

Startled by Grace Part 2: “Grace for the Humble” (4-15-2018)

New Series: “Startled by Grace . . . Waking up to the very Good News! The same Gospel that saves you is the Gospel that sustains you. We should wake up to this good news today and everyday!

Week 1 Review: Genesis 6 (The Coming Flood) - Grace God’s Grace appears in the midst of judgment & grief

3 Principles of God’s Grace found in this story . . .

- 1) **Grace is Present (Because God is Present)** – Noah walked with God
- 2) **Grace speaks Truth** - Grace warns, is patient, prepares, carries, and sustains through life’s floods
- 3) **Grace Empowers** - Grace empowers us to survive the flood, & Faith believes and participates with it!

This is what Paul is talking about when he describes the gospel this way . . .

Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith.

This Week: The Gospel of Grace

Let’s start by asking a question: What is your Gospel? Is it false or incomplete?

Some Examples of Incomplete Gospels . . .

Social-Justice Gospel

Those who adhered to a social gospel sought to apply Christian ethics to social problems such as poverty, slums, poor nutrition and education, alcoholism, crime, and war. These things were emphasized while the doctrines of sin, salvation, heaven and hell, and the future kingdom of God were downplayed.

Transactional Gospel

Christian evangelism today is rooted in a misunderstanding of salvation. People have been told they are Christians because they have confessed they believe Jesus died for their sins, but the total package is presented in such a way that it leaves their general life untouched . . . The problem is that we have been obsessed with this idea that the real issue is ‘making the cut’ to get to heaven. We have taken discipleship out of conversion. The over emphasis on the transaction does not translate into a transformed life.

Consumer Christians

In his book *The Empty Church*, historian Thomas C. Reeves says: “Christianity in modern America . . . tends to be easy, upbeat, convenient, and compatible. It does not require self-sacrifice, discipline, humility, an otherworldly outlook, a zeal for souls, a fear as well as love of God. There is little guilt and no punishment, and the payoff in heaven is virtually certain. What we now have might best be labeled ‘Consumer Christianity.’ The cost is low and customer satisfaction seems guaranteed.”

The Gospel of Jesus

1) Sin & Death

Noah's Flood – the result of the sin, violence, and destruction, leads to judgment and death.

Questioning God & The Flood – How could he do that?

Can I judge the world?

Can I evaluate and rightly divide the condition, consequences, and solutions for every man's soul?

The real question is: Who's the judge?

Tristan – angry, destructive, cruel, rebellion, broken, and a life cut short

If I really want to practice judgment, I can start by looking at my own life . . . This has to be personal first!

Me - My own sin the last few weeks: easily frustrated, short-tempered, speaking-harshly

What are the results over a lifetime?

Honest reflection & humility leads to a life of Grace. God opposes the proud but gives Grace to the humble . . .

James 4:6 - "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Martin Luther – He woke up to the realization of Grace and being justified by faith alone, as a result of his deep sense of guilt and his need to be cleansed.

Tim Keller - "Only when we see the depth of our sin will we be electrified by the wonder of grace."

James 4:6-10 (ESV)

(6) But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (7) Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (9) Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

The reality – sin is death, and it always destroys.

The question - Will I ask God to destroy the sin in my life through the power of His Grace that is available through the atoning work of Jesus?

2) Atonement & New-Life

Pitch & Atonement

Genesis 6:14 (ESV)

Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.

Pitch: (This is the only place in scripture it is translated this way – normally the word cover or atonement)

Meaning: Covered, reconciled, appeased, pardoned, cleansed, and forgiven

Hebrews 2:9 (ESV)

But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Who needs Atonement? You see, atonement covers both the righteous and the sinner . . .

a) My sin & shame (I don't deserve Grace, my life is a mess) – Get in the boat!

b) My self-righteousness (I worked hard to build this ark) – Even the best boat springs a leak!

Jesus – in our place . . . All of Psalm 69 – several NT quotes by Jesus and about him, even Judas! (in Acts)

Verses from Psalm 69 (ESV)

(1) Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. (2) I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me. (3) I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God . . . (5) O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you . . . (13) But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness. (14) Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters. (15) Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me. (16) Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me . . . (18) Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies . . . (29) But I am afflicted and in pain; let your salvation, O God, set me on high! (30) I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. (31) This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs. (32) When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive.

Water – has the power to destroy, but what it doesn't destroy it cleanses, and brings regeneration!

This is what water baptism represents: The Work of Jesus washing us clean, as we identify our lives with His Death, so we are raised into new-life by identifying ourselves with His Resurrection!

The Gospel of Jesus – Sin is Death, but by His Atonement, we have new-life both now & forever!

The key is living a life of Humility and receiving as a benefit a life of Grace.