

Breaking Free

Getting off the Merit-Go-Round 

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- I The merit system. Luke 17:5-10
- The disciples expected a _____ for obedience.
 - They thought that a person could _____ God's favor.
 - Jesus could not add to what they had because it was based on _____, not faith.
- II. Our relationship to God is mercy-based and grace-empowered.
- Mercy is, by definition, _____.
 - Grace is God's _____ of Himself to us
- III. We must live according to His _____, not our _____.
- Gal. 3:3-5
- Faith does not _____, it trusts!
 - God does not _____ us anything.
- IV. We can never obligate God. He has obligated Himself.
- Hebrews 6:13-16
- We can never _____, but we can _____.
 - We can never _____, but we do _____.

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Religious Standard Are Not Enough, or Beyond Morality

- I Jesus exposed a way of thinking about blessing and righteousness based upon merit. Matt. 5:3-12, 20
- A. The Pharisees judged according to the _____.
- Matt. 23
- B. Jesus made provision for a change of _____.
- John 3:3
- II. The wrong Assumption. John 8
- A. The Pharisees saw two categories of people: the _____ and the _____.
- B. *Jesus also saw two categories: those who _____ their guilt and those who _____ it.*
- III. But is mercy and forgiveness fair? Rom. 9:22-23
- A. God's mercy is based upon _____, not heritage or performance or social group.
- B. Mercy knows no _____. The promise cannot be _____ or deserved.
- C. God has made provision for mercy.
- IV. Mercy must be _____. Luke 13:3
- Repentance is simply a description of what going back to God is like. C.S. Lewis