

## Grace and Truth of salvation Romans 5

**Introduction:** Last week we looked at John's snapshot of the glory of Christ: filled with grace and truth. And we saw that when Jesus spoke with unbelievers, he not only gave them the truth about himself, he also showed them the truth about their own self. And though they didn't deserve it, he invited them to himself because of his great grace.

Tonight we are going to look at Romans 5 and the grace and truth made visible in salvation. I thought about making the title "the grace and truth in justification" but there are a couple of parts of Paul's discussion that leaves the door open for the other aspects of salvation, so I left the title as is.

We haven't really defined our words yet...and I won't really completely define them tonight other than to point out the following:

- there are at least 2 ways in which the Bible uses the word grace
  1. To speak of undeserved or unearned favor (sometimes including the idea of a gift)
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    - There are lots of gifts that God gives.
    - Some gifts he gives to all humans ("common grace" – **Matthew 5:45** "For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.")
    - Some gifts are given to individuals - **Romans 3:23-24** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus"
    - Some gifts are given to the church – **Ephesians 4:11-12** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds [or pastors] and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ
  2. To speak of power or ability for Christian living – **2 Cor 9:8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency<sup>[a]</sup> in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.
- What about truth? Jesus said to the Father, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (**John 17:17**)
  - God gets to set the standard for what is truth and his word meets that standard.

## Romans 1

- V. 5 – Paul said that through Christ they have received grace to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of Christ’s name among all the nations
- V. 6 – including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ
- But not all are called. V. 18 – the wrath of God is revealed against the unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth by their unrighteousness (and v. 25 says that they exchanged the truth about God for a lie). They know the truth about God (vv. 19ff), but they don’t like being confronted about the truth regarding themselves (18 their unrighteousness earned them the wrath of God). This leads them to hate God (v. 30)

## Romans 2

- V. 4 Don’t you know that the riches of God’s kindness and forbearance and patience is meant to lead you to repentance
- V. 13 It is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified
  - o Though we know that no one but Jesus has perfectly obeyed the mosaic law

## Romans 3

- 10 None is righteous
- 11 No one seeks for God
- 13 They use their tongues to deceive
- 20 none of us can be justified by the law (instead we are shown to be sinners)
- Paul then builds the argument that all who are justified were sinners first who couldn’t earn righteousness, but that justification was gifted to them by grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus.
  - o **Definition of justification:** an act of God by which he judicially declares a sinner to be perfectly righteous and forever treats him as such (Rom 4:3; 5:1, 9)

## Romans 4

- 1-2 What did Abraham earn by his works? And what can he “boast” about?
- 3 Scripture says that he believed God (he had faith) and that was counted to him as righteousness
- 4 If someone works to earn something then it is his rightful wage, not a gift
- 5 If someone doesn’t earn righteousness but receives it through faith, that is a gift.

## Romans 5

- In this chapter, Paul is going to state several truths (I count 8) as well as several results of grace (I count 8). There is some repetition and some overlap—several of the truth statements demonstrate grace and all of the grace statements are truth.
- **TRUTH 1 (v. 1):** (a summary of the argument up to this point) “We have been justified by faith”
- **Grace Result 1:** (V. 1) We have peace with God; (v. 9) we have been saved from the wrath of God
- **Grace Result 2:** (V. 2) We have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. It isn't a temporary salvation, but an eternal salvation. We are able to have confidence that we will not lose our standing before God because we continue to stand in his presence by the grace of Christ.
- **Grace Result 3:** (V. 2) We rejoice/boast\* in hope of the glory of God
  - \* (this is the verb form of the noun in 4:2. The verb also is seen in verses 3 and 11)
  - The last aspect or consummation of our salvation is glorification. When we see Christ face to face we will be made like him to share in his glory. This is when God frees believers eternally from the presence of sin (1 Thess 3:13; Jude 24). Though we presently await this consummation, it is certain in the mind of God (Rom 8:30) and therefore our hope should be certain.
- **Grace Result 4:** (V. 3-5) We rejoice/boast in our sufferings. Why? Because that produces endurance which produces character which produces hope which does not put us to shame.
- **Grace Result 5:** (V. 5) God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been gifted to us.
  - This is that second use of grace—power or ability for Christian living. This gives us the ability to love others—our family in Christ and also those who make us their enemies.
- **TRUTH 2 (v. 6-8):** While we were still weak/sinners/[dead in trespasses and sins], Christ died for the ungodly
- **TRUTH 3 (v. 9):** We have been justified by his blood
- **Grace Result 1 restated and expanded:** (V. 9) Much more\* we shall be saved by him from the wrath of God
  - \* Much more – MacArthur: indicates that what follows is even more overwhelming and significant than what preceded.
    - Much more - 5:9, 10, 15, 17
    - More than that – 5:11
    - All the more – 5:20
  - We are saved from being in hostility to God and having his hostility hanging over us to peace (v. 1)
- **TRUTH 4 (v. 10):** While we were enemies of God, he reconciled us to himself by the death of Christ.

- **Grace Result 6:** (V. 10) Much more\* we shall be saved by his life
  - o Resurrection and intercession
- **Grace Result 7:** (V. 11) More than that\* we rejoice/boast in God through Christ through whom we have now received (been gifted) reconciliation.

Paul uses several (maybe 6) comparisons between Adam (Type) and Christ (Anti-type)

- **TRUTH 5 (v. 12ff):** Sin and death came through Adam and spread to all even before the giving of the law
- **TRUTH 6 (v. 15):** The free gift is not like the trespass
  - o Grace of God was more abundant than the sin (consider the many aspects of salvation: Election, call of God, regeneration, granting repentance, etc.)
  - o NAC: “God’s grace is infinitely greater for good than Adam’s sin is for evil”
- **TRUTH 7 (v. 16-19):** The free gift is not like the result of Adam’s sin
  - o **(16) A)** One trespass vs. many trespasses
  - o **(16) B)** The one brought condemnation, but the other brought justification
  - o **(17) C)** Death reigned because of 1 trespass, much more will those receive through Christ
    - The abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness lead to believers reigning in life.
  - o This is restated in verses 18 and 19
- **TRUTH 8 (v. 20):** The law came in to increase the trespass
  - o **Remember:** TRUTH 5 (v. 12ff): Sin and death came through Adam and spread to all even before the giving of the law
- **Grace Result 8:** (V. 20-21) where sin increased, grace abounded all the more\*
  - o So that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Conclusion:** When Paul tells the Ephesians (1:7-8) “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to **the riches of his grace**, which he **lavished upon us...**” we should recognize that it is more than we realize and his grace in salvation continues to be lavished upon us so that we can stand in the presence of God as righteous.