

ROMANS 5:17-6:2

GRACE ABOUNDS

WHEN WE STUDY THIS PARTICULAR SECTION OF ROMANS AT FIRST GLANCE IT SEEMS AS IF THE FOCUS IS THE FACT THAT SIN ENTERED THE WORLD THROUGH ONE MAN.

WE CLEARLY SEE THAT BECAUSE OF ADAMS SIN THAT EVERY HUMAN THAT HAS EVER LIVED HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE AFFECTED BY SIN.

AND WHILE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND, THE MAIN POINT PAUL IS TRYING TO MAKE IS THAT GOD'S GRACE FAR OUTWEIGHS MAN'S SIN.

REMEMBER PAUL IS SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE.

HE EXPERIENCED THE GRACE OF GOD FIRST HAND WHEN JESUS HIMSELF APPROACHED HIM ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS.

PAUL IS WELL AWARE OF THE SINS HE WAS GUILTY OF PRIOR TO HIS CONVERSION AS WELL AS THE SINS HE STILL COMMITTED.

1ST TIMOTHY 1:15

THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING AND WORTHY OF ALL ACCEPTANCE, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS, OF WHOM I AM CHIEF.

NOTICE THAT HE SPEAKS IN PRESENT TENSE, NOT IN PAST TENSE.

HE KNOWS HE IS STILL SINFUL AND WHEN HE SPEAKS OF GOD'S GRACE HE KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS THAT GRACE IS ONGOING.

SO, WHEN HE SPEAKS OF THE GRACIOUS GIFT HE IS SPEAKING AS A MAN FULL OF GRATITUDE TO A LOVING GOD THAT SAVED HIM FROM HIMSELF.

HE KNEW THAT GOD'S GRACE OUTWEIGHED HIS SIN BECAUSE HE HAD SEEN IT IN ACTION IN HIS OWN LIFE.

WHICH IS EXACTLY HOW PAUL STARTS OUT CHAPTER 5.

ROMANS 5:1

***THEREFORE, HAVING BEEN JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, [\[A\]](#)WE
HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,***

WE HAVE TO REMEMBER WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY GRACE
THROUGH FAITH.

GRACE AND FAITH GO HAND IN HAND.

IN GODS INFINITE GRACE HE CALLED YOU UNTO HIMSELF BY GIVING
YOU THE FREE GIFT OF FAITH THAT YOU WOULD BELIEVE IN HIS SON.

IN ROMANS 5 VERSES 15-17

PAUL REFERS TO THIS GRACIOUS GIFT 5 TIMES.

HE REFERENCES THIS SO MANY TIMES BECAUSE THIS TRULY IS THE
FOCUS OF WHAT HE IS WRITING.

YOU COULD GET CAUGHT UP IN ADAM AND HOW HIS SIN WAS
PASSED DOWN TO EVERY HUMAN THAT HAS EVER LIVED BUT THAT'S
NOT THE POINT.

THE POINT IS THE GRACE OF GOD POURED OUT ON HIS CHILDREN.

THIS GRACIOUS GIFT HE IS REFERRING TO IS SALVATION.

THE POINT OF THIS ENTIRE CHAPTER IS THE SALVATION OF GODS
PEOPLE.

IN ONE ACT GOD THE FATHER PUT ON DISPLAY HIS INFINITE MERCY
AS WELL AS HIS PERFECT JUST, JUDGMENT.

WHEN JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS.

HIS MERCY WAS DISPLAYED BECAUSE THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF
HIS PERFECT SINLESS SON THE RANSOM WAS PAID FOR ALL WHO
WOULD EVER BELIEVE.

HE ALSO SATISFIED THE JUDGMENT NECESSARY TO ATONE FOR SIN.

BOTH OF WHICH POINT TO HIS INFINITE GRACE.

EPHESIANS 1:7

7 IN HIM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE

THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN BE SPARED FROM THE WRATH TO COME IS TO BE REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT IS INEVITABLE.

IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN AND UNLESS YOU ARE COVERED BY THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS YOU WILL FACE THE WRATH OF GOD.

FOR THE UNREDEEMED MANY THINK THAT SIN IS THEIR BIGGEST PROBLEM BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE.

GOD IS THEIR BIGGEST PROBLEM.

MAYBE YOU'RE NEW TO CHRISTIANITY OR MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T MADE UP YOUR MIND YET.

MAYBE YOU'RE LIKE ME WHEN I WAS RETURNING TO CHRIST AFTER RUNNING FOR MANY YEARS.

I BECAME HYPER FOCUSED ON MY SIN.

I WOULD TELL MYSELF THINGS LIKE "I'M GOING TO QUIT DRINKING"

"I'M GOING TO QUIT SMOKING"

"I'M GOING TO STOP USING PROFANITY"

ALL OFF A SUDDEN I'M ONLY FOCUSING ON MY SIN.

I WAS BEING LEGALISTIC IN MY APPROACH.

THIS WAS AROUND THE TIME I FIRST MET PASTOR BO WHICH WOULD'VE BEEN CLOSE TO 14 YEARS AGO NOW.

AND I TOLD HIM THAT I DESPERATELY WANTED TO STOP DOING THESE THINGS THAT I KNEW WERE SINFUL.

AND HE TOLD ME SOMETHING THAT CHANGED MY LIFE, AND I'LL NEVER FORGET IT.

HE SAID "STOP FOCUSING ON THE SIN IN YOUR LIFE AND START FOCUSING ON JESUS."

