Why is there so much confusion in the doctrines of churchianity? Why should church members assert that they believe in the biblical commandments while on the other hand they attest that Yahweh’s law has been done away by His grace?

A correct understanding of the doctrine of grace can only be obtained by harmonizing all the passages in the sacred Scriptures relating to this subject. There are many explicit scriptural texts integral to a correct under-
standing of the New Covenant. People too frequently appeal only to the New Testament, and they further narrow the field by particularly limiting themselves to the writings of Paul to explain the doctrine expressed by the word grace.

In effect, they nullify the Messiah's own declaration of Matthew 5:17-20. "Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law, till all things be accomplished. Whoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven: but whoever shall do and teach them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven."

We must never forget what the Apostle Peter said of Paul's writings in 2 Peter 3:15-16. "And account that the long-suffering of our Master is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you; as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to be understood, which the ignorant and unlearned wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, to their own destruction."

The widespread, popular teaching of the no-law doctrine has taken firm root in the minds of people today. When they encounter seemingly nebulous and obscure passages in the Bible that appear to do away with the law of Yahweh, doubts immediately enter their mind. Then they simply jump the rails of contextual truth to follow the crowd into error. The no-law doctrine has monopolized Christian theology for so long that these doubts readily take root.

All too frequently the no-law advocates hasten to quote from the book of Galatians. Paul's letter to Yahweh's Assemblies in Galatia in no way annuls the law of Yahweh. Conversely, when correctly understood, Paul's book places great emphasis upon keeping commandments of Yahweh instead of obeying doctrines and commandments of men.

When one demonstrates his obedience to the Heavenly Father by keeping His commandments, unconverted people ridicule him as though he depends exclusively on works for his salvation. Usually those who believe in grace alone recite Ephesians 2:8-9 to prove that there is no longer any need to keep any commandments for salvation. This passage reads, "For by grace have you been saved through faith: and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of Yahweh; not of works, that no man should glory."

Yahweh has the same source—it is a gift from the Almighty. The human being cannot create eternal life. It must come only from the Most High. When Yahweh's people are given their spiritual body it will be a gift that can come only from Yahweh, because He has created it.

A much better translation of Ephesians 2:8-10 is found in the New English Bible. "For it is by His grace you are saved, through trusting Him; it is not your own doing. It is Yahweh's gift, not a reward for work done. There is nothing for anyone to boast of. For we are Yahweh's handiwork, created in Messiah Yahshua to devote ourselves to the good deeds for which Yahweh has designed us."

The no-law doctrine has monopolized Christian theology for so long that these doubts readily take root.

Salvation—A Free Gift of Life

Let us analyze this passage more thoroughly. First, we learn that we are saved by grace. Through faith in Yahweh's Word we receive this blessing. Faith is believing and trusting. Salvation does not come through human effort; it is a free gift from Yahweh. It cannot be earned by works. No human can purchase his salvation by anything he might do.

What is life? Can we define its essentials? Is life something we as humans can by ourselves originate? Can a human create new life forms? Of course not! Life is a gift bestowed by Yahweh. He alone gives life to us and eventually, when He takes it back, the human being dies and becomes a dead corpse. Everlasting life in a spiritual existence in the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Works Required

Notice The Sacred Scriptures, Bethel Edition, translation of verse 10. "For we are his workmanship, created in the Messiah Yahshua for good works, which Yahweh previously prepared that we should walk in them."

Paul does not hesitate to inform his readers that we are the workmanship of Yahweh, created in Messiah Yahshua to do good works, which HE ESTABLISHED BEFOREHAND, BEFORE THE NEW COVENANT ERA. We must do the WORKS that Yahweh has established and commanded in the sacred Scriptures. The definition of works is ACTIVE FAITH IN, OR OBEDIENCE TO, YAHWEH.

Obviously, this passage does not convey what many religious groups today want to believe.
The definition given in the section in letter a above is the most applicable to this study. Grace is the love and favor of Yahweh given to undeserving man. Notice that nowhere in those definitions is there any indication that at some future date the law of Yahweh would be annulled or done away. Rather, they show that grace means mankind would receive a special recognition, favor, love, or kindness from our Heavenly Father.

