



SOLA GRATIA - GRACE ALONE.

Grace is a hard concept for many of us. There has to be a catch! People don't just forgive like that! Thankfully, God's not "people." Because the reality is God does forgive like that. He forgives us freely. And once grace is given, we get to celebrate the great gift we have! But, as humans, we tend to lean towards earning anyway. It's hard to trust free gifts, so instead we work hard to be better, almost as if our good works were a safety net in case grace is a ruse after all. However, it is quite likely that if we could just for a moment grasp the grace God has for us, we would never live our lives the same way. We would always be different, living in awe and in gratitude for what God has done for us. What could that look like?

IN THE BIBLE.

Romans 6:1-4

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? 2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? 3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Ephesians 2:1-10.

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) 6 For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. 7 So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) We know grace is free, but what does “cheap grace” mean? What is the danger in cheap grace?
- 2.) Do you struggle to trust that grace is completely free and given to you? Why or why not?
- 3.) Romans 6 says we will live “new lives.” What does this mean? What does this look like?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?