

Our Gracious God

I. The drastic need of grace (Romans 1:14 - 3:20)

A. The Gentiles need grace (Ch.1)

1. Foolish, darkened minds, dishonored bodies, degraded passions, and depraved minds
2. Worthy of death yet choosing it over life

B. The accusing / excusing Jews need grace (Ch. 2)

C. A summary (Ch. 3:10-20)

D. BUT NOW!!

II. Grace defined

A.

B. Grace is God's amazing gift to the uncrowd ^{*}.

C. Illustrations of grace

*see p 3 for more

III. The era of conscience: Rare Grace

A. Conscience is a poor guide

B. It began with Fratricide and ended with Genesis 6:5*¹ (or rather the confusion of tongues)

C. Grace receivers

1. Adam and Eve: The proto-evangel

2. The days of Enosh (Gen.4:26*²)

"Then men began to call upon the name of the Lord "[for mercy and grace] MacArthur notes

3. Enoch (Gen. 5;24)

Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

4. Noah's family (and perhaps his ancestors who all died before the flood)

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. (Gen. 6:8)

5. In the end most died violent deaths

IV. The era of Law: Untapped Grace

A. Romans 3:21-22*³

B. Abraham, The Friend of God, illustrates grace and faith righteousness

1. Selected out of a multitude of idol worshippers (Joshua 24:2-3)
2. A gracious promise sealed by God alone (Gen. 15:5-21 and Rom. 4:19-22*4)
3. A victorious test of faith: "God will provide the lamb" (Gen. 22:7-14; Heb.)

a. The ram was not the Lamb

b. Abraham named the place Jehovah-Jireh (which means "the Lord will provide"). "To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.'" (Gen. 22:14)

C. David, The Man after God's Heart

1. Amazing grace after gross sin.

He broke the first commandment when he became his own idol, and the final five when he killed Uriah, stole his wife, committed adultery with her, bore false witness about it and coveted what he absolutely did not need. Yet, he found grace from God. (Romans 3:23-26*5)

2. Though consequences were severe, God did not withdraw his promise to build his house. The lines of both Joseph and Mary come through David and Bathsheba.

*Romans 4:5-8*6 and Psalms 51 and 32*

D. Prophets

1. Psalm 22; Isaiah 53
2. Daniel 12:1-4; 13*7
3. I Kings 19:18 Elijah thought he was alone in serving God but he was wrong (7,000 remained)

E. But he majority of the nation remains unaware of the lock boxes to this day

V. The Era of Grace: Appropriated Grace "But Now"

1. Rom. 3:21-23 *But now* apart from law the righteousness of God is manifested. . . by faith in Jesus Christ as a gift of grace
2. Romans 4:22-25 It was credited for him as righteousness, now not for him only but for ours also
3. Rom. 11:30 You once have been disobedient but now are shown mercy because of their disobedience
4. I Cor. 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who are asleep . . . that God may be all in all
5. Eph. 2:1-10 You were dead in your trespasses and sins, but now, God rich mercy and love saved you by His grace
6. Eph. 5:8 You were formerly darkness but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of the light.
7. Philemon 11 Onesimus formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.

VI. Grace is communicable

1. Gen 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
2. Gen. 4:26 Then men began to call upon the name of the Lord. [Realizing their innate sinfulness and hopeless condition without a mediator, they turn to God for mercy and grace. J.M. notes]
3. Rom. 3:21-22 3²¹ But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, **being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,** ²² even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction.
4. Rom. 4:19-22 4¹⁹ Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; ²⁰ yet, **with respect to the promise of God,** he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹ and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. ²² Therefore it was also credited to him as righteousness.
5. Rom. 3:23-26 3²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* ²⁴ *being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;* ²⁵ *whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins [David] had previously committed;* ²⁶ **for the demonstration of His righteousness at the present time,** so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
6. Rom. 4:5-8 4⁵ But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, ⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ⁷ "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, and whose sins have been covered. ⁸ "Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account."
7. Dan. 12:2-3,13 12 ² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt. ³ Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. . . . ¹³ But as for you, go *your way* to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise *again* for your allotted portion at the end of the age."

Grace is a gift for the unrighteous, ungodly and un-good; the spiritually unattractive, unlovely, unholy, unworthy and un-understanding. It is a gift unmerited, unsought, and unbought, one that *at first is undesired and unappreciated; and is always unattained and unmaintained* by those who receive it. Such an unlikely gift, however, is sometimes bestowed upon even the most undesirable and undeserving despicable terrorists who display their corrupt hearts (and but for the grace of God, go I) by and crucifying the very Son of God or persecuting His body, the Church. Grace drove our God to undeniably demonstrate His undying love for the world by crushing His Son on our behalf to pay sin's debt and become the just justifier of all who believe. Let us never, even for a moment of time, become unappreciative of such a super marvelous, unique gift. Disclaimer: Many incorrectly syllabize unique & mispronounce it unique instead.