

WEEK #6 THE ROAD TO THE CROSS – next stop = Amazing Grace!

KEY TRUTH THIS WEEK: Where “sin” abounds...then GRACE does *much more* abound!

Romans 5:20 – Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. *But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:*

Question – Is the person *convinced* they are sick and in need of the Great Physician?

Luke 5:21 – And Jesus answering said unto them, *They that are whole need not a physician;* but they that are sick.

James 4:6 – But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, *God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

1 Peter 5:5 – Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: *for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

James 2:9 – But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and *are convinced of the law as transgressors.*



Convinced of the crimes and punishment? YES		Convinced of the crimes and punishment? NO
HUMBLE		PROUD

They say we need to be more like Jesus...I agree. Consider this witnessing encounter!!

Mark 10:17-26 – And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one **running**, and **kneeled** to him, and asked him, **Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?** And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. **Thou knowest the commandments**, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, **all these have I observed from my youth.**

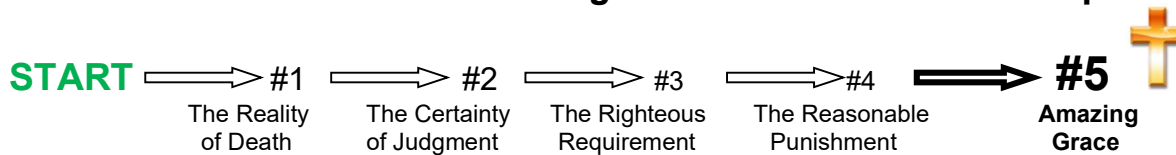
Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, **How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!**

And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, **how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!**

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. **And they were astonished out of measure**, saying among themselves, **Who then can be saved?**

LANDMARK #5: The *Most Amazing Grace* that ever did reach planet earth!



1) The Most Amazing Grace

Now that we have taken the time to explain to people exactly what they have done wrong – that they have offended God and their crimes of treason and anarchy are against Him and Him alone – it is time to reveal the most incredible good news that ever there was.

But first...just to be clear...let's remember their **GRAVE** situation...

- ✓ They are **guilty criminals!**
- ✓ They have **broken** God's **Law!**
- ✓ They are **idolaters!**
- ✓ They are **blasphemers!**
- ✓ They are **adulterers!**
- ✓ They are **thieves!**
- ✓ They are **liars!**
- ✓ They are **covetous!**
- ✓ They have **offended** a holy God!
- ✓ They **deserve hell** for their crimes!
- ✓ The **wrath of God** abides on them!
- ✓ They are **unrighteous!**
- ✓ They are **unholy!**
- ✓ They are **cursed!**
- ✓ They are **inexcusable!**
- ✓ They are **lost** and **without hope!**

Take some time to let that sink in...and such were some of us...

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you:** but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

But wait...**THERE IS GOOD NEWS** from a far county...

Proverbs 25:25 – As cold waters to a thirsty soul, *so is good news from a far country.*

The ultimate question...

“Do you know what God did for you so that you would not have to pay the penalty for your *crimes against Him?*”

Listen to how Paul described it to Timothy...

1 Timothy 3:16 – And *without controversy great is the mystery of godliness*: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Listen to these verses...

Romans 5:6 – For *when we were yet without strength*, in due time *Christ died for the ungodly*.

Romans 5:8 – *But God commendeth his love toward us*, in that, *while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*.

Galatians 3:13 – *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us*: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

2 Corinthians 5:21 – *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*.

Listen to Isaiah from 700 years before Jesus came...

Isaiah 53:4-12

Surely *he hath borne our griefs*, and *carried our sorrows*: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But *he was wounded for our transgressions*,
he was bruised for our iniquities:
the chastisement of our peace was upon him;
and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth:
he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb,
so he openeth not his mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment:
and who shall declare his generation?
for he was cut off out of the land of the living:
for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death;
because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him;
he hath put him to grief:
when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin,
he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied:
by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; *for he shall bear their iniquities*.

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he hath poured out his soul unto death:
and he was numbered with the transgressors;
and he bare the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

We broke God's Law, but **Jesus paid our fine**. That is the best news you could ever hear!
Your sins have been paid for!

According to the Bible, if we as guilty criminals before a holy God will come to the foot of the blood-stained cross and fall on our faces and cry out to God for mercy repenting of our way and confessing our sins and pleading with Him to forgive us and save us from the wrath that we rightfully deserve...the Bible says He will **SAVE** us!!

That is **NOT** complicated!

We have made it complicated.

2. A Legal Transaction

What most people do not understand is that on the cross a **LEGAL** transaction took place:

- ✓ Jesus **paid** your fine – the price for your sins.
- ✓ Jesus' blood was a **satisfactory** payment to **silence the demands of God's justice**.
- ✓ Your court case can be **legally** dismissed on Judgment Day.
- ✓ The penalty for your sins was **met** in Jesus!
- ✓ You must receive the **free gift** before it is too late!

3. The Great Exchange – Romans 4

So, God makes an astonishing offer to **all** that are **ungodly** who will – **by faith – repent** and **trust** Christ alone for salvation. The Bible word for this incredible transaction is **imputation**.