"IF YOU FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS AND FOLLOW HIM, HE WILL REMOVE THESE THINGS FROM YOUR LIFE."

AND YOU KNOW WHAT....

HE DID.

ONE BY ONE THE STRUGGLES THAT I HAD, BECAME LESS AND LESS.

SLOWLY GOD BEGAN TO CHISEL AWAY AT THE THINGS THAT WERE KILLING ME.

I STAND BEFORE YOU A VERY DIFFERENT MAN THAN I WAS 14 YEARS AGO, 10 YEARS AGO, 5 YEARS AGO... EVEN 1 YEAR AGO.

BECAUSE THAT PROCESS THAT WAS STARTED ALL THOSE YEARS AGO IS ONGOING.

IT'S CALLED SANCTIFICATION.

WHEN GOD GRACIOUSLY OPENS YOUR EYES AND GIVES YOU THE FREE GIFT OF FAITH, AT THE MOMENT OF SALVATION TWO WONDERFUL THINGS TAKE PLACE.

FIRST IS JUSTIFICATION, WE ARE NO LONGER CONDEMNED TO AN ETERNITY IN HELL.

THIS IS INSTANT AND COMPLETE AT THE MOMENT OF SALVATION.

THE OTHER THING THAT HAPPENS IS THE START OF YOUR SANCTIFICATION.

SANCTIFICATION UNLIKE JUSTIFICATION IS NOT IMMEDIATE NOR IS IT COMPLETE, IT IS AN ONGOING PROCESS THAT WILL CONTINUE IN ALL OF US AND WILL NOT BE COMPLETED THIS SIDE OF DEATH.

AND SOME OF YOU ARE PROBABLY WONDERING WHAT IN THE WORLD DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH ROMANS 5...

AND I WOULD SAY EVERYTHING, BECAUSE WHAT WE WILL SEE TODAY IS GOD'S GRACE OUTWEIGHING THE SIN OF MAN.

THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT THAT PAUL IS MAKING.

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE TEXT FOR TODAY.

LET'S READ ROMANS 5:15-17 JUST TO RECAP WHERE WE LEFT OFF LAST WEEK.

ROMANS 5:15

¹⁵ BUT THE FREE GIFT IS NOT LIKE THE ¹⁶OFFENSE. 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.

PAUL IS SAYING THE GRACE OF GOD IS GREATER THAN SIN.

IT MUST BE GREATER THAN SIN.

THE GIFT GOD GAVE WAS HIS SON AND HIS GRACE WHICH PROVIDES US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY OF SALVATION.

THE GIFT OF GRACE JESUS GAVE WAS HIS LIFE WHICH PROVIDED THE NECESSARY SACRIFICE FOR SIN.

ROMANS 5:16

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 ^[F]OFFENSES RESULTED IN JUSTIFICATION.

AGAIN PAUL REFERENCES THE GIFT.

THE GIFT IS SALVATION ACCORDING TO THE GRACE OF GOD.

PAUL IS CONTRASTING ADAM AND CHRIST.

HE IS CONTRASTING SIN AND GRACE.

THE GREATER OF THE TWO BEING THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE JUSTIFICATION PROVIDED BY CHRIST.

ROMANS 5:17

17 FOR IF BY THE ONE MAN'S ^[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.)

VERSE 17 ENDS A SINGLE THOUGHT THAT STARTED BACK IN VERSE 13.

IF YOU WERE TO GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO VERSE 12 YOU WILL SEE THAT VERSES 13-17 ARE AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT HE SAYS IN VERSE 12.

WHAT WE SEE IN VERSE 17 IS A REITERATION THAT THE GIFTS OF GRACE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE GREATER THAN THE SIN THAT CAUSES DEATH AND EVEN GREATER THAN DEATH ITSELF.

AS CHRISTIANS WE NEED NOT FEAR DEATH.

IT HAS BEEN DEFEATED AND OVERCOME BY OUR SAVIOR.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE WON'T DIE, IT MEANS THAT DEATH IS TRULY THE BEGINNING OF LIFE FOR THE CHRISTIAN.

THIS ENTIRE SECTION IS CONTRASTING ADAM AND CHRIST, SIN AND GRACE, DISOBEDIENCE AND OBEDIENCE.... LIFE AND DEATH.

WE CAN CLEARLY SEE THAT ALL OF THESE NEGATIVES ARE OUTWEIGHED BY THEIR POSITIVE CONTRASTING COUNTERPARTS.

CHRIST IS GREATER THAN ADAM.

GRACE IS GREATER THAN SIN.

OBEDIENCE IS GREATER DISOBEDIENCE.

LIFE IN CHRIST IS GREATER THAN DEATH.

GOD IS GREATER THAN SATAN.

ROMANS 5:18

18 THEREFORE, AS THROUGH ^[H]ONE MAN'S OFFENSE JUDGMENT CAME TO ALL MEN, RESULTING IN CONDEMNATION, EVEN SO THROUGH ONE ^[U]MAN'S RIGHTEOUS ACT THE FREE GIFT CAME TO ALL MEN, RESULTING IN JUSTIFICATION OF LIFE.

GOD HATES SIN SO MUCH THAT IT TOOK ONLY ONE SIN TO CONDEMN THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE AND SEPARATE THEM FROM HIM.

GOD IS OMNIPRESENT WHICH MEANS HE IS EVERYWHERE ALL THE TIME.