Grace Defined in Biblical Languages

Instead of speculating on the meaning of the word grace, however, let us scrutinize the languages in which the Bible was originally written and transmitted to us for here we shall discover the truth of this doctrine. There are several words in the Old Testament that have been translated grace or graciousness.

The first is chen. It has been translated in the Old Testament as "favor, grace, or graciousness, pleasant, precious, well-favored."

Another word appearing in the Old Testament is chanan. It is taken from the same verbal root of the word chen. It means "to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior; to favor, or bestow something upon that person." It has been translated in various ways similar to the word chen. These definitions appear in the Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary of the Strong's Concordance and the Holliday Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament. The Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew Lexicon translates the verb chanan as "show favor, be gracious." The cognate Semitic languages yield the definitions "be merciful, compassionate, favorable, inclined towards."

Yet another word used in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament and translated grace or lovingkindness is the word chesed. It is a very unique word and means "goodness, kindness," or "to do and show kindness toward another person." The root is chasad, meaning "to be good or kind." This word also means "to do things in a righteous manner."

In the Greek text of the New Testament, the word translated grace is charis. (It sounds almost like "grace.") It means "favor, grace, gracious care or help, good will."

In a practical application of good will, it means "a gracious deed or gift, benefaction." This is the definition that we find in the Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament by Walter Bauer, as translated by Arndt and Gingrich.

Interestingly, the Strong's Concordance Greek Dictionary of the New Testament defines the word charis as "graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstractly) or concerning lit., fig. or spiritual especially the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life; including gratitude."

Dr. Bullinger in the Companion Bible translates the word charis as "free and undeserved kindness."
**Grace—An Active Force**

Notice again that the word *charis* denotes an ACTIVE FORCE. This active force moves upon the heart and influences or dictates the conduct of one's life. Nowhere have we found in any of these definitions even the slightest indication that through grace the law of Yahweh was abolished when the Savior died upon the tree of Calvary. Conversely, grace is shown to be something moving (acting) upon the heart of a sincere, humble person to cause him to alter (change, convert) his conduct.

**Grace Is Not Licentiousness**

Would you believe that grace in the Bible means **exactly opposite** of what exactly what Christianity ultimately teaches—that the law of Yahweh was done away and that everyone can do what he personally thinks is right?

Another translation of this verse found in the New English Bible clarifies considerably. To get a complete context, we must include verse 3 also.

"My friends, I was fully engaged in writing to you about our salvation—which is yours no less than ours—when it became urgently necessary to write at once and appeal to you to join the struggle in defense of the faith, the faith which Yahweh entrusted to His people once and for all. It is in danger from certain persons who have wormed their way in, the very men whom Scripture long ago marked down for the doom they have incurred. They are the enemies of Yahweh's grace.

**Those who turn the grace of Yahweh into license to do as they please have obviously denied Yahshua, because they continue to transgress Yahweh's law.**

Christianity believes? Turn to Judah, verse 4, for proof: "For there are certain men who sneaked in secretly, even they who were of old written of beforehand to this condemnation, lawless men, turning the grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness, and **DENYING our only Master and Sovereign, Yahshua the Messiah.**"

An analysis of this verse will confirm that it is wicked people who are guilty of turning (changing) the grace (unmerited mercy, kindness, favor) of the Almighty into lasciviousness. This last word means "wantonness, tending to execute lustful desire, licentious." Consequently, it could easily be translated as "license to do as you please."

That is an amazing declaration by the writer Judah (one of Yahshua's own brothers, most likely). Isn't this religion. They pervert the free favor of our Mighty One into licentiousness, disobeying Yahshua Messiah, our only master and ruler."

Especially noteworthy is the statement that **those who turn the grace of Yahweh into licentiousness are guilty of DENYING YAHSHUA THE MESSIAH and THE SALVATION OF YAHWEH ELOHIM.** How is this possible if Yahshua the Messiah came to repeal or annul the law of Yahweh and bestow upon us unlimited mercy or grace, as Christians believe? The Christian definition of grace makes it appear as if man could make his own rules for life.

