



PARTNERS IN GRACE

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2024

THE GREAT JAMES 2 DEBATE

BOB WILKIN MODERATED BY DONNY BUDINSKY SEAN GRIFFIN

HOSTED BY STANDING FOR TRUTH MINISTRIES

Debating the Gospel Online

APRIL 17

I (Bob) debated Sean Griffin on the Standing for Truth online platform. Donny Budinsky was the moderator.

It was challenging to debate Sean because he was hard to follow, went over-time on his answers, and held very odd views.

I asked him about the past tense in James 1:18, "He brought us forth by the word of truth." "Is that talking about being born again in the past?" He said, "No." When I asked when the readers were born again, he said it was

proleptic, meaning that they would be born again if they persevered in obedience to God's commandments until death.

"Does any living person have everlasting life?" "No. It is future."

He said John 3:16 means, "He who keeps until death the Father's commandment will have everlasting life."

I hope the debate helped many understand the promise of everlasting life and the concept of eternal rewards. I was surprised that over 6,000 people viewed the debate in the first six days on Donny and Sean's YouTube channels. We posted the first of three parts on the GES YouTube channel on April 24, and it received over 700 views in

the first 24 hours. Parts 2 & 3 will be posted on May 1 and May 8.

New Books for Conference

The first three weeks in April were spent editing and proofing three books: a combined commentary of 1-2 Peter and Jude by Zane Hodges, a John Bible study book by me (Bob), and a John teacher's guide.

It looks like all three books may be in print for the conference.

GES Regional in Portland, OR

PORTLAND, OR
APRIL 5-6



Portland Regional Conferees

First Baptist Church of Portland is located in a beautiful and historical building in the downtown area. Matt Toupin is the pastor.

The conference was on “Jesus Christ, the Righteous Rewarder.” Dave Jansen, Kathryn Wright, and Ken Yates



Portland Regional - David, Ken, and Kathryn with Steve and Trudi Bils, Anthony Young, Sam Raj, and Matt Toupin

spoke. They concentrated on passages dealing with the rewards faithful believers will receive at the Judgment Seat of Christ when He returns. Each session had time for questions and answers.

On Sunday, Ken spoke on the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-12) at the main service of FBC Portland. He

explained what the passage had to say about the free offer of eternal life and the issue of rewards for obedience.

Thank you, Matt and FBC Portland, for hosting the conference, and thank you to Steve and Trudi Bils for hosting Ken and Kathryn in their home. We hope to have another Portland conference if the Lord delays His coming.

Irving Marathon

MARCH 30

I (Bob) had two goals: 1) finish and 2) finish in under six hours. I finished! Goal one was achieved. I missed six hours, finishing in 6:04:57. Goal two was nearly achieved. But that was good enough for second place in the Geezer Men (70+) division. This was my eleventh marathon.



Irving Marathon
2024 Finisher Medal



Bob at the start of the March 30, 2024 Irving Marathon

Notes and Letters

Hey just a shout-out I’m listening here in Denver, AM 670 at 0645 MDT. I like the content and free grace is something I have wrestled with relentlessly over the years. I would estimate 90%+ of the teachers teach Jesus + works. They won’t do it explicitly but very implicitly. There is a term I hear over and over: “true Christian.” What on earth does that mean?

—Tim, email

I just wanted to say great job on the debate (4/17)! Your entire focus was not on “winning” the debate but rather on spreading the word to Sean Griffin and all listening that eternal life is gotten by believing in Jesus for it. That was so awesome!

—Todd, email

I listen to Grace in Focus on KKIM in Albuquerque every Monday thru Friday! And I’m looking forward to hearing about how Catholicism is a works-based religion. Please do tell. My parents’ home is full of statues. They pray in vain repetition and worship Mary. I enjoy your program.

—MP, email

Bayside Community Church

TAMPA, FL
APRIL 20 THUNDERSTORMS

I (Bob) was scheduled to speak on “The Three Essential Words in Evangelism” (Jesus, believe, life) in the first hour and “Paul’s Last Words: Finish the Race! (2 Tim 4:6-10). But we had thunderstorms in Dallas all day. My 10 AM

flight was cancelled. I was moved to the 1 PM flight. It was eventually canceled. I got a reservation on the last flight, 6:35 PM. It, too, was canceled. I went home at 7 PM, tired and frustrated.