THE SEPARATION IS IN THE FACT THAT IN OUR FALLEN, SINFUL, PRE-SALVATION STATE WE AT WAR WITH GOD.

WE ARE SEPARATED FROM HIM BECAUSE OF OUR SIN AND CAN ONLY COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WHEN HE POURS GRACE OUT OVER US AND REVEALS THE TRUTH TO US.

IN THAT MOMENT WE ARE AS PETER WAS WHEN HE REALIZED JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD.

WE FALL TO OUR KNEES, WE CONFESS OUR SINS AND EXALT HIM AS LORD.

REVELATION 4:8

AND THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES, EACH ONE OF THEM HAVING SIX WINGS, ARE FULL OF EYES AROUND AND WITHIN, AND DAY AND NIGHT THEY DO NOT CEASE TO SAY, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."

HOLY HOLY HOLY!

HOLY MEANS TO BE SEPARATED FROM SIN, SO GOD IS THREE TIMES SEPARATED FROM SIN.

THERE IS A CHASM THAT EXIST BETWEEN THE LOST AND GOD AND THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THAT GREAT CHASM IS JESUS.

WE CAN ONLY BE JUSTIFIED THROUGH CHRIST WE ONLY HAVE ACCESS TO THE FATHER THROUGH THE SON.

ROMANS 5:18 A

¹⁸ THEREFORE, AS THROUGH ¹⁹ONE MAN'S OFFENSE JUDGMENT CAME TO ALL MEN, RESULTING IN CONDEMNATION,

THE GREEK WORD FOR CONDEMNATION IS KATAKRIMA

IT LITERALLY MEANS THE PENALTY FOLLOWING CONDEMNATION.

WHICH IS AS I'M SURE YOU'D AGREE WITH, DIFFERENT THAN CONDEMNATION ITSELF.

CONDEMNATION IS WHEN A MURDERER IS SENTENCED TO DEATH.

LETHAL INJECTION IS THE PENALTY OF THAT CONDEMNATION.

BECAUSE OF ADAMS SIN JUDGEMENT FELL ON ALL OF MANKIND AND THAT JUDGEMENT RESULTS IN DEATH.

THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH.

DEATH IS WHAT WE SPEND OUR ENTIRE LIFE EARNING.

AND WE ALL GET WHAT WE HAVE EARNED.

AND ALL OF THIS SOUNDS SO DARK AND DEPRESSING, BUT
REMEMBER THIS ENTIRE SECTION IS ABOUT CONTRASTING
ELEMENTS.

SO, LET'S LOOK AT THE SECOND HALF OF THIS VERSE.

WHICH IS WONDERFULLY ENCOURAGING FOR THE CHILD OF GOD.

ROMANS 5:18 B

***EVEN SO THROUGH ONE¹¹ MAN'S RIGHTEOUS ACT THE FREE GIFT
CAME TO ALL MEN, RESULTING IN JUSTIFICATION OF LIFE.***

WE SEE THAT FREE GIFT SHOW UP AGAIN.

ANOTHER CONTRASTING ELEMENT.

DEATH IS EARNED BUT SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE ARE A FREE
GIFT FROM GOD.

IT CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE EARNED.

THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF WHY OUR SIN AND EVEN OUR GOOD
WORKS SHOULD NEVER BE OUR FOCUS.

OUR FOCUS MUST ALWAYS BE CHRIST.

WE MUST HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE AS JOHN THE BAPTIST.

JOHN 3:30

³⁰ HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE.

IS THAT HOW YOU VIEW LIFE?

SEEKING TO EXALT THE ONE WHOM SAVED YOU?

PRAYING DAILY FOR OTHERS NOT TO SEE YOU BUT TO SEE CHRIST IN
YOU?

JESUS MAY NOT BE PHYSICALLY WALKING THIS EARTH AT THE MOMENT BUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HERE, IT'S IN THIS ROOM, IT'S INSIDE EVERY ONE OF US THAT IS A CHILD OF GOD.

ALL BECAUSE OF THAT WONDERFUL AND PRICELESS BUT YET STILL FREE GIFT GIVEN TO US BY OUR CREATOR.

BY OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

VERSE 18 SAYS *"BY THE ONE MAN'S RIGHTEOUS ACT THE FREE GIFT CAME TO ALL MEN."*

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT EVERYONE IS GOING TO HEAVEN.

THIS VERSE HAS BEEN TAKEN SO FAR OUT OF CONTEXT THAT BASICALLY AN ENTIRE FALSE RELIGION HAS BEEN CREATED.

IT'S CALLED UNIVERSALISM.

WHICH SAYS THAT ALL ROADS LEAD TO HEAVEN.

JUST SO WE ALL UNDERSTAND.

JESUS'S DEATH ON THE CROSS ONLY COVERS THE SINS OF THOSE THAT BELIEVE.

IF HIS DEATH COVERED THE SINS OF ALL PEOPLE THEN EVERYONE WOULD BE SAVED, EVEN THOSE WITHOUT FAITH OR REPENTANCE.

WHICH IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT THE CASE.

WHEN WE SAY THAT JESUS DIED FOR EVERYONE THAT'S NOT A TRUE STATEMENT.

HE DIED FOR ALL THAT WOULD BELIEVE AND REPENT.

JUSTIFICATION FOR SINS ONLY COMES TO THOSE HAVE FAITH.

FAITH ONLY COMES FROM GOD.

IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF US OR ANYTHING WE'VE DONE.

IT IS A GIFT JUST LIKE SALVATION IS A GIFT.

A GIFT IS FREE, THAT'S THE VERY ESSENCE OF A GIFT.

IF IT REQUIRED ANYTHING PREEMPTIVELY OR IN RETURN IT WOULD NO LONGER BE GIFT.

ROMANS 5:18 B

EVEN SO THROUGH ONE¹¹ MAN'S RIGHTEOUS ACT THE FREE GIFT CAME TO ALL MEN, RESULTING IN JUSTIFICATION OF LIFE.

VERSE 18 ENDS BY SAYING RESULTING IN JUSTIFICATION OF LIFE.

WE'VE DISCUSSED IT BEFORE BUT WE HAVE A LOT OF NEW FACES SINCE WE STARTED ROMANS SO I WANT TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS WHAT THAT WORD JUSTIFICATION MEANS.

IT COMES FROM THE GREEK WORD ***DIAKOS.***

IT MEANS TO BE DECLARED INNOCENT.

IT LOSES SOMETHING IN TRANSLATION.

THIS IS A ONETIME LEGAL DECLARATION WITH CONTINUING RESULTS.

IT IS NOT AN ONGOING PROCESS.

JUSTIFICATION IS INSTANT AND COMPLETE AT MOMENT OF SALVATION.

ROMANS 5:19

¹⁹ FOR AS BY ONE MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE MANY WERE MADE SINNERS, SO ALSO BY ONE MAN'S OBEDIENCE MANY WILL BE MADE RIGHTEOUS.

HERE WE HAVE MORE CONTRASTING ELEMENTS.

OBEDIENCE AND DISOBEDIENCE.

ADAMS DISOBEDIENCE BEGAN PRIOR TO HIM EVEN EATING THE FRUIT, AS HE STOOD BY AND WATCHED HIS WIFE EAT IT.

HIS ONE ACT OF DISOBEDIENCE RESULTED IN WHAT WOULD BE MILLENNIA'S WORTH OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

BUT JESUS'S ENTIRE EARTHLY LIFE WAS LIVED OUT OF OBEDIENCE TO THE FATHER ALL THE WAY UP UNTIL HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS.

AND THIS IS TRULY WHAT LIFE COMES DOWN TO FOR THE CHRISTIAN.

OBEDIENCE AND DISOBEDIENCE.

THOSE ARE REALLY THE ONLY TWO CHOICES WE HAVE.

ARE WE GOING TO OBEY GOD OR ARE WE GOING TO REBEL AND DISOBEY HIM.

OUR HUMAN NATURE IS REBELLIOUS.

OUR FLESH IS REBELLIOUS AND TO LIVE CAPTIVE TO THE FLESH RESULTS IN DEATH.

ROMANS 8:13

FOR IF YOU ARE LIVING ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, YOU MUST DIE, BUT IF BY THE SPIRIT YOU ARE PUTTING TO DEATH THE PRACTICES OF THE BODY, YOU WILL LIVE.

WE MUST BE CONSTANTLY PUTTING THE DEEDS OF OUR FLESH TO DEATH.

CAN WE DO THAT ON OUR OWN?

NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES CAN WE DO IT ON OUR OWN.

OUR FLESHLY DESIRES CAN ONLY BE PUT TO DEATH BY THE SPIRIT.

NOTICE HE SAYS PUTTING TO DEATH AND NOT JUST PUT TO DEATH.

THIS TELLS THAT PUTTING TO DEATH THE THINGS OF THE FLESH IS AN ONGOING NEVER-ENDING PROCESS.

IT IS PART OF THE PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION.

WHICH BRINGS US BACK TO OBEDIENCE.

AGAIN, BEING OBEDIENT IS NOT A MEANS OF SALVATION.

IT IS A RESULT OF JUSTIFICATION.

WHICH MEANS IT IS A BYPRODUCT OF FAITH AND REPENTANCE.

IT IS THE GREATEST FORM OF WORSHIP AS WELL AS HOW WE SHOW OUR LOVE FOR OUR SAVIOR.

JOHN 14:15

“IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.

ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO TELL IF YOU TRULY LOVE JESUS IS TO LOOK AT YOUR LIFE AND SEE IF YOU ARE OBEYING HIS COMMANDS.

ARE YOU LIVING ACCORDING TO HIS WORD?

ARE YOU PURSUING A DEEPER MORE MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM?

ARE YOU DOING WHAT HE HAS CALLED YOU TO DO?

SOME OF THE MOST DEPRESSED AND MISERABLE PEOPLE I’VE EVER KNOWN WERE CHRISTIANS THAT WERE LIVING IN DISOBEDIENCE.

SO IF YOU FIND YOURSELF FIGHTING THOSE FEELINGS OF ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION LOOK AT YOUR LIFE AND MAKE SURE THAT YOU AREN’T LIVING OUTSIDE OF WHAT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO DO.

PLEASE DON’T THINK I’M PICKING ON ANYONE; I SPEAK FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE MYSELF.

I HAVE LIVED IN DISOBEDIENCE AND IT WAS THE MOST MISERABLE TIME OF MY LIFE.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT YOU CAN CHOOSE TO WALK AWAY FROM IT.

OBEDIENCE IS A CHOICE.

ADAM CHOSE TO DISOBEY GOD, JUST LIKE EVERY TIME WE SIN, WE MAKE A CHOICE TO DISOBEY.