The scripturally founded definition of grace **rejects licentiousness** in favor of obedience to Yahweh's commandments. Sin is the transgression of Yahweh's law, 1 John 3:4. Those who reject the law of Yahweh by failing to obey it, and conversely implement a system of licentiousness are **guilty of denying** the sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah, who offered Himself as our substitute sacrifice.

He shed His blood that we might have remission of sins. Remember—the scriptural definition of sin is the breaking of Yahweh's laws, 1 John 3:4. Those who turn the grace of Yahweh into license to do as they please have obviously denied Yahshua because they continue to transgress Yahweh's law. They live in rebellion to the way of life our Heavenly Father wishes us to live. Paradoxically, already in apostolic times false teachers were teaching that Yahweh's commandments were annulled to implement grace, an obviously false doctrine. Should we not consider as false teachers those who teach a no-law doctrine in these modern times? Think about this, and be consistent!

**Dispensation—Not an Age**

The term "dispensation of grace" is heard frequently in churchiancy. What can it mean? Many Christians depend on it to support their no-law doctrine. This term is used **only ONCE** in the entire Bible, in Ephesians 3:2. "If so be that you have heard of the DISPENSATION OF THAT GRACE of Yahweh which was given me toward you."

In the New English Bible this verse is translated, "For surely you have heard how Yahweh has assigned the gift of His grace to me for your benefit." No mention is made of "dispensation" here, prompting us to pursue a further analysis of the verse and seek an answer to this pertinent question.

The word *dispensation* is used also in 1 Corinthians 9:17 in the King James Version. We find there, "For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the Glad Tidings is committed unto me."

The Greek word used in both instances is derived from *oikonomia.* It
means "a stewardship" or "administration," and indicates the distributing of small quantities of material, which is the responsibility of a steward or manager.

The action is comparable to and can be illustrated by the function of a paper cup dispenser. It dispenses, or gives out, one paper cup at a time. Out of a large quantity of cups inserted into the dispenser, we receive one cup at a time as the need arises.

The dispensation of grace operates in a similar way. Whenever someone needs Yahweh's favor, mercy, kindness, or forgiveness, he is granted a small portion to pardon the sin he has then committed. In this way the penalty for sin—death (Romans 6:23)—is forgiven and the offender is spared from awesome judgment. But, Yahweh does not forgive premeditated sin. See Hebrews 10:26-31.

An entire false doctrine has been constructed upon the feeble premise of dispensationalism. Some theologians have erroneously conceived of dispensationalism as periods of time. For example, they designate the time of Adam as a no-law dispensation. They designate the polity of Israel as the dispensation of law. They claim we are now living in yet another period, the dispensation of grace.

We should understand that the time in which we are living is the age when grace is being dispensed, and not another biblical "dispensational age." Nevertheless, some theologians divide the Bible into a number of dispensations—three, five, and even seven—when they have no biblical grounds to do this. This division comes from the Scofield Bible. Nowhere in the Scriptures do we encounter terms like "dispensation of no-law, and dispensation of law." Therefore, we are given no liberty to use them.

The Biblical Origin of Grace

The first time an offer for grace is given to man is in Genesis 3, the account of the sin of Adam and Eve. They had allowed Satan to influence them and manipulate them into breaking the commandments of Yahweh. The just punishment for that sin was pronounced in the second chapter. "And Yahweh Elohim commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of knowing the good and [knowing the] evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." The wages of sin is death, Romans 6:23. From the beginning, death was the penalty, and it shall always be so.

When Almighty Yahweh learned what had occurred when Eve took of the fruit of the tree and had given some to her husband to eat, He knew that the punishment for sin had to be automatic. Yahweh knew that the man and woman would have to die, but He passed over (exempted) them in judgment. He gave them grace and allowed them centuries more to live, although limiting them to less than a one thousand-year prophetic day. Please see 2 Peter 3:8-13.

"But forget not this one thing, beloved, that one day is with Yahweh as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. Yahweh is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of Yahweh will come as a thief; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are in it shall be burned up. Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy living and righteousness, looking for and earnestly desiring the day of Yahweh, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwelleth."

