


Understanding Means of Grace


Presented by Bob DeWaay
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The Day of Atonement

- **Leviticus 16:1, 2**

Now the Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they had approached the presence of the Lord and died. And the Lord said to Moses, "Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat."



The Key Issues: How do we come to God and how do we grow in God

- **Hebrews 7:24, 25**

but He, on the other hand, because He abides forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Key Issues

- What has God ordained?
- Do we grow in God in a completely different manner than we come to God?
- Salvation and sanctification are by grace through faith
- Faith needs an object
- Distinguishing between the cause of sanctification and its results

Means of Grace in Church History

- *ex opere operato* (Roman Catholic View)
- The Lutheran view
- The Reformed view
- The view of mystics
- Why modern Evangelicalism has no view
 - The Influence of Charles Finney
 - Pietism and Arminianism

The difference between spiritual disciplines and means of grace

- Spiritual Disciplines are discovered by men in church history
- Means of grace are revealed by God in the Bible
- Spiritual disciplines assume innate spiritual abilities that can be groomed
- Means of grace depend on God's gracious working, not human ability

Providence and Means of Grace

- God providentially uses all things for the benefit of His elect (Romans 8:28)
- God is in charge of providence, we are not
- We need to know what God has ordained and come to Him on His terms
- Mystics presume on God's providence and take matters into their own hands


What has God ordained?

- **Acts 2:41, 42**


So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Does the New Testament outside of Acts teach the same means of grace?

- The Word of God: 2Timothy 3:16, 17
- Baptism: Matthew 28:18-20
- Fellowship: Hebrews 10:25
- The Lord's Supper: 1Corinthians 11:26
- Prayer: Hebrews 4:16
- All means of grace are designed to humble us and point us to our need for God's gracious work: James 4:6

 Damages to the evangelical movement due to lack of means of grace

- Christianity became focused on motivating people to make better decisions
- Psychology was brought into Christian education
- No longer did the Word of God have a unique and necessary place
- Unbiblical practices were given a place next to what God ordained with no distinction
- In many cases, the Word of God and ordinances were fully removed from the church

 Damages to the evangelical movement due to lack of means of grace

- Pietistic groups tend to seek sanctification by higher order experiences
- Legalism abounds when human ability becomes the key theological idea
- Feeling closer to God substitutes for drawing near to God.
- Nature “eats up grace” (Schaeffer’s terminology)