ROMANS 5:20

20 NOW ^[o]THE LAW CAME IN SO THAT THE TRANSGRESSION WOULD INCREASE, BUT WHERE SIN INCREASED, GRACE ABOUNDED ALL THE MORE,

ANOTHER CONTRASTING ELEMENT, THE INCREASE OF SIN VERSES ABOUNDING GRACE.

GODS WRITTEN LAW DID NOT EXIST UNTIL IT WAS GIVEN TO MOSES.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE WAS NOT A LAW AGAINST SIN.

WE SAW GOD PUNISH CAIN FOR KILLING HIS BROTHER EVEN THOUGH THE COMMANDMENT NOT TO MURDER WOULDN'T BE GIVEN FOR 2000 YEARS.

SO WHAT IS PAUL TELLING US?

DESPITE THE FACT THE LAW HAD NOT YET BEEN WRITTEN DOWN IT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO MEN.

AND HOW IS THAT?

ROMANS 2:14, 15

14 FOR WHEN GENTILES WHO DO NOT HAVE ^[k]THE LAW NATURALLY DO THE THINGS OF THE LAW, THESE, NOT HAVING ^[u]THE LAW, ARE A LAW TO THEMSELVES, 15 IN THAT THEY DEMONSTRATE THE WORK OF THE LAW WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS, THEIR CONSCIENCE BEARING WITNESS AND THEIR THOUGHTS ALTERNATELY ACCUSING OR ELSE DEFENDING THEM,

GODS LAW WAS WRITTEN IN THE HEARTS OF MEN FROM THE BEGINNING.

HUMANS INNATELY KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG.

BUT WHEN THE LAW WAS GIVEN SIN WAS COMPLETELY EXPOSED LEAVING NO EXCUSE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW WAS NOT TO GENERATE MORE SIN BUT TO EXPOSE SIN.

AND IN THAT PROCESS, THERE WAS CERTAINLY MORE SIN.

BECAUSE THERE'S ALWAYS THOSE PEOPLE THAT WANT TO GO AGAINST THE GRAIN.

THAT WANT TO BE REBELLIOUS AND DO EVERYTHING THEY'RE TOLD NOT TO DO.

SO THE LAW NOT ONLY FINALLY AND FULLY EXPOSED SIN, IT DROVE EVIL REBELLIOUS PEOPLE TO SIN.

GIVING THEM A LIST OF THINGS THAT GOD DETESTED GAVE THEM OPPORTUNITY TO REBEL IN A WAY THAT THEY NEVER HAD BEFORE.

BUT NO MATTER HOW AWFULLY SINFUL MANKIND BECAME GOD'S GRACE WAS INFINITELY GREATER.

THIS IS A TESTAMENT TO GODS UNFATHOMABLE LOVE FOR HIS CHILDREN.

EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY SIN IN SOME FROM OR FASHION.

WE HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY OUR OWN SIN AS WELL AS THE SIN OF OTHER PEOPLE.

WE WITNESS EVIL ON A DAILY BASIS.

WE ARE INUNDATED WITH THE AMOUNT OF CRIME IN THE WORLD EVERY TIME WE PICK UP OUR PHONES OR TURN THE TELEVISION ON.

THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF HATRED, VIOLENCE OR PERVERSION.

AND AS AWFUL AS THESE THINGS ARE THEY ULTIMATELY GLORIFY GOD....

WHOA!

WAIT A MINUTE PASTOR, YOU'RE SAYING THAT SIN AND EVIL BRING GLORY TO GOD.

YES, BUT NOT IN THE WAY YOU'RE THINKING.

BECAUSE OF ALL OF THESE HORRIBLE THINGS WE ARE ABLE TO SEE THE GRACE AND MERCY OF GOD PUT ON FULL DISPLAY.

IF THE WORLD WASN'T SO FULL OF EVIL, WE WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE HOW GRACIOUS GOD TRULY IS.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE REVEL OR PARTAKE IN EVIL BUT RATHER WE APPRECIATE THE GOODNESS OF GOD IN THE SENSE THAT HE PROVIDED US RESCUE FROM THAT EVIL.

ROMANS 8:28

28 AND WE KNOW THAT FOR THOSE WHO LOVE GOD [\[U\]](#) ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD, FOR THOSE WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

GOD USES EVERYTHING IN OUR LIFE FOR GOOD.

THE WONDERFUL THINGS HE BLESSES US WITH ARE SO THAT WE MAY ENJOY THIS LIFE AND GIVE THANKS TO HIM.

THE DIFFICULT THINGS WE FACE ARE TO HELP SHAPE AND MOLD US TO BE MORE LIKE CHRIST.

AND HE USES OUR SIN TO EXPOSE OUR TRUE NATURE AND GUIDE US TO HIM AS WE DESPERATELY SEEK FORGIVENESS AND JUSTIFICATION.

AS WE JUST READ IN ROMANS 5:20

“WHERE SIN INCREASED GRACE ABOUNDED ALL THE MORE”

ROMANS 5:20

20 NOW ^[a]THE LAW CAME IN SO THAT THE TRANSGRESSION WOULD INCREASE, BUT WHERE SIN INCREASED, GRACE ABOUNDED ALL THE MORE,

SIN AND CONDEMNATION FOR SIN WERE IN THE WORLD LONG BEFORE THE LAW AND SO WAS THE WAY OF ESCAPE FROM SIN AND CONDEMNATION.