Forgiveness of sin did not annul every penalty for that sin, however. Adam and Eve died. They en-
gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in goodness and truth; keeping mercy for thousands, FORGIVING INIQUITY AND TRANSGRESSION AND SIN; and that will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Yahweh describes His attitude toward man as filled with mercy, graciousness, patience, and abundant in goodness and truth. He describes Himself as a Mighty One who is merciful to thousands by forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. All of these qualities are clearly manifest in the doctrine of grace. Forgiveness and pardon for sin may be received when someone repents. Sin is the transgression of Yahweh's Law (1 John 3:4), and repentance of disobedience will merit Yahweh's mercy.

David's Experience

After David had committed adultery with Bathsheba, he tried to cover his sin by committing an even worse sin—murdering Bathsheba's husband, Uriah. Yahweh sent His prophet to David to point out the error of his way. David immediately confessed, "I have sinned against Yahweh." Nathan the prophet replied, "... Yahweh also has put away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of Yahweh to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die," 2 Samuel 12:13-14.

Conscience-stricken, David wrote a very moving Psalm. He said, "Have mercy upon me, O Elohim, according to your lovingkindness: according to the multitude of your tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin," Psalm 51:1-2. This passage of Scripture clearly reveals that grace means forgiveness and mercy for sins. Grace is understood as blotting out transgressions. David did not continue to commit sin or strongly insist that Yahweh's law had been annulled in his case. Nor did David insist on a no-law doctrine. Rather, he poured out his heart before Almighty Yahweh in sincere and honest repentance, confessing his sins and repenting of them. Then he changed his personal conduct. He promised Yahweh that he would never again commit such sin. (Transgression of the law.)

Grace Does Not Cover Willful Sin

Paul shows us that we must not continue to sin after we receive the grace of Yahweh. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? By no means. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live in it?" Romans 6:1-2

Remember, sin is the transgression of Yahweh's law, 1 John 3:4. We cannot continue to transgress His law, so that grace may be all-encompassing and cover all. We must obey the law of Yahweh to merit the kindness and mercy of the love of our Heavenly Father. When someone has come to a knowledge of the truth and continues to sin, there remains no more sacrifice for that sin.

Paul explained grace in Romans 3. He says in verse 20, "Because by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified in
Gracious in the New Testament

his sight; for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.” Obviously, those who keep Yahweh’s law cannot bequeath life to themselves. No one can be justified by the deeds of the law. The word justified means “to be judged innocent or declared innocent of wrongdoing.”

Only Yahweh can forgive sin, and He has extended a blanket pardon called “justification” to those who have previously sinned in ignorance. When the repentant believer comes to realize his sins through reading the Word of Yahweh, all his past sins are forgiven. But, if he continues to sin, he will be refused further grace.

Then Paul further says that the righteousness of Yahweh is manifested because it is witnessed in the law and the prophets. Paul shows that all have sinned and “come short of the glory of Yahweh, but we are justified (judged innocent) freely by Yahweh’s grace through Yahshua’s redemption. Yahshua the Messiah gave Himself as a sacrifice to obtain forgiveness of our sins for us. This is a free gift to every member of the human race. All people who receive this free gift and turn in obedience to our Heavenly Father will receive salvation. Those who spurn Yahweh’s mercy will perish in the lake of fire. It makes no difference if someone continues to insist on a no-law doctrine—the fires of Gehenna await the sinner! Sin is the transgression of the law, 1 John 3:4.

Yahshua, and has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and done despite to the Spirit of grace? For we know him that said, Vengeance belongs to me, I will repay. And again, Yahweh shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living Elohim.”

The spirit of grace is rejected by those who despise the blood of the covenant. After one understands the truth but continues to sin, grace is withdrawn, Hebrews 6:4-8. “For as touching those who were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and tasted the good word of Yahweh, and the powers of the age to come, and then fell away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance; since they impale to themselves the Son of Yahweh again, and put him to an open shame. For the land which has drunk the rain that comes upon it, and brings forth herbs useful for them for whose sake it is also tilled, receives blessings from Yahweh: but if it bears thorns and thistles, it is rejected and near to a curse; whose end is to be burned.” (Hebrews 6:4-8)

“For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Master and Savior Yahshua the Messiah, they are again entangled in it and overcome, the last state has become worse with them than the first. For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. It has happened to me according to the true proverb. The dog turns to his own vomit, and the sow that had been washed, to wallowing in the mire.” (2 Peter 2:20-22)

The Termination of Grace

Bible students tend to think of the age of grace as never ending. However, there are several Scriptures that predict an end to the general mercy of Yahweh. Obviously, an end to the proffered grace to a generation that spurns it will mean universal judgment.

