**Grace Abounded Much More**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 5:15-21**

**Wednesday Evening**

**May 29, 2024**

**Romans 5:15-21**

15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.

17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.**

Saints, God’s generous gift of forgiveness through Christ (justification) has a greater but opposite effect than the trespass of Adam and its consequences.

Yet in each case, the act of one affected the lives of many. Because of Adam’s sin, death entered the human race, and since then all people have died (with the Bible’s exceptions of Enoch and Elijah).

**Acts 15:11**

“But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."

All people will die until the end of this age. Because of Jesus Christ, however, we can trade judgment for forgiveness.

**Hebrews 9:27**

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment”…

We can trade our sin for Jesus’ goodness. Jesus offers us the opportunity to be born into his spiritual family—the family line that begins with forgiveness and leads to eternal life.

**John 3:1-9**

1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

If we do nothing, we have death through Adam; but if we come to God by faith, we have life through Christ.

**16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.**

Saints, God passed judgment on Adam’s one sin of disobedience.

As a result, Adam and the entire human race received condemnation.

**Romans 8:1-3**

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

Saints, everyone since Adam has sinned, and yet Christ overcame those many trespasses and brought righteousness to those who accept him, even though they are guilty of many sins.

The result of sin is death; the gift of God—his justifying sinners—results in reigning forever with Christ.

**17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)**

Saints, by capitulating to sin, Adam caused death to rule over the whole human race. Death is inescapable; it comes to every living thing.

We all live close to the valley of the shadow of death. And the reign of death over creation began because of Adam’s sin.

However, there is a remedy. Those who receive God’s wonderful, gracious gift of righteousness will live in triumph over sin and death.

What a promise this is to those who love Christ! We can reign over sin’s power, over death’s threats, and over Satan’s attacks.

Eternal life is ours now and forever. Though this promise has its greatest fulfillment in the future, it also has a significant immediate impact.

In Christ, death loses its sting.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Saints, we are still subject to the physical suffering and death brought by sin in the world, but we are free from the eternal spiritual separation that we would experience outside of Christ.

Also, in the power and protection of Jesus Christ, we can overcome temptation.

**Romans 8:17**

“and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together”

**18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.**

Saints, the same statement is made in different words in these two verses. Paul emphasizes the contrasting roles of two single agents, Adam and Christ.

**Isaiah 53:11**

He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

Adam’s one sin brought condemnation on the human race; this one person disobeyed God causing all people to become sinners.

**19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.**

Saints, but Christ’s one act of righteousness, done because he obeyed God, opened the way for all people to be made right in God’s sight and given eternal life.

**Philippians 2:8**

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross.

**20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,**

Saints, this statement is certainly not what Paul’s Jewish readers expected to hear.

The law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. Paul is winding up the argument he has been carrying on through the first five chapters of his letter.

The purpose of the law for his own people, the Jews, had been to make them aware of their need for salvation.

Sin was present from Adam, but the giving of the law was like having a huge spotlight turned on—the sinfulness of people became all the more defined.

**2 Corinthians 3:7**

Now if the ministry of death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at the face of Moses because of its fleeting glory,

**Galatians 3:19**

Why then was the law given? It was added because of transgressions, until the arrival of the seed to whom the promise referred. It was administered through angels by a mediator.

**1 Timothy 1:14**

And the grace of our Lord overflowed to me, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Saints, the solution to sin was not law, but grace. No matter how much people sin, God’s wonderful kindness is greater.

When our awareness of sin increases, we need to ask God to help us see that his grace is always greater in its capacity to forgive than our capacity to sin.

**21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Saints, our age is characterized by sin and inevitable death; but the age to come will be characterized by grace, righteousness, and eternal life.

It is common to call the ultimate struggle that is going on in the universe “the conflict between good and evil.”

Paul was picturing here the outcome of the war between the Kingdom of grace and the kingdom of sin.

Until Christ, the war appeared to be decided, because sin ruled over all people.

But Christ’s death and resurrection provided the decisive victory by which God’s wonderful kindness rules. Under the reign of grace, a right standing is declared that will bring eternal life.

This ends the first section of Paul’s letter and his explanation of the law and its relation to salvation.

But the law is not set aside as old and worthless. Paul will explain, in coming chapters, the role of the law for believers.

**Matthew 25:46**

And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

**John 1:14**

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 1:17**

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

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53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**