GOD GAVE THE LAW TO MOSES AS A PATTERN FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS BUT NOT AS MEANS TO ATTAIN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

THE LAW DOES NOT AND HAS NEVER HAD THE POWER TO PRODUCE RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT FOR THE CHILD OF GOD THAT DESIRES TO DO HIS WILL IT IS A GUIDE TO RIGHTEOUS LIVING AS IT EXPOSES OUR SIN.

ROMANS 5:21

21 SO THAT, AS SIN REIGNED IN DEATH, EVEN SO GRACE WOULD REIGN THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS TO ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

PAUL ENDS CHAPTER FIVE WITH ONE FINAL CONTRAST.

DEATH AND LIFE.

AND I THINK THIS WAS VERY INTENTIONAL.

HUMAN BEINGS ARE BORN WITH AN UNDENIABLE SENSE OF SELF PRESERVATION.

THIS IS OUR FLESH FIGHTING AGAINST THE FACT THAT WE HAVE ALL BEEN MADE AWARE OF DEATH.

DEATH IS INEVITABLE, THERE IS NO AGE LIMIT, THERE IS NO ESCAPE.

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME MEN HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WAYS TO DEFEAT DEATH.

FAILING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ONE WHO HAS OVERCOME DEATH.

JESUS DIED SO THAT WE MAY BE JUSTIFIED BEFORE A HOLY RIGHTEOUS GOD, FULLY AND COMPLETELY FORGIVEN OF OUR SINS.

HIS RESURRECTION WAS CONFIRMATION THAT THE FATHER FOUND HIM A WORTHY PROPITIATION AND ACCEPTED HIS SACRIFICE.

HIS RESURRECTION WAS ALSO TO GIVE HOPE TO HIS FOLLOWERS CONFIRMING THAT HE HAD POWER OVER DEATH.

AS CHILDREN OF GOD WE DON'T LIVE LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD, IN HOPES THAT THERE WILL BE SOME SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGH THAT WILL PROLONG OUR LIFE OR EVEN DEFEAT DEATH.

WE LIVE KNOWING THAT OUR SAVIOR HAS ALREADY DEFEATED DEATH.

WE LIVE WITH A CONFIDENT HOPE AND JOY KNOWING THAT WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROMISED ETERNAL LIFE.

ROMANS 5:21

²¹ SO THAT, AS SIN REIGNED IN DEATH, EVEN SO GRACE WOULD REIGN THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS TO ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

PAUL SAYS GRACE WOULD REIGN THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS...

WE ONLY HAVE ACCESS TO ETERNAL LIFE IF WE ARE RIGHTEOUS.

WE CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE RIGHTEOUS ON OUR OWN ACCORD.

WE CAN ONLY BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS IF WE HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST.

WE CAN ONLY HAVE FAITH IN CHRIST IF GOD GRACIOUSLY GIVES IT TO US.

SO, GOD'S GRACE IS HIM GIVING US THE FREE GIFT OF FAITH.

WHICH IN TURN BRINGS US TO JESUS.

AND THROUGH JESUS WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

WE SPEAK OF ETERNITY OFTEN BUT IT IS A CONCEPT THAT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR US TO TRULY GRASP.

ETERNITY IS INFINITE.

LET ME ASK YOU A MATH QUESTION...

IF YOU WERE TO SUBTRACT 10,000 FROM INFINITY WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE LEFT?

INFINITY!

SO, WHEN THE SONG AMAZING GRACE SAYS:

"WHEN WE'VE BEEN THERE 10,000 YEARS BRIGHT SHINING AS THE SUN, WE'VE NO LESS DAYS TO SING GODS PRAISE THAN WHEN WE FIRST BEGUN"

THAT IS A COMPLETELY ACCURATE STATEMENT.

THE LAST HALF OF CHAPTER 5 THAT WE JUST COVERED IS SPEAKING OF HOW IMMEASURABLE GOD'S GRACE IS.

WHICH CAUSED MANY OF PAUL'S CRITICS TO ACCUSE HIM OF ANTINOMIANISM.

WHICH IS THE BELIEF THAT CHRISTIANS ARE NOT BOUND BY GOD'S MORAL LAW, AS THEY ARE FREED FROM IT BY DIVINE GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST.

THE TERM COMES FROM THE GREEK WORDS' ANTI ("AGAINST") AND NOMOS ("LAW").

WHILE GOD'S LAW IS FULFILLED IN CHRIST, ANTINOMIANISM IS A MISINTERPRETATION OF GRACE, WHICH CAN LEAD TO THE BELIEF THAT SIN DOES NOT MATTER OR THAT CHRISTIANS CAN LIVE AS THEY PLEASE WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE. (DANGEROUS)

WHICH ANY MATURE CHRISTIAN KNOWS IS ABSOLUTE NONSENSE.

SO PAUL HAS TO COMBAT THOSE ACCUSATIONS WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT HE DOES IN CHAPTER 6 OF ROMANS.

ROMANS 6:1

WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN? ARE WE TO CONTINUE IN SIN SO THAT GRACE MAY INCREASE?

PAUL'S ARGUMENT WAS NEVER THAT OUR SIN SHOULD NOT CONCERN US OR THAT WE SHOULD NOT TURN AWAY FROM IT.

HEBREWS 12:14

PURSUPEACE WITH ALL PEOPLE, AND HOLINESS, WITHOUT WHICH NO ONE WILL SEE THE LORD.