Jesus gets what **we deserve** (God imputes our sin to Jesus and punishes Him):

- ✓ Grief
- ✓ Sorrow
- ✓ Stricken
- ✓ Smitten
- ✓ Afflicted
- ✓ Wounded
- ✓ Bruised
- ✓ Chastised
- ✓ Stripes
- ✓ Bears their iniquities
- ✓ Travail of soul
- ✓ Made sin

We do not get what we deserve but instead **we get what we do not deserve** (God imputes His righteousness to us and saves us by His grace):

- ✓ Righteousness
- ✓ Eternal life
- ✓ Saved from wrath and judgment
- ✓ Peace with God
- ✓ Jesus as Lord
- ✓ Heaven
- ✓ An **ADVOCATE** (legal representative) with the Father – Jesus Christ the Righteous!

4. The Ungodly are Justified by Faith

The Bible says that we are to have the faith of Abraham. Abraham was not righteous in all his deeds. God, in His grace, seeing the simple faith of Abraham, chose to call his faith “*the righteousness of God.*”

God drew from His own righteousness and **counted** it to be Abraham’s. According to the Bible, Abraham was **counted** to be a sinless man; and yet more, he was counted as a righteous man.

Romans 4:3 – For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Faith is right, but it is not righteousness in and of itself. It has no innate moral quality. Sinners believe and have faith in many things, including God. The devil believes and trembles, but it is not imputed unto him for righteousness.

The promise of God caused Abraham to believe, and the faith was counted for righteousness.

Romans 4:22 – And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

Based on Abraham’s faith in God and His promises, God was calling him something that he was not. The faith did not provoke God to appreciate some spark of moral beginnings and thereby award him a full measure for a small measure. Faith is not a small measure of righteousness. It is the result of God revealing Himself and His will to the understanding.

Think of it this way. If a man works to get gain, when he is rewarded for his labor it is a simple matter of a debt paid, not grace given. It would be an insult to a workman to tell him that his pay was grace.

Romans 4:4 – Now to him that *worketh* is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of *debt*.

Romans 11:6 – And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

If one were justified by performing good works, the justification would not be justification at all – it would be earned recognition. Not only are good works unnecessary, they would actually prevent one from being justified by faith.

Romans 4:5 – But to him that *worketh not*, but *believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*

The first condition is to cease from works of righteousness. The second is to believe.

Romans 4:23 – Now *it was not written for his sake alone*, that it was imputed to him;

Romans 4:24 – *But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him* that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

Romans 4:25 – Who was *delivered for our offenses*, and was *raised again for our justification.*

The focal point and grounds of our justification is the **death** of Jesus Christ, which paid for our offenses, and the **resurrection**, which secured our justification.

Christ was **delivered** (as a criminal is taken from prison and judgment Isaiah 53:8) by the judicial arm of government to the executioners.

And He was delivered...**for our offenses**... We offended God through our carnality and unbelief. The sentence is announced that we should be executed. The sword of justice is prepared to shed our blood; but alas, **Jesus is delivered to the place of execution in our stead.**

Christ **was raised again for our justification**. The cross of Christ did not justify the sinner. **The cross meets justice in paying the price for sins**, but though forgiveness of sins will remove any breach caused by the sin, it does not imply elevation to a state higher than that from which sin plunged us. The offended party may forgive the offender, but the offender is not thereby instated into the family as a son. But since the believer is baptized into the body of Christ, and thereby becomes a participant in Christ, the resurrection of Christ becomes the resurrection of everyone who is in Christ. God receives sons, not as they walk away from the cross, but as they come out of the tomb. **His resurrection is our justification.**

The ungodly – by Michael Pearl

Romans 5:6 – For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Christ died for the **ungodly**. Did He not die for the repentant, for the humble, for the sincere, for the good, for the elect? **No!!** Christ died only for all that are **ungodly**. Their character, all their thoughts, their deeds, all were **ungodly**. **They are rebels** and enemies of all that is righteous. The parade of the ungodly includes sodomites, murderers, child molesters, rapists, thieves, liars, preachers and mothers.

There is one word that best describes the attitudes, actions, motives, and works of the one who is justified – **ungodly**. He is not like God in any way. He does not think like God, feel like God, love like God, or have the same commitments. An **ungodly** man is everything he shouldn't be and nothing he should be. He is without hope, promise, or possibility. He is dead in trespasses and sins. He is controlled by the world, the flesh, and the devil. He is in bondage, without strength of will or resolve. He cannot lord it over a simple habit, much less "make Jesus the Lord of his life."

While in that state called **ungodly**, like a drowning man who finally gives up the struggle, he ceases to work toward acceptance with God. Sin so strangles him that he cannot make a move toward help. His hands are tied with guilt; his feet are immobilized by fear; his heart is failing from shame; his mind is too depraved to think a godly thought. Yet the beauty of holiness attracts him. He longs to have what is beyond his moral reach.

In his condemned state, he hears of Heaven's Darling who became flesh, endured all temptation, and qualified to be the first man to enter heaven fully accepted by the Father. His shame and sense of inadequacy only increases with the coming of this news. **And then he hears the incredible: his sin is already paid for.** Condemnation is lifted. The wrath of God rode the nails deep into the flesh of Jesus. The blood shed on Calvary poured out all the guilt, and his torn face bore all the shame. All guilty hands were nailed and all wandering feet were brought to bay when he was nailed. The body of sin was put to death, and with his last breath, the Law was satisfied. With His resurrection, death is swallowed up in victory and Satan's hold was forever broken. He has sprinkled heaven with His blood, making it ground on which sinner and Savior can meet. **He has now sent out a call...for all that are ungodly to believe on Him.**