

Homework for August 29 and 30:

1. Read Genesis 2.25-3.21.

Re-read our definition for Grace:

Grace can be seen as God's movement towards the sinner-saint; action that manifests as unmerited kindness towards the sinner-saint.

(*Remember* Kindness plays out more specifically than favor; kindness is specific blessings pertaining to the individual and the specific season they're in.)

Keeping this definition in mind, are you seeing any instances of Grace that you hadn't seen before?

2. Write Genesis 3.1 here:

In Genesis 3.1 Satan is convincing Eve that God isn't good. How does Satan convince the World today that God isn't good?

Write Genesis 3.4 here:

In Genesis 3.4 Satan is convincing Eve that sin isn't that bad, that sin isn't deadly. How does Satan convince the World today that sin isn't bad or deadly?

Write Genesis 3.5 here:

What is Satan's final enticement to Eve?

3. Write Genesis 3.9 here:

What does God say to Adam?

Did God really not know where Adam was? Why or why not?

4. Write John 3.16 here:

Why did God give His only son?

Write Ephesians 2.4-5 here:

Write Ephesians 2.8 here:

How are you saved?

5. Read Deuteronomy 28.15-68.

Write Deuteronomy 28.15 here:

What is the result of disobeying God according to Deuteronomy 28.15?

Write Romans 8.1 here:

6. Read Acts 7.54-8.3 and 9.1-22.

Grace is the most common blessing Paul gives to his readers. After reading the excerpts from Acts, why do you think Paul emphasizes Grace like he does?

7. Review our definition of Grace:

Grace can be seen as God's movement towards the sinner-saint; action that manifests as unmerited kindness towards the sinner-saint.

(*Remember* Kindness plays out more specifically than favor; kindness is specific blessings pertaining to the individual and the specific season they're in.)

Can you think of a time when God showed you kindness when you didn't deserve it?
How does this impact your relationship with God?

If you're being honest, how easy is it for you to show Grace to others? Is there someone in your life that you need to be more Gracious towards?

8. Incorporate Psalm 119.132 into your prayer time this week:

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name.

September 5 and 6, 2023: God's Grace to Adam and Eve, 2.25-3.22

I. Definitions of Grace:

A. Traditional definition of Grace-unmerited favor or favor for the unworthy.

Romans 3.24:

And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 11.6:

But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

Ephesians 2.8:

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2.8

2 Timothy 1.9:

Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

B. Definition for Grace Bible Study: Grace can be seen as God's movement towards the sinner-saint; action that manifests as unmerited kindness* towards the sinner-saint (*kindness is specific to the individual and the specific season they're in).

Genesis 2.25-3.22:

2.25 *And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

3.1 *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.*

*He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" **2** And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3** but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" **4** But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both were*

opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" **10** And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." **11** He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" **12** The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." **13** Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. **15** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

16 To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."

17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; **18** thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. **19** By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

20 The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. **21** And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

3.1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" **2** And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3** but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

i. Adam and Eve had all of Creation available to them; all of the vegetation, plants yielding seed, trees bearing fruit available to them. God Graciously gave them all of Creation to enjoy, to subdue, and for their sustenance. But their sight landed on this one tree, the one tree they were told not to eat from.

ii. Satan will start a dialogue with Eve by misrepresenting God's Word: *Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of **any** tree in the garden'?*

Eve starts off strong by correcting: *We **may** eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden* but then slips into error when **she** misrepresents God as saying: *You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, **neither shall you touch it, lest you die.***

It's falsifying the character of God. This was always a heart issue; would Adam and Eve maintain obedient hearts to God? The instruction to not eat of that particular tree was meant to elicit obedience and in no way did it come from a place of extremity or harshness.

3.4 *But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

i. He downplays the penalty for eating the fruit by saying: *"You will not surely die,"* but remembering the consequences for sin is actually a Grace.

Romans 8.1:

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

But there might be consequences and the Lord allows those consequences to play out to keep you from that sin and to lessen the power that sin has over you.

ii. Satan will go on with an enticement: when you do eat the fruit *"your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil"* was meant to alienate Adam and Eve from God. It is a statement that wages war on the goodness and Graciousness of God.

3.6 *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*

i. Shame is a Grace because it leads to Salvation. It was a **good thing** that Adam and Eve became aware of their nakedness and felt bad about it because it not only illuminated their sin but also their need for a Savior who would save them from it.

Romans 8.1:

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Awareness of sin is the first wave of Grace that God unleashes on the sinner-saint as He begins moving closer and closer to accomplish His will of Salvation in the life of the sinner-saint.

ii. shame compels Adam and Eve to sew fig leaves together to make themselves loin clothes.

3.8 *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"*

i. The Lord God is *walking*, not running. We are not seeing a God who is rushing to condemn. This is the posture of a God who is slow to anger.

ii. God is *calling* to Adam and Eve. This is a God who is leading with Grace; He's coming with gentility and He's coming to talk.

iii. *HOW are you?*

God calling out Adam and Eve was an immeasurable Grace; He knew they were distancing themselves from Him; He knew their sin had created a chasm between them and He; and He knew He Himself would have to cover the distance of that chasm.

3.15 *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

i. This verse is known as the *protoevangelium*-The first good news.

Evangelion-Greek, *good news*

Proto-Greek, *first*

ii. God immediately hints at a pardon for Adam and Eve; right at the top of this sentence that God hands down He hints that there will be a reprieve for Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve probably thought they were about to be executed for their crime of disobedience, after all the consequence was given with the instruction:

Genesis 2.17:

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

iii. The Lord use Adam and Eve's disobedience and rebellion to bring about the Savior; God will use those two rebels to bring about a world-wide blessing that will save them from their sin, save others from their sin, and one day reverse the curse that has saturated the World.

iv. The solution of Salvation through Jesus Christ was always Plan A to showcase the Grace of God.

Romans 9.21-23:

***21** Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? 22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory.*

3.16 *To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."*

17 *And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18* thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. **19** *By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

i. All of God's attributes flow and bleed into one another.

ii. Adam and Eve's disobedience upset the equality of the sexes and the beautiful headship God created within marriage. But God Graciously provides a remedy to this in Christ; we are restored to equal standing when we become children within the family of God, and Christ's relationship with the Church illustrates the beautiful headship that was once corrupted. God did not have to offer either of these solutions; it would have been fair and just to let the judgment stand as He declared it. But it was kindness He showed to you and to me, especially as women.

iii. Even though there is difficulty in planting and harvesting of the earth, we still get to harvest of the earth.

3.20 *The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*

i. Sin will bring death but through the offspring of Adam and Eve, Life will come. And so Adam's response is to name his wife accordingly. So Adam names her Eve which means *life-giver* because she would be "the mother of all living" through the offspring spoken of in verse 15: "...*her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*"

Eve is not pregnant at this point, but Adam has beheld the Graciousness of God and he is responding in Faith.

3.21 *And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.*

i. God is going to Graciously cover them with garments of skin. To get these garments of skin, these animals had to be killed so this entire act had profound meaning. Adam and Eve had to watch these animals be slain; because of their sin, something had to die in their place. So they were making the connection that sin always leads to death and that blood atones for sin. But most importantly God would provide them the garment to cover them and it was coming from the life of another.