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Greetings today to those who will rule the world of tomorrow-the Metachoi,

The Free Grace Movement continues to impact the world. Be encouraged. The increase of Free Grace blogs, websites and communications by both leaders and laity reveal that the message is getting out. Also, the fact that many in the Reformed movement are speaking about and against Free Grace is evidence that we must be over the target, since we are clearly taking flak.

As many of you know the Southern Baptist Association is made up of millions of Christians and many of them hold to what they call Traditionalist Soteriology. We call it Free Grace. The growth of Calvinism inside the SBA has been meteoric over the past 30 years. However, there are many in both Southern Baptist seminaries and colleges who still believe in and teach Free Grace Theology. Perhaps the tip of the spear inside the SBA is Dr. David Allen, Dean of the School of Preaching and former Dean of the School of Theology at Southwestern Baptist Seminary. David is an incredibly gifted orator and writer as well as a Free Grace theologian. His latest book is titled *The Extent of the Atonement* (B&H Pub.) This is a tour de force on the subject. But it is his commentary on the book of *Hebrews* in the American Commentary Series that is the best recent commentary on *Hebrews* to articulate a Free Grace view. I use it in seminary for my course on *Hebrews*. Also, Dr. Leighton Flowers serves inside the SBA as an Apologist and provides the website "Soteriology 101." His books and resources on Traditionalist Soteriology or Free Grace Theology are very helpful.

The Lord has also allowed tremendous growth at Grace School of Theology. The seminary has added new degree programs, experienced increased enrollment to 550 students, and maintains a powerful commitment to Free Grace Theology. The school has also increased its impact through other academic and ministry institutions.

- Grace Center for Spiritual Development under the leadership of Mark Rae provides theological resources for laymen that include devotional studies, booklets, podcasts with interviews of leaders in the ministry world, and courses for pastors and elders who are unable to go to seminary but desire the theological training.
- Grace Theology Press continues to provide theological resources to respond to the challenge of Reformed Theology and provide biblical resources to train the church. Let me mention some essential resources:

1. *Salvation Grace and Discipleship* by Dr. Charlie Bing is a fantastic book to clarify the interpretive options to many New Testament texts.

2. Dr. Dave Anderson presents a cogent understanding of Free Grace Theology in his book, *Free Grace Soteriology-Third Edition*.

3. For those who desire a clear and comprehensive response to Reformed Theology arguments, especially those of Wayne Grudem, see *A Defense of Free Grace Theology*.

4. Let me also make you aware of the latest book that should be out by September, *How Does God Draw People to Believe in Jesus* by Dr. Bob Kerrey. This is an excellent book that provides a biblical analysis of the New Testament regarding Faith Preceding Regeneration. You need to get this book!

### **Denominational News**

The Evangelical Free Church of America has just held a special meeting of its church delegates, the culmination of a strategy in place for over 5 years, to try to allow the denomination to change its doctrinal statement by removing the terminology "Premillennial Return of Christ" and replacing it with the "Glorious Return of Christ." I'm sure you see the hermeneutical and eschatological implications. I am reminded of what G.K. Chesterton said; "Whenever you take down a fence you should always ask, what did the fence keep out?"

**The Free Grace Alliance National Conference** will be held in Woodlands, Texas (suburb of Houston) October. 14-16. I encourage you to go to the conference. Many of the writers and leaders of the Free Grace Movement will be speaking and leading this conference. It is a great time to get to know people who share our theology and to retool for ministry effectiveness - not to mention have a good time!

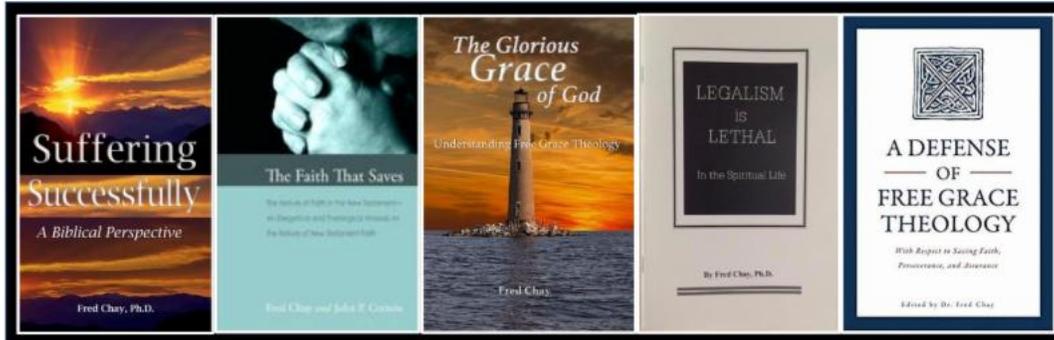
One final observation. I am mindful that the Free Grace Movement is coming of age. That means the movement is getting older. That means many of our leaders are getting older. That means we must make sure that we make it a distinct focus to practice 2 Timothy 2:2 so that we are preparing the next generation of leaders to lead with a strong foundation in Free Grace Theology. I hope you are discipling with that intent.

Jesus has not changed the Great Commission and the Apostle Paul has not changed his strategy. Both are strategies for us to imitate today in light of tomorrow.

Serving Him with you  
Until He comes for us,

Fred

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