

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

Allow me to tell you about Dr. Kenneth Ulmer. He and his wife are great friends of our family. For years, Kenny's been a mentor and like a second father to our son Bryan. When Bryan graduated from seminary, Kenny and his wife gave him a wonderful dinner party. Well, I pulled Kenny aside and tried to slip him a check to help pay for the party. But he smiled, put his arm around me, and said, “Crawford, I'm going to tear this check up,” which he proceeded to do. He said, “Bryan is like our son. We love him. We just wanted to do this for him.”

There are times when it's an insult to the giver to try to pay for the gift. I'll say that again. There are times when it is an insult to the giver to try to pay for the gift. You know, that's the way it is with our salvation.

The Apostle Paul gives us a tremendous insight on our inability to pay God back. Listen to Galatians chapter 5, verse 4. “You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law. You have fallen from grace.”

He says, “You're making it your intention to earn yourself this right standing before God, to say that you're worthy of this wonderful gift He's given you.”

Secondly, Paul says, “You've fallen from grace.” To fall from grace technically doesn't mean just that we have sinned (although that's terrible), but to fall from grace means that we work for the free gift. That's a fall from grace. There's nothing you can do to pay God back.

Here's what I want you to remember today. Don't clutter and complicate grace with a checklist of do's and don'ts. We don't have enough resources to pay God back. Just say, “thank you” and enjoy the gift.