

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Application of Grace: Our Reasonable Service
Romans 12:1-3

Thus far in the Epistle to the Romans, inspired words of God regarding His Gospel of Grace:

The Gospel (Rom 1:16-17)

The power of God unto salvation from sin and eternal death
The righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith

God's Justice (Rom 1:18 – 3:21)

The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and
unrighteousness (sin...ultimately unbelief) of man-kind for a wrong-being
and all wrong-doing worthy of death

Man-kind's need for God's Grace

Jews and Gentiles

The Law stops all mouths and declares the whole world guilty
before God

By the Law is the knowledge of sin

There is none who are righteous, no not one

There is no difference – all have sinned and come short of the glory of
God

The righteousness of God is by faith of Christ (Rom 3:22 – 4:25)

Unto all who believe

All who believe are justified freely by God's grace thru faith in the redemption
and righteousness that is in Christ Jesus, the Father's sin Sacrifice and our
Substitute

Example: Abraham (pre-Law)

Believed God and it was accounted unto him as righteousness

Example: David (post-Law)

Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven and whose sins are covered
Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin

The Gospel of Grace...Eph 2:8-9

Amazing Grace! (Rom 5:1-21)

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God thru our Lord Jesus Christ
God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ
died for us

By one man (Adam) sin, death, judgment, and condemnation entered the world

By one man (Jesus) is God's gift of grace

Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound

How then shall we live? (Rom 6:1 – 7:24)

In the newness of Life that is in Christ Jesus
Freed from sin and dead to sin, alive to God thru Jesus Christ our Lord
As servants of righteousness, servants to God bearing fruit unto holiness
Serving in the newness of spirit and not in the oldness of the letter

The Law is holy and spiritual, but I am carnal and sold under sin...
so often I do what I know is wrong and do not do what I know is right
O wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from the body of this death?

Thank God thru Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom 7:25 – 8:39)

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus
who live (albeit imperfectly) not after the flesh but after the spirit
If Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin but the Spirit is Life because
of righteousness
Receiving (by faith) the Spirit of adoption, we are the children of God...
heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ
If/Since God be for us, who can be against us?
We are more than conquerors (over death) thru Him that loved us
We can never be separated from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our
Lord

National Israel in God's Plan of Redemption (Rom 9:1 – 11:36)

They are not all Israel which are of Israel (Jacob)
The children of the flesh (those who disbelieve God) are not the children of God
(those who believe God)
A remnant shall be saved...by the righteousness which is of faith
They (the disbelieving multitude) have a zeal of God but not according to
knowledge, being ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to
establish their own righteousness (Is 64:6) and not submitting to the
righteousness of God (Jesus Christ, Who is the end/completion/fulfillment
of the Law for righteousness to every one that believes)
Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (by grace thru faith)
God has NOT cast away His people, whom He foreknew
There remains a remnant according to the election of grace
If they (the disbelieving multitude) abide not still in unbelief, they shall be grafted
into the natural olive tree
Blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in
All Israel shall be saved
The gifts and calling of God are without repentance...are irrevocable!

If God's promises to AI&J (national Israel) are not good, neither are His promises
to us
If one promise of God fails, they are all subject to failure
If one promise of God is empty...words without substance...every promise of
God is empty

If God's promises are not 100% true, He cannot be trusted
Trust would be destroyed, relationship would be impossible
If God's promises are not 100% true, Rom 1-8...God's grace...is not true

But God is always faithful and absolutely trustworthy...His grace is REAL!!!!

