

subject matter:  
Understanding our  
salvation and the  
assurance we have  
in Christ.

# Lesson 2

Teacher's Manual

## GOD'S GRACE

READ & MEDITATE ON: Romans 5:1-21

MEMORIZE: Ephesians 2:8-9

### INTRODUCTION

8. For by grace are ye saved through faith;  
and that not of yourselves: it is the  
gift of God:
9. Not of works, lest any man should boast.

It is of utmost importance that every child of God comprehend the full meaning of the marvelous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. For by grace we are both saved from the penalty of past sins and kept from the power of present sin.

we have access to  
grace through faith -  
we have peace through  
grace.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

*Ephesians 2:4-7*

**THE NEED OF GRACE.** Give up trying to live on your own moral fat. If true goodness were dependent wholly on your will, would you not have been good a long time ago? Most of us are like men locked in airtight compartments, breathing in the same air we breathe out; we are suffocating, because we are trying to live on our own exhalation. Such is the fallacy of Humanism; flat tires cannot fix themselves; no analysis of a rotted acorn can make an oak. As your eyes need light to see, as your ears cannot hear without waves of sound, and your lungs cannot breathe without air, so neither can you be all that you could be, unless you receive the grace of God. — Fulton J. Sheen

Webster's dictionary defines grace as, "The unmerited love and favor of God toward men." By understanding grace we can have assurance that we are not only saved but able to be kept by the power of God. In this lesson we will see that grace is truly the proof of God's amazing love for us.

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### I. SPIRITUAL COURTROOM

#### A. Sinner On Trial

Imagine that we are in a spiritual courtroom. This is the situation:

- Man is the lawbreaker.

II. THE VERDICT AND THE SENTENCE

A. The Verdict: Guilty

Man has no inherent spiritual ability which would release him from this horrible, sinful condition. Left to himself, there is absolutely no hope for him. It is utterly impossible for a man to generate within himself a quality of righteousness which will place him in the kingdom of God. We cannot reach God's holiness with our good works. Our works are never good enough. Under the law, no flesh can be justified. See Romans 3:19-20. Many people today take the same position the Jews took in the days of the Apostle Paul. He describes that position in Romans, chapter ten, verse three. "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." "God's righteousness" is separate and apart from the righteousness of man which is "self-righteousness." Any way one looks at it, unregenerate man is hopelessly separated from God. The inescapable result of not being able to live up to the goodness and purity a holy God demands, is guilt.

→ without God's grace & spirit we could never live good enough in ourselves.

see Romans 3:24  
it is through grace that we are saved

The problem of guilt is the greatest problem of the human race. No particular age group, no level of economics, and no strata of social standing is immune to the biting fangs of guilt. This is true because it is an undeniable fact that man is guilty. His guilt is actual. There may be immediate causes which, justified or unjustified, bring guilt to us. But underlying all the spiritual and psychological disturbances of mankind is the irrevocable fact that man, before he comes to Jesus, is a sinner. He is guilty under the eyes and judgment of God.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 3:23

B. The Sentence: Death

God had said in regard to the forbidden fruit, "...the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Adam died spiritually. He who is spiritually dead cannot beget spiritual children. All of Adam's descendants have been born in this world outside of God's fellowship. They are described as being, "...dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). (This does not mean that if a baby died it would go to hell. God's grace covers the child until it can make its own decision. This is true inasmuch as salvation is predicated upon the will of the individual and obviously a baby cannot intelligently exercise its will.)

→ Physical death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live. - Satan decides to keep us spiritually dead.

A. Christ's Substitutionary Death

If the judge sitting on the bench had written the law he was about to enforce; if he had power to enforce the law; if he had power to execute the law; if he had created the man who was standing in judgment, then that judge would have the absolute prerogative to leave the bench and die at the hands of the law which he made, for the man which he had made. And this is exactly what God did.

} "...the son of man came...to give his life a ransom for many."  
*Matthew 20:28*

} "...when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law,..."  
*Galatians 4:4-5*

*Jesus became our Supreme sacrifice.*

← } "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth upon a tree:"  
*Galatians 3:13*

The word "redeem" as used here, means to buy back. Mostly it is used in reference to the purchasing of a slave for the sake of his freedom.

