



INTRODUCTION

Imagine a man standing before a judge... the evidence is overwhelming against him... the witnesses have testified boldly against him... the verdict is guilty... the sentence is death.

Then someone stands up and says, “I will take the punishment.”

Not because the criminal deserves it. Not because the judge ignores justice. But because justice will be satisfied through a **substitute** – someone else takes the deserved punishment!

That is the Gospel. Jesus Christ was that willing substitutionary sacrifice for all mankind.

The cross was not God overlooking sin. The cross was God dealing with sin.

Romans 5:20 – “... But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:”

1. Grace begins where human efforts come to an **END**.

Romans 5:6 – “... when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

Notice who Jesus Christ died for – not the righteous... not the religious... the ungodly.

Desperate Words “I am trying my best...I hope I am good enough...I am not as bad as others.”
All these answers demonstrate a person has not yet understood grace.
Grace does not improve a sinner. Grace **RESCUES** a sinner!

Thief on Cross No baptism... no church membership... no good works...
No opportunity to make right what was wronged...
Yet Jesus said, “To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” **Luke 23:43**
The moment he stopped being selfish and looked to Christ, he found mercy.

Drowning Man A drowning man cannot save himself by swimming harder.
He must stop trusting himself and trust the person trying to rescue him.
The sinner is spiritually drowning. Grace throws out the lifeline.

Comparing Scriptures

Romans 4:16 – “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace...

Romans 11:6 – “And if by grace, then is it no more of works...”

Ephesians 2:8 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves...”

Hebrews 4:10 – “For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works”

2. Grace was purchased at a great PRICE.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Grace is free to us – but it was not free to God.

At Calvary Jesus Christ took our **guilt, shame, punishment, and wrath.**

Great Exchange Jesus took our sin, our condemnation, our punishment, and our death. We receive His righteousness, His acceptance, and His life!

Barabbas A condemned criminal walks free – Jesus Christ takes up His **CROSS**. A condemned criminal deserves Golgotha – Jesus Christ endures it instead. Every born-again Christian is just like Barabbas! **Mt 27; Mk 15; Lk 23; Jn 18:40**

3. Grace demands a RESPONSE. **Acts 16:30** – “... what must I do to be saved?”

John 6:29 – “... This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”

Romans 4:5 – “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his FAITH is counted for righteousness.”

Romans 10:9 – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, THOU SHALT BE SAVED.”

An Invitation The Gospel is not just information. It is an invitation! Many people admire Jesus, respect Jesus, or believe facts about Him... but have never trusted in Him as Lord and personal Saviour.

The Chair A chair may look sturdy. You may believe it can hold you. But faith is demonstrated when you sit in the chair! The sinner must rest and trust entirely in Jesus Christ by **FAITH**.

The Publican In **Luke 18**, the publican did not brag, negotiate, or offer good works. He simply cried, “God be merciful to me a sinner.” Jesus said he went to his house justified... because he humbled himself!

Good Questions

“Do you know what God did for you so that you would not have to pay for your sins in Hell?”

“Why do you think Jesus had to die? If Jesus paid your penalty, what will you do for Him?”

“Are you willing to stop trusting your own goodness and instead trust in Christ’s finished work?”

THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

Reality of Death -> Certainty of Judgment -> Righteous Requirement -> Reasonable Punishment
... and now we have come to **AMAZING GRACE!**

Now the sinner stands at a crossroads... the crossroads of grace...

One road leads to Hell, and the other leads through Calvary to Heaven.

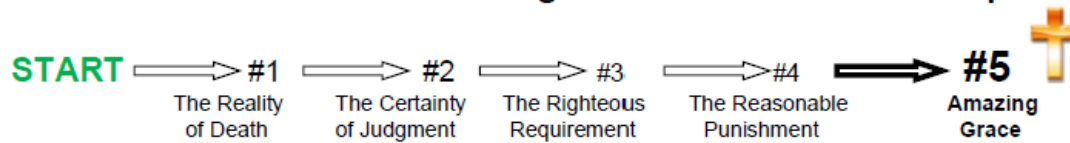
One road leads to God’s wrath and judgment, the other leads to God’s mercy and amazing grace.

