter 1:10-13).
- the aggregate of the extremely diverse powers and gifts granted to Christians.
- the gifts of knowledge and utterance conferred upon Christians.

2 Corinthians 8 is an important passage on grace in the Christian life.

### Background of this chapter:

6 months had intervened between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians (written AD 55 and 56)

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians is filled with rebuke and corrections - every chapter.

party factions  
litigation problems

wisdom of men elevated  
harlotry not considered wrong

sexual sins in the congregation  
wrong understanding about marriage  
and celibacy

attendance at idol feasts  
lack of love

abuse of the Lord's supper  
denial of the bodily resurrection

mis-use of spiritual gifts

Titus had went to Corinth and Paul rejoices that they had received his first letter well - 2 Corinthians 7:5-7. Paul had initially regretted sending such a strong letter of rebuke but was thankful he sent it when he heard of the positive response of the Corinthians to the letter - 2 Corinthians 7:8-13.

The Jewish Christians of Judea had suffered as a result of famine during the reign of Claudius - AD 41-54; Acts 11:27-30, and the largely Gentile church at Antioch responded quickly by sending relief by the hand of Barnabus and Paul - Acts 11:27-30.

This admonition to give was a follow-up on what had already been communicated - 1 Corinthians 16:1-4.

One of the necessities of this giving was most likely to show the unity of Jew and Gentile in Christ - Galatians 3:28.

The churches of Macedonia would have included Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea.

The desire is that grace be manifest in their lives

grace, *charis*, is used seven times in this chapter - 1,4 [gift is same word as grace],6,7,9,16 [thanks is same word as grace],19

*charis* - "Now, the grace of God is first of all, all that in God which is of health and beauty and glory and strength. It is the desire of God to impart it to others, until, finally, grace had its glorious manifestation in His Son and His Cross, the activity that provides for others these things of glory and beauty." G. Campbell Morgan

## 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

### 1) Jesus is our example - verse 9

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

This parenthetical thought is the basis for grace and the Christian life. Everything flows out of this basic truth - the Creator became a man and walked among His creation, ultimately to die for our sins.

#### 1. Grace of God allows us to live above our circumstances - verses 1-2

1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: NKJV

2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

verse 1: "make known to you the grace of God"

verse 2: Circumstances - "great trial of affliction" and "deep poverty"

Affliction - 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:14

And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

Result - "Abundance of joy" and "riches of their liberality"

Joy comes from the knowledge that our sins are forgiven and we enjoy the favor of God

Liberality (single-mindedness) comes from the knowledge that God given us His infinite generosity in sending His Son to redeem us.

## 2. **Grace of Giving allows us to give generously - verses 3-5**

- 3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;
- 4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.
- 5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

verse 3: Gave not only according to their ability but beyond

verse 4: Begged that their gift would be received, because it was seen as having a part (fellowship) in ministering to the saints.

verse 5: First, to God - Romans 12:1-2

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Second, to the church - Hebrews 6:10

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

## 3. **Grace of Maturity allows us to follow through in our commitments - verses 6-8**

- 6 Inasmuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.
- 7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.
- 8 I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

verse 6: The Corinthians had made a commitment to help financially (2 Corinthians 9:1-5) and were being encourage to follow through on their commitment. Maturity involves fulfilling your commitment.

God does - Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Man should - 1 Corinthians 4:2 "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

verse 7: The Corinthians excelled in everything else, make sure you excel in this

verse 8: Maturity is reflected in deeds, not just words - 1 John 3:16-18

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

**Be aware of strange (false) doctrine (teaching) and make sure you are grounded (convinced in your heart) in grace!!!**