

Romans 4:1-8

Main Idea: In Christ, my sins are covered. That is grace.

Series – Monuments

We are currently in a series of messages entitled "Monuments." Sometimes we need to be reminded of the foundational principles of our faith. If we could drive through the Bible or take one of those guided tours like you might in Washington DC, we would come upon one monument after another to our faith. We have examined Hope. Last time we discussed man's search for Meaning and Purpose. Today we will examine Grace.

Covered/ Uncovered

One of the marks of authentic faith in Jesus Christ is Humility – Humility that comes from the realization that In Christ, my sins are covered. Not covered to sin, covered from sin and its harmful consequences. That is an important grace principle: What we cover, God will uncover; what we uncover, God will cover.

The 411 on Sin

The Bible reveals there are actually several categories of sin – original sin, sins of the will, and sins of omission. Original sin is the sinful condition. We are born predisposed toward the things that violate God's law. Willful defiance means that we know the right way yet choose the wrong way. Sins of omission refer to whatever we have missed. If you were as good as you could be today, there would still be something you overlooked.

Q1: Am I really a "sinner"?

The biblical answer is, "*absolutely*". I can't help myself. I am prone to disobedience. If God says "A", I am driven to choose "B". Abraham was considered the most righteous. Paul says in Romans 4 that even he needed a Savior, not a plan or a program, a Savior. Yes, I am a sinner – I live with low expectations of self and high expectations of others.

Q2: What then, is my only hope?

If I am incapable of achieving righteousness on my own, what can I do? The answer is – "Nothing." You cannot do this on your own (see Ephesians 2:8-9). Because of God's grace I am covered by Christ. Moments prior to His death, Jesus stated, "*It is complete*" (see John 19:30). No other sacrifice is necessary; nothing else can be done. That is grace – all God, no me. He is my only hope for covering.

Q3: How does this "land" in my life?

- ✓ I am a sinner in need of a Savior.
- ✓ God is the supreme demonstrator of grace.
- ✓ Guilt cannot coexist with grace.
- ✓ God's covering enables me to forgive myself and others.

Family Night Big idea – Read Romans 4:1-8

- Elementary School – Ask, "What did Abraham do to be considered 'righteous' before God (v.3)? Who covers our sins? Why do we want to cover our sins? What does God do when we 'uncover' our sins?"
- Middle/ High School – Ask, "Why could Abraham boast about righteousness, but not before God? Why is grace and forgiveness a more logical and effective remedy to our problem than behavior-modification and self-righteousness?"

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank You for your grace. Thank You for covering our sin through Jesus. Amen.

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meet this Wednesday, Aug. 20th.

Gravity: Today in both services.

Today's Songs

Sing to the King.....Passion

Holy Forever.....Chris Tomlin

How Great Thou Art.....Hymn

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Kenya Christmas 2025 Donations

Their needs this year include completing construction on classroom structure, outfitting a lab, training and hiring a full-time pastor, buying several cows, and doing updates and repairs. Go online to give or write "Kenya Christmas" in the remarks line of your check.

PlusONE

If you want to grow your faith, you need to take the initiative and add something to your church attendance. We can help you get started with Family Night, Small Group, or Personal Study. Ask a staff member or fill out a Communication Card.