

The Grace of Godliness - Part 2

THE GIFT OF GRACE Romans 5:1-21

STIMULATE

** As we concluded Part 1 in our series last week, we heard Paul's "Confession of Grace" and learned three guidelines from the apostle which would bring us closer to a godly walk with Christ. Do you recall what they were? (cf. 1Cor. 15:10)

- 1) By God's grace I am what I am.
- 2) His grace is not in vain, if I will labor.
- 3) When I labor (even harder than others) it is not I, but the grace of God with me.

MOTIVATE

** To help us gain a deeper appreciation for that wonderful truth, we are now going to move into Part 2 of "The Grace of Godliness". I would like for us to be able to answer three questions by the time we are finished. 1) From where do our daily victories come? 2) How is it that we can grow through adversity in our life? 3) What is the gift that God has given us which will never fail us or leave us without hope? Please join me in Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter five as we learn the answers and see "The Gift of Grace" .

Read passage (V.1-7) (V.8-14) (V.15-21)

Opening Prayer

The Gift of Grace

INVESTIGATE

Although this is one of the larger portions of the Word of God that we will attempt to study, I am confident that we will be able to gain a great insight into its powerful truth.

V. 1 ** What has Paul just finished proving to his Roman readers?

That we are "justified" before a Holy God by faith!
cf. Romans 3:21-24, 4:1-5, 22.

** What does this one-time decree of God produce in the life of the sinner?

"...peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.."

V. 2 ** To what did the work of Christ "introduce" us?

The word used here for introduction is [prosagoge] lit. "bringing to" or access, Jesus gave us access into "...this grace in which we stand..."

** Having acquired this wonderful access, what is to be our response?

"...we exult in hope of the glory of God".

Here-in lies the answer to **our first question** for today. Our daily victories in this life come from the fact that our hope is not in the people or events of this life, but rather our hope is in the glory of God! All see - Colossians 3:1-4

V. 3 ** Is that all that we "exult" or rejoice in, according to verses 3?

No, we also rejoice in our tribulations. cf. James 1:2

** Why, what do our tribulations "bring about"? (verses 3-5)

- 1) perseverance - Romans 2:5-8
- 2) proven character - Philippians 2:19-22 (Timothy)
- 3) "Biblical" hope - Proverbs 3:5-6
- 4) absence of disappointment - Romans 9:33 & 10:11

V. 5 ** Why does all this happen? What guarantee do we have, within us, that we can trust this whole process?

"...through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

This provides the answer to **our second question** for today. How is it that we can grow through adversity in our life? By trusting the love of God and His Holy Spirit who was given to us as a down payment for all the wonderful inheritance which is ours in Christ Jesus. (cf. Ephesians 1:13-14)

The answer to our third and final question comes from the remaining sixteen verses of this chapter. As we pour over its truth, may the Lord bless us with a clear understanding of what He has to say about "The Gift of Grace".

V. 6 - 8

** What three terms does Paul use in these verses to describe our condition when Jesus Christ died for us?

(V. 6) "helpless" & "ungodly" (V. 8) "sinners"

** Would it be a common thing for someone to die for (or in the place of) even a "good" man?

V. 7 No, "...one will hardly die for a righteous man..." and "...perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. All of these words describe a rare occurrence at best, not the norm.

V. 8 ** We said in answering our second question of this study, that we needed to trust the love of God. How was that love demonstrated to mankind?

By Christ dying for us while we were still sinners, He put on display the only kind of love that you can trust, the love of God!

V. 9 ** Since we accept the fact that we have been justified before God by faith, what is our future like?

"...we are saved from the wrath of God..."

** Did you notice how expensive our justification was?

We were justified "by His blood". cf. 1 Peter 1:18-19

Romans 6:23, Hebrews 9:22 "...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness..."

V.10 ** How would you describe our relationship to God prior to our reconciliation, which was provided through the death of His Son?

We were His enemies!

** So, if the death of Christ reconciled us to God, what will the resurrected life of Christ do?

Keep us eternally saved! cf. John 14:19

V.11 ** Our experience with God will continue for all eternity and go beyond merely being saved, what is to be the nature of our saved relationship with God?

