

A Response to “**Joseph Prince: Top 20 Grace Quotes**” posted at the blog:

<http://escapetoreality.org/2010/08/24/joseph-prince-preacher-of-grace/>

[These Joseph Prince quotes Ellis selected may not reflect the context intended by Prince. This researcher agrees with the expressed theology evidenced in quotes 1, 6-12, 15, 17-20 or (13 of 20 quotes). But Seven (7) of the quotes need clarification.]

1. “Grace is not a theology. It is not a subject matter. It is not a doctrine. It is a person, and his name is Jesus.” (DTR, p.24)

2. “The central tenet of the new covenant ... is the complete forgiveness of sins!” (UF, p.171)
[“**New Covenant**” truth must be discussed in the larger context of the eight covenants God makes with man. God made the New Covenant with Israel, not the church. The body of Christ is partaker of the spiritual blessings of that Covenant—which has not yet been inaugurated. See the writings of Arnold Fruchtenbaum and addressed elsewhere in SummerSalon14. Otherwise the church is falsely portrayed as superseding Israel in God’s complete program that includes unsaved Jews, unsaved Gentiles, and Christ’s body of saved Jews and saved Gentiles.]

3. “God’s forgiveness is not given in installments.” (UF, p.194)

[This quote is accurate in terms of the immediacy of a soul passing from spiritual death to life eternal the moment they are sealed in saving faith. The quote serves to refute the works salvation that many advocate. 1 John 1 teaches Christ’s righteousness is immediately applied to the believer at spiritual rebirth. But 1 John 2 reminds that the justified believer does sin (evidence of the two natures, the lesser of which is subject to He who is in us); and that sin hinders both vertical and horizontal fellowship. Fellowship is restored each time sin is admitted and forgiveness sought.]

4. “Old Testament prophets call your sin to remembrance, while New Testament preachers call your righteousness to remembrance. Old Testament preachers tell you what’s wrong with you, while New Testament preachers tell you what is right with you because of what Jesus has done, in spite of what is wrong with you.” (DTR, p.220)

[There are no modern day prophets. The sixty-six book canon is closed. The Old Testament prophets were God’s vessels to call Israel to repentance for the sins of the people. Any preacher today must begin with stating the lost soul is God’s enemy due to his sin; that a sinner is made God’s friend only by virtue of God’s grace that provides faith in Christ alone. But “...what is right with you...” is often stated to as meaning flesh can be reformed or placated. Flesh cannot be tamed or reformed. It is fit only to be crucified. Hence, the need is not pitting OT against NT preaching. It is affirming Pauline truth that effectively uses Old Testament Scriptures.]

5. “What man calls ‘balance,’ God calls ‘mixture’.” (UF, p.103)
[Ellis does not give the context, but the likely point is that “balance” refers to incorrect teaching that believers must exemplify a balance between being saved by grace but then being required to live in certain ways to maintain their faith. But when this futile path is walked it actually reflects what the Bible identifies as “admixture.” The purity of the gospel is polluted by this error.]
6. “The moment you accepted Jesus, God gave you an eternal ‘A+’ for your right standing with Him.” (UF, p.313)
7. “For the believer, God’s throne is not a throne of judgment. It is a throne of grace, a throne of unmerited favor.” (UF, p.298)
8. “It is the gift of no condemnation that gives people the power to sin no more. Unfortunately, many have flipped the order. They say, ‘Go and sin no more, then we will not condemn you.’ There is no power in that. Experiencing the grace of our Lord Jesus gives people the power to stop sinning.” (Charisma)
9. “The Bible says that sin shall not have dominion over you when you are not under law but under grace. So if you are living in sin, you are definitely not under grace.” (DTR, p.167)
10. “Grace brings about a restraint that is supernatural.” (UF, p.147)
11. “When you fall in love with Jesus, you will fall out of love with sin.” (Charisma)
12. “Let me teach you how to discern if the grace teaching that you are hearing is doctrinally sound. When you hear the new covenant of grace preached, it is always Christ-exalting. It always reveals more and more of Jesus... There is no grace without Jesus.” (DTR, p.32)
13. “It’s actually very easy to identify the difference between the old and new covenant teachings. Just ask yourself if the teaching is putting the emphasis on what you have to do or what Jesus has done. Does it make you introspective, always looking to yourself and how you fared or failed? Or does it turn your eyes away from yourself to look upon Jesus?” (UF, p.148-9)
[The intention of this statement is clearly biblical: “Turn your eyes upon Jesus.” But referring back to quote 2, the best teaching makes clear the need to correctly handle the Word (2 Tim 2:15); covenant theology [Prince’s preference] does not reflect correct handling of Scripture by failing to note distinctions.]
14. “Our part in the new covenant of grace is to simply believe!... We are to believe in Jesus!... In the new covenant, there is nothing for us to do but to believe!” (UF, pp.167,169)
[Statements such as “...there is nothing for us to do but believe!” is typical of what Grace-challenged believers say justifies their criticism that Grace-grounded believers advocate a “cheap gospel.” We do well to stay away from what may appear as bold, licentious

arrogance in favor of measured reliance on Scripture to directly speak our view: Rom 4:2, 9:32; Gal 2:16; Titus 3:5; James 2:21 and 2:24-25.]

15. “In the end times people will not be anti-God, but they will be anti-Christ... That is why, in these last days, we need more preaching about Jesus, His finished work and the new covenant of His unmerited favor.” (UF, p.170)

16. “The gospel is simple, and it takes theologians to complicate it.” (UF, p.13)
[The quote is too vague to understand it’s value. Teaching the depths of the gospel that saves is greatly aided by theological discussion. The problem is making sure the theology/theologians consulted are defensible according to Jude 3 rather than reflective of morphing spiritual error.]

17. “God sent His Son to die for you while you were still a sinner. Obviously, He does not love you only when you are perfect in your behavior and thoughts. His love for you is unconditional.” (UF, p.138)

18. “God will not punish the believer again, not because He has gone soft on sin, but because all our sins have already been punished in the body of Jesus.” (UF, p.151)

19. “Once you receive Christ, you are standing on favor ground. You are no longer on condemnation ground... In His eyes we are all His favorites.” (UF, p.315)

20. “People sometimes ask me, ‘Pastor Prince, if you don’t teach the Ten Commandments to your church, what is going to govern them?’ My friend, the Lord Himself will govern them!” (UF, p.37)