“There is a generation that curses their father, and bless not their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet are not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, oh how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.” (Proverbs 30:11-14)

Zechariah the prophet predicted an end to grace in chapter 11 of his book. The declaration says: “For I will no more pity [have grace upon] the inhabitants of the land, says Yahweh; but, lo, I will deliver the men every one into his neighbor’s hand, and into the hand of his king; and they shall strike the land, and out of their hand I will not deliver them,” verse 6.

This prophetic utterance describes a withdrawal of grace. Apparently, conflict between nations will ensue at that time. Yahweh will no longer
withhold judgment from His disobedient people. Zechariah continues by saying that he took two shepherd's crooks or clubs, which he named Beauty (Hebrew—graciousness) and Bands (ropes or bonds), to feed the poor of the flock (downtrodden believers).

After feeding the persecuted flock, Zechariah explained, "And I took my staff Beauty, and cut it off, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples. And it was broken in that day: and thus the poor of the flock that gave heed to me knew that it was the word of Yahweh." Zechariah 11:10-11.

When the patience of Yahweh in dealing with His erring people comes to an end, He will do what any father would do to a rebellious child. Mercy ends when outright defiance is evident. Then punishment is the only remaining course of action.

When Yahweh acts it will be to manifest what was already a fact—that the covenant between Himself and humankind had been broken. A covenant is based upon the mutual loyalty, trust, and faith of the endorsers. When one party breaks the agreement, the other should continue to keep his promise as a witness against the unfaithful. Yahweh has faithfully done this. Repentant people share in the covenant, but sinners do not. He has maintained His fidelity even though Israel has continued to refuse His efforts to reform them. Eventually His patience will be exhausted, and Yahweh will terminate an offer of His covenant by pouring out punishment upon the disobedient.

For those who are awaiting the eleventh hour to repent of their sins and then seek to establish a personal relationship with the Heavenly Father, caution should be exercised. The mercy of Yahweh will suddenly be terminated when sinners least expect it. As the great tribulation reaches a climax, Yahweh will no longer heed the prayers of those who have delayed.

Notice this warning from the pen of the Apostle John. "And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of Yahweh, and from his power; and none was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels should be finished." (Revelation 15:8)

Can you detect the relationship expressed between these two passages of Scripture? Yahweh will turn His back on His sinful creation and will not heed their pleas for mercy. The fault is their own. They could have acted while the offer of grace was in force. Like the five foolish virgins who had neglected to fill their lamps and vessels with adequate oil, those who plead for grace while punishment is in progress will find the door to Yahweh's presence closed—permanently shut and locked.

An example of one who had adequately prepared himself to avoid the judgment of Yahweh during a time of widespread wickedness was Noah. He withstood the influence of his contemporaries, and thereby found grace in the eyes of Yahweh. He was faithful in living according to Yahweh's covenant. We are living in an era similar to the one during which Noah built the ark. There is safety in serving Yahweh. Those who are wise shall be able to find protection during the tribulation, but there is no time to lose. Soon the judgment of Yahweh will fall upon this evil, sick, worldly system.

We have seen that grace is defined as unmerited kindness, mercy, forgiveness, and pardon for sin. But, we have also observed that if someone hopes to partake of Yahweh's grace, he must bring his life into obedience to the commandments of our Heavenly Father.

No one may continue to sin so he can use grace as a covering for wickedness. The grace of Yahweh will not be turned into license to do as you please. Grace is favor bestowed upon the human creation of Yahweh through His love to pardon the sins of the past.

When someone oversteps Yahweh's commandments, he will receive pardon at His hand if he has not transgressed maliciously, premeditated, his sin. Grace is given only...