Men are guilty of saying some things that the Bible does not say. ~~Some people~~ say that God asked the Son to go and die for men. It is impossible for this to legally work. The only moral, correct approach to the problem was that the one who created man, being therefore responsible for him, should take whatever steps deemed necessary to buy him back. Rest assured our heavenly father made no attempt to do away with his responsibility to the man he created. Our Lord had to hold within himself a willingness to be responsible for every single curse word, every lie, and every heinous act of sin that man would launch himself into. Jehovah God knew that man would sin before he created him. Before man ever drew his first breath, almighty God assumed responsibility for every sin that he would commit. Jesus Christ was, "...The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). God is love. He did not send the second person of the supposed holy trinity. Our Lord came himself. Almighty God could have given sums of gold, worlds of pearls, stars or silver; but if he were to buy back the lost soul of enslaved humanity, he had to give himself. The death of Jesus Christ was not murder. No one took his life away from him. He laid it down himself. His death

SOME PEOPLE

↓  
*if by man's sin spiritual death abounded, how much more through Jesus should spiritual life abound? SEE ROMANS 5:20 GRACE ABUNDED*

completely in the righteousness of Jesus Christ justifying him, or he is compelled to trust in his own righteousness to justify himself. We must either become our own saviour or trust altogether in Jesus Christ saving us. This is extremely important for the new convert to understand. There will be times when we fail and come short of the life we really want to live. Satan will take advantage of this and destroy the new convert with condemnation unless he resorts to the forgiveness of God. This does not give a person a license to sin. However, if we do sin, through repentance we have forgiveness provided for us through Jesus Christ. → see I John 2:1

We can never, no matter how good we are, justify ourselves by our good works. If we attempt to do this we will discover quite soon that we have no liberty in Christ. We must absolutely trust Jesus Christ as our complete saviour. If we do not, we will find ourselves under continual condemnation.

by His grace  
He guides us  
His spirit  
to be overcome.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:1-4

It is good for every Christian, especially the new convert, to understand these things. While these wonderful provisions by no means give us a right to sin, they do give us a way to live without condemnation when we sin. That is, if we in all honesty ask God's forgiveness for what we have done wrong, having no intention to make this particular discrepancy a practice in our lives. Ever and always the desire to live for Jesus, to do the right thing, and remain free in Him must be with the new convert. The law cannot declare a redeemed person guilty as long as that person wishes to remain free. The ransom has been paid, and there must be a total release. Therefore; the new convert can rest in the marvelous assurance that when they come to the Lord asking for forgiveness they will be forgiven. That is, if their request is based upon honesty and upon sincerity and true repentance. It is not the will of God for any born-again Christian to practice sin. This is a terrible discredit to the cross of Calvary. In the event, however, that a Christian does sin, the blood of Jesus Christ has already been offered to continually cleanse us. Read I John 1:7-2:1.

The opposite of grace is guilt. A person who feels the pangs of guilt has not experienced the grace of God to the fullest extent. Many times the person who has newly found the Lord as his saviour begins to experience

When you receive the Holy Ghost and the devil fights you bitterly, know that you're doing something right.

more guilt on some levels than he had experienced even before he came to God. This is true because Satan does not bring strong feelings of guilt to the sinner. He does not wish the sinner to feel guilty. However, the dear saint of God who is attempting with all his or her heart to serve Jesus will feel the whiplash of Satan's accusation. It is good to realize this because all condemnation which comes to the saint is not from God. Some of it may be from God. But if it is, remember...it is the intent of God to lead the saint to a place of repentance so that the wonderful provision of God's grace can cover his sin.

Sometimes, we live under unnecessary condemnation. We find it hard to forgive ourselves of things that God has already forgiven us for. We must realize that God is able to count things that have been as though they never were. Satan, "...the accuser of the brethren..." (Revelation 12:10), will attack us with strong guilt feelings. If we have already cleared ourselves with God in the matter, our Lord has forgotten it. We must always trust in His mercy. We should not ask God to forgive us again for something we have already repented over. We will confuse Him. He will not know what we are talking about. He has already forgotten about it.

there is a difference between conviction & condemnation

We do not need to try to take rid of a sense of conviction, but we merely need to receive and accept what Jesus did for us out there.

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."  
Romans 8:31-34

A missionary once put something at the bottom of a letter that she had written from the field. It read, "Upon a life I did not live, upon a death I did not die, I rest my whole eternity." This understanding means much in experiencing an ever-victorious walk with God. We, too, can be totally confident in our God's saving and keeping power as we continue to put our faith in the workings of His abundant grace.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."  
Romans 5:1-2

III. Grace brings joy. When that one who has felt death's icy grip is suddenly rescued, there is joy. He will embrace his savior and forever be in his debt. For the Christian there is a sense of joy, joy in knowing that Jesus has saved us and not because of our efforts but according to God's grace. No one understands joy like a person rescued from perishing.

*Jesus was a perfect, spotless sacrifice*

was not a murder. Our Lord, "...gave himself a ransom for all..." (I Timothy 2:6). Paul called this, "...so great salvation..." (Hebrews 2:3.) "...Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot..." (I Peter 1:18-19). No one but God alone knows the stupendous cost of this ransom. Our Lord raised the terrible ransom and paid it.

