

God's Amazing Grace

Text : **Romans 7: 14-25**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Have you ever wanted something so bad you could taste it, but couldn't quite get it ?

1. **ILL. -** The spinster lady who lived across the highway had failed to win her bo's heart.
 - a. She was so disappointed when he married another that she never married.
 - b. When her bo's wife died 40 years later, she married him.
2. **ILL. -** For years I tried in vain to dunk a basketball, but was never able to do it.
3. We've all had things we wanted, but could not get or achieve.

B. The Apostle Paul strived for years to overcome sin, but was never successful.

1. Refer to text ... **Romans 7: 14-25**
2. When he wrote Timothy he was still struggling with sin. ... **I Timothy 1: 15**

C. We are like Paul in that we just can't seem to overcome sin.

1. No matter how strongly we strive to live righteously, we always fall short.
 2. Our flesh is very weak, and very demanding.
 3. Evil silently and deceitfully creeps into our lives. (cf. - **Heb. 3: 12-13**)
 - a. The very best of us have weak moments. (**We feel bad about them afterward.**)
 - b. James says the most godly member sometimes offends with his tongue.
James 3: 2- For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.
 - c. Jesus taught that we say evil things because there is evil in our hearts.
Matt. 12: 34-36 You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. ³⁵ The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. ³⁶ But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. (Cf. -**Matt. 15: 18-19**)
 - d. When Bro. LemonSucker gets in your face, you know Satan is tempting you, but sometimes you just can't help telling him what he deserves to hear. **Eph. 4:29**
- * **We've heard harsh unloving things said in this very building.**
Some of us have been the ones who said them.
Not one of us has achieved the level of spirituality we want to develop.

4. How can any man stand before God ??

- a. Our very words condemn us.
- b. We are warned not to judge each other because each of us will stand before God to be judged as individuals.

Rom. 14: 10-12 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. (cf. - **Acts 17: 30-31**)

NO MAN can stand before God, but thanks be to God because He has provided a way to enable us to stand.

Jude 24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, ...

I. Neither you nor I are righteous before God and we never will be so.

A. We are not righteous because we commit sins every day.

Rom. 3: 10- as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; ..."

Rom. 3: 23- for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

B. Christians continue to commit sins even when we try not to do so.

I John 1: 6-8 If we say that we have fellowship with Him (God) and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷ but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C. You and I will give an account for every sin we ever committed.

- 1. **II Cor. 5: 10-** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- 2. God will not forget even one of thing we ever did. (**God is not like us, forgetful.**)
 - a. He will remember both the good or evil.
 - b. With God all time is now.
 - c. Judgment is NOT about is there more good than evil, **but** is there any evil present.

D. Even one sin will cause a person to be defiled and so rejected by God.

1. **Rom. 6: 23-** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
2. **Ezek. 18: 4b-** ... The soul who sins will die. (cf.- **Nah. 1:3** .. not leave unpunished)
3. **Isa. 59: 1-2** Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short That it cannot save;
Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

*** E. This is called "the law of sin and of death."**

1. If a person commits a sin, he dies. (**He is separated from God .. sin is a wall.**)
2. Since no man can restore life, **one** sin separates man from God eternally.

That's very bad news, BUT there is good news.

II. Even though we have sinned, God still loves us.

A. His love motivated Him to provide a way for us have our sins removed.

Remember : ... Jude 24 ... able ... to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

B. God accomplished this by setting man free from any legal system. (law)

1. A legal system is any system whereby one seeks to appeal to God on the basis of his own merit.
 - a. The keeping of any set of rules is conformity to a legal system.
 - b. The Law of Moses was a legal system, but not the only legal system.
 - c. For example, obeying one's conscience is a self-imposed legal system.
 - * d. **Likewise**, appealing to God on the basis of conformity to doctrine is a legal system.
2. All legal systems are fundamentally flawed; they can ONLY condemn one before God.
 - a. Legal systems just define and quantify transgressions. (**Cf. - Rom. 3: 20**)
 - b. Violations will invariably occur.
 - c. NO legal system can provide a means of forgiveness before God.
 - 1) Most legal systems provide a way to get back into compliance with the system.
 - 2) We even provide ways to relieve (*to salve over*) our guilty consciences.
 - d. Only God can make us righteous in His eyes.

