



Nutshell Summary: God's Grace System, 1 Cor 2:4-14; Commandment to Renovate Your Soul, Rom 12:1-2; Wheel-tracks, Heb 12:13

All of the concepts in Colossians 1:3-12 are made possible by a grace system of perception described in:

I Corinthians 2:4 - My [Paul's] message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power.

v. 5 - Your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the sphere of the power of God.

v. 6 - However, when among mature believers, we keep on teaching wisdom but a wisdom that does not belong to this age nor to the leaders of this world who are becoming ineffective;

v. 7 - but we communicate wisdom from God in a mystery which mystery doctrine has been concealed and which God predesigned before the ages resulting in our glory.

v. 8 - None of the rulers of *cosmos diabolicus* understood it for if they had known it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

v. 9 - as it stands written, "Things which the eye has not seen and the ear has not heard [**empiricism**] and also doctrines which have not entered into the minds of men [**rationalism**] are those things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

v. 10 - But to us [**believers filled with the Holy Spirit**] God has revealed them through the Holy Spirit. The human spirit investigates all things, even the deep things of God.

v. 11 - For what man understands the things of man except man's spirit within him? Even so, the things of God no one has known except the Holy Spirit.

v. 12 - But we have not received the world's spirit [**human viewpoint**] but the human spirit from the source of God in order that we might have a permanent knowledge of things that have been graciously given to us by God.

v. 13 - Such divine wisdom we teach, not by teaching from the source of human wisdom but by teaching from the source of the Holy Spirit, bringing together spiritual things to a spiritual system.

I Corinthians 2:14 - The soulish man [**unbeliever with a soul but no human spirit**] does not accept the things from the Holy Spirit for to him they are foolishness and he is not able to even acquire academic understanding because they are spiritually discerned.

This passage documents a grace system by which the believer learns the Bible and retains its principles in his soul for application to life and circumstances.

The real teacher is the Holy Spirit who instructs the believer's human spirit, making supernatural information understandable for his volitional consideration.

It is through this system that the Holy Spirit is able to teach the positive volition believer the details about the will of God for his life. This results in the renovation of the soul. Behaviors that are typical of the person's life as an unbeliever are slowly removed while those that define the Christian way of life are added and strengthened.



Romans 12:1 - I urge you therefore fellow believers by grace blessings from the justice of God that you place your bodies under orders as a living, holy sacrifice. This is well-pleasing to our Lord—your rational and spiritual worship.

v. 2 - Also stop being molded to this age but be transformed by the renovation of your thought, in order that you may prove what the will of God is, namely the good, the well-pleasing, and the complete.

As this renovation proceeds in the soul, the Holy Spirit also stores information in the brain which serves as the hard disk for the soul. Commands to reject old behavior patterns, character traits, and lifestyles and to replace them with new ones are found throughout Scripture. A key passage on this is:

Hebrews 12:13 - Be making straight paths [τροχία, *trochia*: **behavior patterns, character traits, and lifestyle based on biblical principles acquired through the three spiritual skills with emphasis on GAP**] by means of your feet in order that the crippled one [**the believer who is out of fellowship**] might not again be dislocated [**by involvement in sin, human good, & evil**] but rather let it [**the listless and disabled soul**] be healed and restored.

In the transformation and renovation process volition begins to reject old behavior patterns, character traits, and lifestyle choices and begins to respond to the divine set of standards which are revealed through Bible study.

During this process the believer can know what the right thing is but not be able to do it under pressure. This is because the behavior patterns developed as an unbeliever, or during a period of prolonged carnality as a believer, are presently the paths of least resistance.

Until he learns to counter these with what God's Word commands he will continue to do the wrong thing even though he is aware of the right thing. He is a weak believer not a strong one. Paul follows up on his dissertation about GAP in 1 Corinthians 2 with these comments which introduce chapter 3:

1 Corinthians 3:1 - And I [**Paul**], fellow believers, could not speak to you as spiritual [**filled with the Holy Spirit**], but carnal [**under the power of the sinful nature**], even as babies [νήπιος, *nēpios*] in Christ.

v. 2 - I have fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not able to take it in and you are not yet able to bear it now.

v. 3 - For you are still carnal!