

The Abundant Life Session 2 – The Abundance of Grace

John 10:10 (KJV) – *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*

I. Introduction/Review

A. This passage reveals the nature of the enemy in contrast to the nature of God

B. The purpose of teaching on this subject is to counterattack the lack of knowledge pertaining to the abundant life

C. **Genesis 17:1 (KJV)** – *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, “**I am the almighty God**”; walk before me, and be thou perfect.*

El Shaddai = the all sufficient one – The God who is more than enough

D. The language used to describe God and what he does

1. Superlatives – adjectives used at the highest extent or degree

2. **Psalms 68:19 (KJV)** – *He daily loadeth us with benefits*

3. **Luke 6:38 (KJV)** – *Give and it shall be given unto you, pressed down and shaken together and running over shall men give into your bosom*

4. **Ephesians 3:20 (KJV)** – *He is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or think according to His power that worketh in us.*

E. Whatever God is doing, it is always more than enough

II. The Abundance of Grace

A. **Romans 5:17 (NKJV)** – *For if by the one man's ^[a]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.*

1. This passage reveals how the human race came to be what it is now in a fallen state
2. Death reigned
 - a. Reigned = to be king/exercise kingly power
Metaphorically – to exercise the highest influence of control
 - b. Death did not exist in God's creation until Adam transgressed against God.
 - c. Death and everything associated with death entered this world when Satan began to reign (exercise control over) God's creation thus becoming the god of this world!
Sickness, poverty, war, physical death, hatred, jealousy, anxiety, famines, natural disasters:
 - d. God's nature was life – released in His creation.
When God looked at his creation, He declared that it was very good!
 - e. Satan's nature is death – to steal, kill and destroy – released into God's creation when he gained control.
3. **Romans 5:17b (NKJV)** – *much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness **will reign in life** through the One, Jesus Christ.*
 - a. Now, someone else is reigning – exercising control/having influence over something.
We are the ones who are supposed to be reigning in life!
 - b. **Romans 5:17b (CEV)** – *Death ruled like a king because Adam had sinned. But that cannot compare with what Jesus Christ has done. God has treated us with undeserved grace, and he has accepted us because of Jesus. And so we will live and rule like kings*
 - c. **Revelation 1:6 (NKJV)** – *and has made us ^[a]kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen*

- d. **Revelation 5:10 (NKJV)** – *And have made ^[a]us kings ^[b]and priests to our God; And ^[c]we shall reign on the earth.*
- e. Reigning is connected to the abundant life!
- 4. How do we “Reign in Life”? *Reigning in life is:*
To choose life
To enforce life
 Through the abundance of **Grace and the Gift of Righteousness**

B. Why the Abundance of Grace?

1. The abundant life includes the abundance of many things
Love, mercy, blessings, healing, miracles, finances, victory, etc.
2. The abundant life begins with the abundance of Grace.
Grace is the First thing you must have to be saved

Ephesians 2:8 (KJV) – *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God*

3. The abundance of Grace allows us to receive the gift of righteousness
4. Everything we receive from God is connected to the abundance of Grace and the gift of righteousness.
 - a. Without righteousness you have no right to approach God/to receive anything from God
 - b. Through Grace, God gives us the gift of righteousness which gives me FULL ACCESS to God/
 - c. Grace puts me in RIGHT STANDING with the Father so I can receive the ABUNDANT life package that He has made available to me.
 - d. No grace = no righteousness
 - e. No righteousness – No legal right to receive from/or approach God.
 - f. Many are failing to receive this “Abundance of Grace” which is the point of entry to the abundant life!
You must understand Grace to receive anything from the Lord!

C. Signs that you may not be living in the Abundance of Grace

1. Condemnation
 - a. Having a mind that is set on past sin or present failure.
 - b. *There are only two beings/people who remember our sin. Satan and Us.*
 - c. *Satan will remind you of your past sin until you let him know what Jesus did with your past sin.*
2. Unworthiness
 - a. Speaking unworthiness – “I just can’t ask the Lord to do anything for me, I am too unworthy”
 - b. *If you are continually speaking of your unworthiness, your focus is too much on you rather than on the finished work of Jesus at the cross.*
 - c. I am undeserving – *If you are attempting to receive anything from the Lord based on your deserving it, you are not walking in grace but the law of performance*

III. Living The Abundant Life through The Abundance of Grace

What is this abundance of Grace that Paul was speaking of?

A. Grace – goodwill, loving kindness, favor, mercy

1. Free undeserved favor – Grace cannot be earned
2. Grace is God’s gift to us – Grace only comes through Jesus
3. We must receive it by faith – Grace can only be appropriated through faith

B. Abundance – to exceed a fixed number of measure

Paul states that God not only gave us grace but the ABUNDANCE of Grace.

1. To be left over and above
2. A thing which comes in abundance
3. To remain over and above
4. Left over to spare/Spare = additional to what is required for ordinary use. *I have enough but I have some to spare.*
5. Paul – God not only provided enough grace for us to be saved but he has grace to spare!
More than we will ever need!

*Grace left over!
 You cannot exhaust the grace of God!
 As long as your heart is in the right place!*

C. Jesus ministers through the Abundance of Grace

As the express image of God, Jesus demonstrates the abundance of Grace!

1. Woman caught in adultery
2. Woman at well
3. No condemnation in Jesus
 - a. *Jesus never spent time discussing Sin/past*
 - b. *Jesus never did a pre-forgiveness interview/ are you worthy of Grace*
 - c. *Jesus always had enough grace to go around/ MORE than enough*
 - d. *The sinner woman who anointed the feet of Jesus*

Luke 7:47-50 (NKJV) – ⁴⁷*Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”* ⁴⁸*Then He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”* ⁴⁹*And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”* ⁵⁰*Then He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”*

*He had the Grace – Abundant grace
 She had to have the faith to receive the grace
 The enemy could have easily talked her out of grace.
 She had a past – SINNER WOMAN
 By faith – she appropriated the abundant grace of God to her life.
 We do the same!*

III. Closing Thoughts

Zechariah 4:7 (NKJV) – *‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!”’*

1. If you don’t learn to shout grace to the mountains of failure, unbelief, unworthiness, condemnation – Your mountain will overtake you!
2. Grace is available! The abundance of Grace!
Paul – My grace is sufficient for thee
3. When the devil shouts
*“You messed up” – **Grace Grace***
*“Remember when you did...” – **Grace Grace***
*“You are not worthy!” – **Grace Grace***
*“Who do you think you are?” – **Grace Grace** – “**By Grace I am...**”*
Learn to shout louder than the devil!
Resist Him/He will flee!