WE WILL NEVER BE HOLY IN THIS FLESH BUT WE SHOULD STRIVE FOR HOLINESS.

A DESIRE TO BE HOLY IS BORN OUT OF OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST.

GRACE IS NOT A LICENSE TO SIN, BUT GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT TO COVER EVEN THE VILEST OF SINS.

IN NO WAY, SHAPE OR FORM IS PAUL PROMOTING SIN, HE'S NOT EVEN SAYING THAT SIN DOESN'T HAVE CONSEQUENCES.

ALL SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN THOSE CONSEQUENCES ARE ONLY TEMPORAL.

WHICH MEANS OUR SIN HAS NO ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES.

FOR THE NON-BELIEVER THEIR SIN HAS BOTH TEMPORAL AS WELL AS ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES.

THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS PEOPLE REJECT THE TRUTH.

THEY FEEL LIKE JUST BECAUSE THEY'VE SINNED DOESN'T MEAN THAT THEY "DESERVE" HELL.

WELL, THE TRUTH IS THAT ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.

AND NONE OF US WANTS WHAT WE DESERVE.

BECAUSE WE ALL DESERVE HELL.

WE ARE ALL GUILTY, WE ALL TOOK PART IN THE SIN THAT MADE JESUS HAVE TO GO TO THE CROSS.

THAT'S WHY CHRISTIANS HAVE SUCH GRATITUDE.

BECAUSE WE ARE WELL AWARE OF HOW MESSED UP WE ARE AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL THAT GOD SAW FIT TO RESCUE US.

YOU SEE AWARENESS AND CONVICTION OF SIN ARE BOTH INDICATORS OF REPENTANCE.

SO IF YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD AND YOU ARE AWARE AND CONVICTED OF YOUR SIN HOW CAN CHOOSE TO CONTINUE IN IT?

ROMANS 6:1,2

WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN? ARE WE TO CONTINUE IN SIN SO THAT GRACE MAY INCREASE? ² MAY IT NEVER BE! HOW SHALL WE WHO DIED TO SIN STILL LIVE IN IT?

THE ANSWER IS YOU CAN'T!

AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT SEPARATES THE TRUE CHRISTIAN FROM THOSE THAT JUST SIMPLY BELIEVE.

WHEN SIN IS REVEALED IN THE CHRISTIANS LIFE THEY DEAL WITH IT.

AND YES IT IS A WAR THAT WAGES IN OUR LIFE EVERY SINGLE DAY.

GOD GAVE US HIS WORD TO GUIDE US TO HIMSELF, HE ALSO GAVE US HIS WORD TO GUIDE US INTO HOLY LIVING.

THE BIBLE ISN'T A HANDBOOK TO LIFE.

YOU CAN LIVE WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES AND NOT BE A CHRISTIAN.

THE BIBLE IS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.

THE WORD OF GOD IS POWERFUL AND PROFOUND AND UNDENIABLY PURE.

BUT IF YOU READ IT AS A HOW-TO-GUIDE TO LIFE THEN YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG.

THE BIBLE IS SO THAT YOU CAN HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD, IT IS HOW HE SPEAKS TO US.

IT IS HOW HE ENCOURAGES US AND STRENGTHENS US.

IT IS THE SOURCE OF WISDOM AND INSPIRATION FOR THE CHILD OF GOD.

DON'T MINIMIZE IT, UTILIZE IT!

1ST PETER 2:9

BUT YOU ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, HIS OWN SPECIAL PEOPLE, THAT YOU MAY PROCLAIM THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT;

PRIOR TO SALVATION WE LIVED IN DARKNESS.

WE COULDN'T SEE OUR SIN FOR WHAT IT TRULY WAS.

BUT IN GODS INFINITE GRACE HE CALLED YOUR NAME.

HE BROUGHT YOU INTO THE LIGHT SO YOU COULD BE MADE AWARE OF THE SIN IN YOUR LIFE.

HE MADE YOU AWARE OF THE SIN IN YOUR LIFE SO THAT YOU GO TO WAR WITH IT.

SO THAT BY THE SPIRIT YOU COULD BE PUTTING IT TO DEATH EVERY SINGLE DAY.

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD THAT ILLUMINATES SIN.

AS HIS FOLLOWERS WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT LIVES INSIDE OF US REVEALING OUR PERSONAL SIN.

BUT WHAT WE CAN'T DO IS RUN FROM OUR SIN, TRY TO HIDE OUR SIN, MINIMIZE OUR SIN OR TRY TO JUSTIFY IT.

WE MUST FACE IT BOLDLY KNOWING THAT THERE IS NOTHING WE WILL FACE THAT JESUS HASN'T OVERCOME.

HEBREWS 4:15, 16

¹⁵ FOR WE DO NOT HAVE A HIGH PRIEST WHO CANNOT SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES, BUT ONE WHO HAS BEEN TEMPTED IN ALL THINGS LIKE WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN. ¹⁶ THEREFORE LET US DRAW NEAR WITH CONFIDENCE TO THE THRONE OF GRACE, SO THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.

JESUS WAS TEMPTED IN ALL THINGS AND OVERCAME THEM, BEING TRULY GOD AND TRULY MAN.

HOW DID HE DO THAT?

WHERE DID HE DRAW HIS STRENGTH FROM IN HIS HUMANITY?

FROM GOD THE FATHER!