So the Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, has spent 11 fairly intense chapters establishing the case for the grace of God

This time...we begin the "application of grace" in our lives (Rom 12-14)
What is "grace", whereby we are saved from destruction unto eternal life?
Grace covers wrongs with love and forgiveness
Grace is a gift from the offended to the offender

Grace is part of God's nature...not our sinful nature
Having received God's grace by faith, we are to live accordingly...
being as gracious with others that have offended us
as God has been gracious to us that have offended Him

John 3:30
Matt 16:24
2 Peter 3:18

This morning, Rom 12:1-3

v1 I beseech you, therefore, brethren:
I beseech you...implore you, beg you
therefore...since the grace of God is REAL!!!
brethren...the children of God

by...because of

the mercies of God...overwhelming pity/compassion rooted in God's love (His nature),
a manifestation of which is His grace

Our God is the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort
Our God forgives our sins and heals our diseases (spiritual and physical)
He has redeemed/ransomed our lives from destruction
He showers us with lovingkindness and tender mercies
God has not responded in kind to our offenses against Him
His mercy is higher than the heavens above the earth and from everlasting to
everlasting...eternal
He has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west...Gone!!
He has overwhelming compassion for those who love Him

As children of God with the heart of God the Father...we are to

present your bodies...this vessel we inhabit

Gal 2:20-21a I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God.

1 Cor 6:19-20 know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

a living sacrifice...living a sacrificial life before God and man...Self-last, Self-less

A sacrifice is an offering...a thankful love offering

Our lives are to be a thankful love offering, meaning

a. Our relationships are orderly

- Priorities:

1. The Lord our Redeemer, Savior, God
2. All others
3. Self

- Governed by the mind of Christ

Phil 2:3-8

Matt 20:27-28 *And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

Matt 16:24

Ps 119:9-16

b. Our lives are

- holy

- sanctified and consecrated unto the Lord
- separate from the darkness, wickedness, filth, and unrighteousness of this world...Christ-like
- pure

- acceptable unto God

- well-pleasing
Matt 3:17 and Matt 17:5 with Heb 11:6
- reconciled unto Him, forgiven by His grace

After all, this is...

your reasonable service...the logical and rational and rightly expected response to God's love and grace toward us:

- to serve God
 - in our worship...every day but also in-person in the assembly of believers, especially in these days
 - Ps 96:8 Give unto the LORD the glory *due unto* his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.
 - 1 Chron 16:28-29 Give unto the LORD, ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; bring an offering (yourself), and come before him (in His assembly): worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
 - Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
 - in all we do
 - 1 Cor 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.
 - Gal 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.
 - Col 3:23-24 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.
- to serve others...others-serving, not self-serving
 - spouse
 - children
 - grandchildren
 - other children of God
 - John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples (and witnesses), if ye have love one to another.
 - parents
 - siblings

- neighbors
- co-workers
- etc, etc, etc
- enemies

Matt 5:43-45a Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven

- even if this means suffering wrongfully (as we may in the days ahead)

Within the Church

1 Cor 6:7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather *suffer yourselves to be defrauded?*

In the world

1 Peter 4:12-19

God has showered us with His grace...we are to share that grace with all others

Col 3:12-13 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

We are able to present our bodies as a living sacrifice...and all that that entails...
because Jesus Christ did and His Spirit dwells within us

We are able to boldly enter into the presence of God with our love offering because
Jesus has gone before us

Heb 4:15-16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb 10:19-20 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

So presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice is NOT too much to ask,
and NOT impossible to give!

Nor is this:

v2 And be not conformed to the world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind

The world is the place of darkness and death, condemnation and discouragement...
a place devoid of mercy and grace

We have been taken out of the world and brought into the Light and Life of God

As new creatures in Christ, we are children of the Light

The Father has given us a Helper, the Spirit of Christ, to indwell us and to

- teach us the mind of Christ
- empower us to be the witnesses and ambassadors of Jesus Christ

So it is only reasonable...not too much to ask, nor impossible to give...
that we who were man-kind but are now made Jesus-kind to:

- be not conformed to, not be like, the world (not be the way we were!)
 - in thought
 - in word
 - in action
 - in “fragrance”

selfish, self-centered, self-serving
bitter, angry, vengeful, ungrateful
proud, arrogant, boastful
lustful, covetous

- be transformed by the renewing of our mind, to be changed and be Christ-like,
 - in thought
 - in word
 - in action
 - in “fragrance”

grace/gracious
mercy/merciful
longsuffering
kind and gentle
meek and humble
bearing the Family resemblance of our Father in heaven

Phil 4:18b an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable,
well-pleasing to God.