One depends on you, the other depends solely upon what Jesus Christ has already done for you.

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This week... Pray daily for lost people. Ask God for boldness. Carry Gospel tracts everywhere. Start one spiritual conversation with someone. Begin living intentionally for Christ.

LANDMARK #5: The *Most Amazing Grace* that ever did reach planet earth!



1) The Most Amazing Grace

Now that we have taken the time to explain to people exactly what they have done wrong – that they have offended God and their crimes of treason and anarchy are against Him and Him alone – it is time to reveal the most incredible good news that ever there was.

But first...just to be clear...let's remember their **GRAVE** situation...

- ✓ They are *guilty criminals!*
- ✓ They have *broken* God's **Law!**
- ✓ They are *idolaters!*
- ✓ They are *blasphemers!*
- ✓ They are *adulterers!*
- ✓ They are *thieves!*
- ✓ They are *liars!*
- ✓ They are *covetous!*
- ✓ They have *offended* a holy God!
- ✓ They *deserve hell* for their crimes!
- ✓ The *wrath of God* abides on them!
- ✓ They are *unrighteous!*
- ✓ They are *unholy!*
- ✓ They are *cursed!*
- ✓ They are *inexcusable!*
- ✓ They are *lost* and *without hope!*

Take some time to let that sink in...and such were some of us...

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. *And such were some of you:* but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

But wait...**THERE IS GOOD NEWS** from a far county...

Proverbs 25:25 – As cold waters to a thirsty soul, *so is good news from a far country.*

The ultimate question...

“Do you know what God did for you so that you would not have to pay the penalty for your *crimes against Him?*”

The ungodly – by Michael Pearl

Romans 5:6 – For when we were yet without strength, in due time *Christ died for the ungodly.*

Christ died for the **ungodly**. Did He not die for the repentant, for the humble, for the sincere, for the good, for the elect? **No!!** Christ died only for all that are **ungodly**. Their character, all their thoughts, their deeds, all were **ungodly**. **They are rebels** and enemies of all that is righteous. The parade of the ungodly includes sodomites, murderers, child molesters, rapists, thieves, liars, preachers and mothers.

There is one word that best describes the attitudes, actions, motives, and works of the one who is justified – **ungodly**. He is not like God in any way. He does not think like God, feel like God, love like God, or have the same commitments. An **ungodly** man is everything he shouldn't be and nothing he should be. He is without hope, promise, or possibility. He is dead in trespasses and sins. He is controlled by the world, the flesh, and the devil. He is in bondage, without strength of will or resolve. He cannot lord it over a simple habit, much less "make Jesus the Lord of his life."

While in that state called **ungodly**, like a drowning man who finally gives up the struggle, he ceases to work toward acceptance with God. Sin so strangles him that he cannot make a move toward help. His hands are tied with guilt; his feet are immobilized by fear; his heart is failing from shame; his mind is too depraved to think a godly thought. Yet the beauty of holiness attracts him. He longs to have what is beyond his moral reach.

In his condemned state, he hears of Heaven's Darling who became flesh, endured all temptation, and qualified to be the first man to enter heaven fully accepted by the Father. His shame and sense of inadequacy only increases with the coming of this news. **And then he hears the incredible: his sin is already paid for.** Condemnation is lifted. The wrath of God rode the nails deep into the flesh of Jesus. The blood shed on Calvary poured out all the guilt, and his torn face bore all the shame. All guilty hands were nailed and all wandering feet were brought to bay when he was nailed. The body of sin was put to death, and with his last breath, the Law was satisfied. With His resurrection, death is swallowed up in victory and Satan's hold was forever broken. He has sprinkled heaven with His blood, making it ground on which sinner and Savior can meet. **He has now sent out a call...for all that are ungodly to believe on Him.**

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