THAT'S WHY HE SPENT SO MUCH TIME IN PRAYER.

IF YOU EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO FIGHT THE BATTLES OF YOUR SIN, YOU MUST BE SPENDING TIME IN THE WORD AND YOU MUST BE SPENDING TIME IN PRAYER.

GOD HAS ALREADY PROMISED YOU STRENGTH BUT IT COMES ONLY FROM STUDYING HIS WORD, STORING IT IN YOUR HEART AND SUBMITTING TO HIM IN PRAYER.

TEMPTATION IS GUARANTEED BUT SO IS THE ABILITY TO OVERCOME IT.

WE HAVE TO STOP BLAMING OUR SIN ON THE ENEMY.

STOP GIVING SATAN AND THE DEMONS SO MUCH CREDIT.

WE ARE PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF SINNING ON OUR OWN WITHOUT BEING INFLUENCED BY THE ENEMY.

WE ARE BUT FLESH AND WE ARE UNDER THE LAW OF SIN WHILE WE ARE IN THIS FLESH.

AND WE OFTEN FORGET THE FACT THAT OUR BRAIN IS FLESH.

SO VERY OFTEN OUR OWN MIND BETRAYS US AND DRAWS US INTO SIN.

BUT GOD PROVIDES US WITH A WAY OUT EVERY TIME.

THE DECISION TO UTILIZE THAT ESCAPE ROUTE FALLS ON US.

1ST CORINTHIANS 10:13

NO TEMPTATION HAS OVERTAKEN YOU EXCEPT SOMETHING COMMON TO MANKIND; AND GOD IS FAITHFUL, SO HE WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO BE TEMPTED BEYOND WHAT YOU ARE ABLE, BUT WITH THE TEMPTATION WILL PROVIDE THE WAY OF ESCAPE ALSO, SO THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ENDURE IT.

I THINK THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST WAYS WE CAN ESCAPE IT IS BY UTILIZING OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST.

GOD HAS BLESSED US WITH A WONDERFUL LOVING GROUP OF PEOPLE HERE SO THAT WE MAY ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER.

SUPPORT EACH OTHER AS WELL AS HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE.

BE WISE, USE THE RESOURCES GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.

I'LL TELL YOU GUYS A BRIEF STORY TO PROVIDE US WITH A LITTLE LEVITY BEFORE WE LEAVE.

THERE WAS A MAN TRAPPED IN HIS HOUSE DURING A FLOOD.

THE RAIN WAS COMING DOWN AND THE WATER BEGAN TO RISE.

A SMALL BOAT CAME BY AND OFFERED HIM A RIDE.

HIS RESPONSE...

I'M OK I'VE PRAYED AND GOD IS GOING TO SAVE ME.

WELL, THE WATER CONTINUES TO RISE TO THE POINT HE HAS TO GET ON THE ROOF OF HIS HOUSE.

ANOTHER BOAT COMES BY AND OFFERS HIM HELP.

HIS RESPONSE WAS THE SAME AS THE FIRST TIME.

I'VE PRAYED AND GOD IS GOING TO SAVE ME.

THE WATER CONTINUES TO RISE TO THE POINT HE IS ON THE PEAK OF THE ROOF.

A HELICOPTER COMES BY AND DROPS A LADDER, THE RESCUE WORKERS TRIED THEIR BEST TO COAX HIM ONTO THE LADDER.

HIS RESPONSE IS STILL THE SAME.

I'VE PRAYED AND GOD IS GOING TO SAVE ME.

WELL, THE WATERS RISE AND THE MAN ENDS UP DROWNING.

HE GETS TO HEAVEN AND LOOKS AT GOD AND SAYS "I PRAYED SO HARD I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SAVE ME?"

GOD REPLIES... “I SENT TWO BOATS AND HELICOPTER, WHAT MORE DID YOU WANT?”

GOD IS ALWAYS PROVIDING US A WAY OUT SOMETIMES IT’S JUST NOT WHAT WE WANT.

THIS DOESN’T MEAN THERE WON’T BE TRIALS OR STORMS.

WHAT IT DOES MEAN IS THAT WHEN THOSE TIMES COME GOD PROVIDES YOU WITH THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH THEM.

HE DOESN’T SPARE US THE FIRE BUT PROMISES TO WALK THROUGH IT WITH US.

I’D LIKE TO FINISH TO TODAY WITH A FEW THOUGHTS.

GOD’S GRACE IS INFINITELY GREATER THAN OUR SIN.

GOD’S LOVE FOR HIS CHILDREN IS INFINITELY GREATER THAN THE WORLD’S HATRED OF US.

OUR JUSTIFICATION THROUGH CHRIST IS INSTANT AND COMPLETE AT THE MOMENT OF SALVATION.

OUR SANCTIFICATION IS A PROCESS THAT BEGINS AT THE MOMENT OF SALVATION BUT WON’T BE COMPLETE UNTIL WE ENTER INTO ETERNAL GLORY WITH JESUS.

I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE IN HERE TO USE THE RESOURCES GOD HAS PROVIDED YOU WITH, WITHIN THIS BODY OF BELIEVERS.

YOU ARE ALL SO LOVED.

THE ELDERS AND LEADERSHIP OF THIS CHURCH DESIRE TO DISCIPLE YOU, WE DESIRE TO LEAD YOU WELL.

AND WE WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO SEE EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THIS ROOM HEAR THE WORDS...

“WELL DONE MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT”