To be not conformed to this world and to be transformed to be Christ-like,
we need our mind completely renewed in how we think and
in what we understand to be right and true

We need

- the mind of Christ, the thoughts of God which are so far higher than our thoughts
- to see what God sees and to hear what God says
- “re-programming”
- The Word of God written on our hearts (New Covenant in Jer 31), the engrafted Word that is able to save our souls (James 1:21)

It is reasonable to no longer do that which offended God, given the price He paid to cover those wrongs with love and forgiveness!

In all things we need to turn from the world and turn to the Living God

Prov 16:3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

James 4:4 know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Ps 1:1-3 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

With the Spirit of God and the Word of God forming our thoughts and guiding our lives, (followers of Jesus Christ, children of God, have access to the power of God to be changed and, by submission, to change and be different than the world around us...unbelievers, children of the flesh, have no power to change to be different)

we will with humility and submission prove...examine and approve of...
the will of God, which is good and acceptable and perfect

The good, acceptable, and perfect will of God, who is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy, is that His children bear the Family resemblance!

1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Homework for the hungry for those actually willing to do v1-3:
How to live, how to “walk” with Jesus
Read and meditate on Eph 4-5

v3 The Apostle Paul was given much grace
Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee...super legalistic and judgmental
A Jew's Jew
A very zealous religious man, someone to be reckoned with and feared
Persecutor of Christ transformed by grace thru faith into Preacher of Christ

Gal 1:15-16a But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace, to reveal his Son in me...

As the recipient of such over-abounding grace and having nothing of which to boast but in the Lord Jesus Christ,
Paul...from his personal experience...

2 Cor 12:7-9a And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, *My grace is sufficient for thee*

is saying to every listener and reader...personally:

to not think more highly of himself than he should

Since all are sinners, where is boasting?!

to not be arrogant or prideful, having a lofty opinion of oneself

to be always humble

to think soberly...with a sound (Christ-like) mind

according to the measure of the faith of Christ the Father has apportioned,
submitting one's selfish will to the Father's perfect will

1 Cor 8:2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

1 Cor 4:6b that ye might learn in us not to think *of men* above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

This being said to every believer, I am not special or unique...i.e. not better than anyone!
None of us are special or unique or better
But we are all different...and that will be next week

Application/Exhortation

I did many foolish and stupid and terrible things in pleasing myself that offended God
When I grasped even just a morsel of His love and grace...because someone loved me enough to
meekly and humbly tell me...I was abjectly broken-hearted and I repented,
crying out for the forgiveness of God, which I absolutely longed for
I no longer do those things
I don't even want to do those things...they are now associated with pain rather than "pleasure"
I am grieved that I did those things

But, because God is merciful and gracious, the Lord forgave me, removed those things from me,
and gave me a new heart and His Spirit
And God has used all those things for good, as Scripture says
By the grace of God, I am what I am (1 Cor 15:10a)

Do I still fail in holiness and fall short of the glory of God?
Sadly, yes...much too frequently
And the Holy Spirit dwelling in me is quick to convict and correct me of my sin
And I am grieved every time
But the Holy Spirit is also quick to instruct and forgive
I am a sinner saved by God's grace
Amazing grace!

Titus 3:2-7

God's grace has changed us!
All of us followers of Jesus Christ need to re-double our efforts to apply grace in our lives
We are vessels and messengers of His grace in this dark and dying world
Let us be gracious, let us apply grace in our lives every day
Let us examine and approve of the will of God with the love, humility, and submission of our
Lord Jesus Christ

Rom 12:1-3