

Unless You Believed in Vain

1 Corinthians 15:1–2 (NKJV)

1. Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2. by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—**unless you believed in vain.**

- 1 Corinthians 15:8–11 (NKJV)

- 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and **His grace toward me was not in vain;** but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 11 Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

• 2 Corinthians 6:1 We then, as workers together with Him **also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.**

- **vain - vacuous and devoid of any advantage or benefit.**

- Merriam Webster - vacuous

- 1: emptied of or lacking content; 2: marked by lack of ideas or intelligence : STUPID, INANE: a vacuous mind: a vacuous movie.; 3: devoid of serious occupation : IDLE

As believers in God/ Jesus Christ as Savior we need not act as though God has not given us clear instruction. Acting according to the grace of God is acting in the knowledge of His instruction.

Titus 2:11–15 (NKJV)

11. For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12. teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13. looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14. who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. 15. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. **Let no one despise you.**

despise : Louw Nida 76.25 ἀκυρόω; περιφρονέω: to refuse to recognize the force or power of something—‘to invalidate the authority of, to reject, to disregard. ἀκυρόω: ἡκυρώσατε τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ διὰ τὴν παράδοσιν ὑμῶν ‘you have disregarded the command of God for the sake of your traditions’ Mt 15:6; ἀκυροῦντες τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ τῇ παραδόσει ὑμῶν ἢ παρεδώκατε ‘disregarding what God has said (or ‘... the command of God’) by means of your tradition which you pass on (to others)’ Mk 7:13. In both Mt 15:6 and Mk 7:13 the emphasis is upon the fact that people had regarded traditions as having greater authority than the word of God. περιφρονέω: μηδεὶς σου περιφρονεῖτω **‘let no one invalidate your authority’ Tt 2:15.**

Act, live, behave in a manner agreeable to God’s word then even if unbelievers dislike you, at least they can respect you for being true to what you profess.

In not despising/ (giving respect to) God’s word in our personal lives we bring respect to God’s word

Mark 15:6-14 (NKJV)

6. Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested.
7. And there was one named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion.
8. Then the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them.
9. But Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"
10. For he knew that the **chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.**
11. But the **chief priests stirred up the crowd**, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them.
12. Pilate answered and said to them again, "What then do you want me to do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?"
13. So they cried out again, "Crucify Him!"
14. Then Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, "Crucify Him!"

Now this tradition was not a Jewish tradition but the chief priests knew how to work it to their **advantage**

We can see here the outworking of God's grace to man in orchestrating the crucifixion of the Savior

Behold the grace of the one Man - Romans 5:15 (NKJV)

15. But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, **much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.**

Mark 7:9-13 (NKJV)

9. He said to them, "**All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.**
10. For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' 11. **But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban"—' (that is, a gift to God),**
- 12 **then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother,**
- 13 **making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."**

Psalms 14:2 (NKJV)

²The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are **any who understand**, who seek God.

any who understand: to act wisely - to act or behave in a way that demonstrates wisdom. wise behavior is to seek God

The psalmist pictures Yahweh looking down from heaven at humankind **to see if there is any person who acts wisely.** For comments on the Hebrew expression children of men, see 11:4 **Act wisely translates the same word used in 2:10. Such persons are defined in the next line as that seek after God.** For the expression seek after God, see comments on 9:10. This verse describes the wise person as the opposite of the fool: the wise person worships and serves God; the fool disregards God completely.

Psalms 2:10-11 (NKJV)

10 Now therefore, be **wise**, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11. **Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling.**

Psalms 9:10. And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken **those who seek You.**

Who seek - to try to get or reach something one desires.

Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV)

10. "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of **grace and supplication**; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

John 1:14 (NKJV)

14. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of **grace and truth.**

John 1:16-17 (NKJV)

16. And of His fullness we have all received, and **grace for grace.**

17. For the law was given through Moses, but **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**