We "exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ".

cf. Psalm 34:3 "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together." We are to be people preoccupied with truly praising the Lord.

V.12 ** For us to truly appreciate "The Gift of Grace", we need to understand where everything went wrong in the first place. How did sin enter the world?

Through one man, Adam. He sinned, death came through sin and spread to all men. Therefore all are sinners and all will die.

V.13 ** Which came first, sin or the Law?

Sin (and death) were in the world from Adam's sin up "until the Law".

** So during the time from Adam to Moses (when the Law was given), was sin imputed (or attributed) to all men because they had not kept the Law?

No, because there was no law to keep.

V.14 ** Does that mean that men living during that period of time escaped the "death" consequences of sin.

No, there was no Law of God, but men were still subject to death's reign because they were sinners by nature. cf. Romans 6:23

** Did someone have to sin in the likeness of Adam's offense, in order for death to reign over them?

No, in fact they could not sin like Adam had, only He and Eve were in the garden and given the command to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. cf. Genesis 2:16-17

** With the introduction of Adam by name in this verse, Paul also describes the prophetic purpose of Adam's sinful life, what was it?

He was to be "a type of Him who was to come".

** What does that mean?

The next five verses answer that question.

V.15 ** While Adam was a type of Christ, in that there are parallels that can be drawn from their respective impacts upon the world, Paul wants us to learn the differences between them. What is the first one noted by Paul?

The transgression of Adam caused all men to die.
The "gift" by the grace of Christ abounded to many.

cf. 1John 3:8b "The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil." Grace was mightier than sin and death!

V.16 ** What is the next difference between these two types?

Judgment arose from one sin, causing condemnation. But, the free gift (of grace) arose from everyone's lifetime of endless sins, and resulted in our justification!

V.17 ** Paul now gives us the third difference between Adam and Christ, what is it?

Adam's one sin put death reigning over man. "Much more" did Christ accomplish by causing us to reign in life with Him over sin. cf. Romans 6:17-18

** We cannot leave this verse without noticing the very reason for studying this chapter. Did anyone see what "The Gift of Grace" is?

It is the gift of "**righteousness**". When God looks at us who have believed on Jesus Christ, He sees the perfect righteousness of our Lord instead of our sin.

V.18 - 19

** Difference number four has to do with the essence of mankind, based upon who it is that impacts their life. In verse 18, Paul summarizes the point he has been making about Adam effecting the world and Jesus also effecting the world - read verse.

But looking at verse 19, what word is used to show us that the very essence of man was changed by the impact of Adam and can be changed by Jesus?

"...many were **made** sinners..." through Adam
"...many will be **made** righteous..." through Jesus
"**kathistemi**" constituting cf. 2Corinthians 5:21

V.20 ** Our situation, as the human race, was very bleak before the Law was given, how did it change once we received God's Law through Moses?

It got worse! "...the Law came in that the transgression might increase..."

** When sin increased, what did God do?

He had His grace "abound all the more"!

V.21 ** We know that sin reigns in death, but what will be the future for those who receive "The Gift of Grace" from Jesus Christ our Lord?

"...even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life..."

** Now if the gift of grace is the gift of the righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to us, how long will that righteousness last?

All the way "to eternal life".

Let's answer **our third question** for today, "What is the gift that God has given us which will never fail us or leave us without hope?"

The gift of righteousness, providing eternal life!

EXTRICATE

** If we are going to experience victory in our daily walk, where must we fix our hope?

Upon the glory of God. cf. 1Peter 1:13 "Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

DELINEATE

** What process causes us to grow as Christians?

- 1) Tribulations
- 2) Perseverance
- 3) Proven Character
- 4) "Biblical" Hope
- 5) The Absence of Disappointment

EVALUATE

** How do you feel about "The Gift of Grace"? Are you thankful for the exchange that took place at the cross of Calvary? Do you live in obedience to the Word of God as an expression of your love for Jesus Christ who took upon Himself your sin and gave you His righteousness?

ACTIVATE

** Let me invite you now to go before the Lord in a time of silent prayer, as you thank Him for delivering you from the wrath to come through the gift of His righteousness. Tell Him of your desire to bring Him glory through your daily obedience in all that you do.

Closing prayer