Jesus Christ died for us. He took our place on Calvary's tree, even when we did not deserve it. We should have been the ones to die for our sins, but he died in our stead. He did for us what no other human being was able to do. The dearest of friends could not die for another because outside of Christ he would have to die for his own sins. Herein lies the wondrous grace of God:

*if people would hardly die for a righteous person, how much less would they die for a sinner?*

"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:7-8

B. Justification by Faith

When a sinner comes to God in repentance and faith, he simply accepts the redemption and forgiveness already provided for him. From this point on, he is regarded as a son. He is dealt with on that basis. This sonship is made possible in Jesus Christ. Through faith in the gospel (death, burial and resurrection) and through identifying ourself with the gospel (repentance, baptism, and Holy Ghost), the person we were, died at Calvary, was buried and rose again through baptism in water and in Spirit and now walks in newness of life.

*propitiation = atonement, mercy seat or sacrifice*

"...He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:2). Propitiation means "that which appeases or satisfies." The punishment for sin was satisfied by the dreadful payment of Christ's death on the cross. "...That he might be just, and the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus" (Romans 3:26). Because He created man, made the law, ministered the law, executed the law, and died at the hands of the law He made, for a man He created; He could be both "the just and the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus Christ." This is the only way that Almighty God could remain just, and at the same time justify the sinner. This is the justification that comes to us by faith through obedience to the terms of the gospel.

*When we really believe a true change will occur.*

IV. NO CONDEMNATION

Only through redemptive grace can the sinner be made righteous in the eyes of God. His own works are never sufficient. That which is done under the law is said to be of works. That which is of works cannot be of grace (Romans 11:6). Thus, we see that either a person trusts altogether and

There is always a penalty for breaking God's law. By one man's (Adam's) disobedience, death passed upon all men (Romans 5:12). That death penalty is still in effect today. It is an edict of divine justice that every baby born into this world must sooner or later face. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20).

} "For the wages of sin is death..."  
*Romans 6:23*

← Also awaiting those whose guilt is not provided for under grace, is a fearful judgment and a lake of fire.

*anyone not covered by grace will have a steep penalty*

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."  
*Revelation 20:12-15*

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### III. GRACE PROVIDES A RANSOM

Man in the Garden of Eden had elected to come under the domination of Satan. Here, under the power of the devil, he is held captive awaiting the dreadful consequences of his sins. Since the penalty for sin is death, it is impossible for man to redeem himself. His own life is greater than anything he can offer. But, obviously, he cannot survive and die at the same time. Death would destroy him. Also, dying renders everything else he may possess worthless. Justice demanded a ransom. Someone had to die to pay the price for the sins of men. In this particular instance, the ransom price had to be greater than the life of any one man. The ransom price had to be greater than the life of all men who had ever lived. It had to be greater than the lives of the men who were yet to live. It had to be greater than all the lives of everyone who had lived from Adam until the birth of the last child at the end of the age.

Satan will try to make you stumble and if you do he will try to condemn you

- He has broken God's righteous laws.
- Satan is the heartless prosecuting attorney who not only condemns man, but has been party in causing him to break the law.
- God is the lawgiver as well as judge (and also becomes man's defense attorney through Christ).

We should recognize that it is the intent of God ever and always to clear the guilty if at all possible. He is, "...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9)

James 5:11 ... the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. pitiful = extremely compassionate

Jesus Christ is man's defender. Ordinarily, the defender seeks to prove conclusively that the defendant is absolutely guiltless. However, we have a problem here. Man, the defendant, is not always guiltless. God cannot lie. How can he take the part of a guilty man and still remain just?

We have several things going for us:

- The defender (Christ) made the laws which both condemn and judge the defendant (man). So the defender is responsible for the laws which he made.
- The <sup>Jesus</sup> defender also made the <sup>man</sup> defendant. He is his father.
- The court and judgment also belong to the defender. God cannot do unjustly and is on the bench and controls the court.

This is the setting with which we wish to pursue the remaining part of this lesson.

B. The Crime: Sin

Man originally broke God's law in the garden of Eden. God had commanded: "...Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it:..." (Genesis 2:16-17). Adam sinned by disobeying the divine command not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Through his disobedience and the resulting separation from God, man now has a spiritual nature that is depraved. Thus, he continually sins. Before man's sin, the entire earth and all in it, including mankind, was under the dominion of God. However, God made man with a free will. He gave him the right to choose to remain under his dominion or to be released from it. Man willfully chose the dominion of Satan. It is under that dominion that every child has been born since that day.

we are in His best interest