*** Remember :** Violation of any law is to fall short of the glory of God, i.e., to sin.

C. God's alternative to a legal system is GRACE. (either / or ... never mix both)

1. Under the system of grace God has provided a way whereby one's standing with God can be restored after he has sinned. (**sins forgiven ... removed**)
 - a. Legal systems can only provide a way for one to be restored to a right relationship with the law.
 - 1) They cannot make one right with God.
 - 2) **Read ... Heb. 9: 11-14** (**Emphasize** Vs. 13 .. **cleansing** .. cf.- Vs. 14)
 - b. God's system of grace restores one's relationship with God, not with a law.

*** ILL. - One who kills someone can be forgiven by God's grace, but he will still be punished by the civil authorities.**
2. For the Christian grace is automatic and ongoing.
 - a. **Read & Exegete ... I John 1: 6-2:2**
 - 1) Continual Sin
 - 2) Continual cleansing
 - 3) Continual advocacy
 - 4) Continual propitiation (appeasement, satisfaction, covering over)
 - b. **Remember ... Heb. 9: 11-14**
 - 1) **Vs. 12** "once for all time"
 - 2) **Vs. 12** "eternal redemption"
 - 3) **Compare ... I Pet. 3: 18 ... For Christ also died for sins once for all, ...**
 - c. The one sacrifice of Jesus paid the death penalty for all the sins of all those who trust in Him to be their savior.

Read & Exegete ... Rom. 6: 8-11 , 22
3. This is how Christians are able to stand before God with no sins charged against them.

Read & Exegete ... Rom. 8: 1-6 (cf.- **Jude 24** = **blameless**)

III. In order to receive the benefits of the system of grace, one must be under that system.

A. No one is born under grace. (All must choose grace.)

1. From the beginning of time all people have been under the law of sin and death.

ILL. - Adam and Eve were under it : "in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."
2. Only in Christ can one be free from "the law of sin and of death."

B. Grace is only extended to those with faith.

1. **Read & Exegete ... Eph. 2: 1-10**

2. Grace is channeled to man through man's faith in Jesus as the risen Christ.

**ILL. - Electricity comes into one's house through the wire.
If there is not wire, there can be no electricity.**

3. Grace cannot be earned or in any way deserved.

a. Vs. 9 .. It's not given as a result one's works. (**His goodness or rules keeping**)

b. **Rom. 6: 23** ... Salvation is given as a free gift.

c. **Rom. 4** ... God accredits (imputes) righteousness is to a person, it can't be earned.

* **Imputing righteousness is God's response to man's faith.**

(**God rewards trust & love.**)

C. Grace totally changes one's relationship with God.

1. Under grace, there is no more cause for fear or for doubt.

a. **Remember ... Jude 24** "blameless with great joy"

b. **Remember ... Rom. 8: 1** "No condemnation"

2. Grace changes one's attitude toward judgment.

a. **I John 4: 16- 18** "... Love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; ..."

b. **II Tim. 4: 6-8** "... There IS laid up for me a crown of righteousness. ..."

3. The child of God is eager to see his Heavenly Father's face, **not** fearful of His coming.

ILL.- The reception of a soldier returning home from war.

CONCLUSION:

A. Grace demands a response.

1. One functions differently under the new system. (**fearlessly press on**)

2. Some who do not understand grace, try to take advantage of it. (**license to sin**)

(**Remember ... Rom. 8:1** ... **Sinlessness is only for those who walk after to spirit.**)

a. **Read & Exegete ... Gal. 5: 13-18**

b. **Read & Exegete ... Rom. 6: 1-2 , 15**

3. Those who leave the legal system are born again as a different person.

Read & Exegete ... Rom. 6: 3-7

B. The new birth process transfers one into the system of grace.

1. Knowledge must become faith.

2. Faith motivates obedience. **Rom. 6: 15-18 / Acts 22:16**

3. Vs. **4, 18** (cf. – **Eph. 2:10**)