

# God's Grace Abounding Toward Sinners

## Romans 5

### Introduction:

1. Have you ever been late on a bill and you couldn't pay it when it was due? Maybe you said, "Can I have a grace period?" What does this mean?
  - It means the bill is due, I owe it, and you have every right to demand it, but, "Could I have grace? Could you withhold the judgment that I deserve?"
2. In a Biblical sense, grace goes even **beyond** withholding judgment. Grace bestows favor, approval, and acceptance when judgment is deserved.
3. Grace is a major theme of Paul's epistles to the church. The word grace is used 119 times in the New Testament, with 92 of those being used by the apostle Paul.
  - In our text, Romans 5, the word "grace" is used six times.
4. Why is there so much emphasis on grace? Because grace is the difference between heaven and hell. Thankfully God's grace is available to all people today. **Titus 2:11**
5. But here is the key: every person must personally receive God's grace.
  - Calvinism teaches a doctrine called "irresistible grace."
  - The truth is, grace **can** be resisted, but it can and should be received. Why is this?

### I. First, because everyone stands in need of God's grace.

1. I've heard people say, "Me and God - we're okay." When you ask "Why?" they respond, "Well, I'm a good and honest person."
  - This is **their** self-evaluation, but God's Word shows otherwise.
2. The Ten Commandments show that you and I have sinned against God countless times and that we stand guilty before a holy God. **Romans 5:12, 15a, 16a, 17a, 18a, 19a**
3. If you think you are going to heaven because you are "good" let me share the cold, hard facts with you - you have sinned against a righteous God, you have offended Him by disobeying His moral law repeatedly, you are dead in your sins, and you deserve the judgment and condemnation of God Almighty.
  - Sin has universally affected every one of us and brought alienation from God. **Colossians 1:21**
4. You and I stand in desperate need of God's grace. Without it, we should all deservedly spend eternity in hell separated from a holy God.
5. Remember the guy who said, "Me and God - we're okay." Unless he repents of that pious, self-righteous attitude, he will never experience God's grace. Why? Because he doesn't understand that he **needs** it.
  - The truth is - we all need it! But here's the good news: God's grace should be received...

## II. Second, because God's grace is being universally extended to every person.

1. All throughout this passage, it is like the old "good news - bad news" adage.
  - Verse 15a - we are Adams's descendants and we have all inherited a sin nature, being spiritually dead. Clearly the "many" is referring to everybody (cf. verse 19).
  - Verse 15b - he says, "...much more the grace of God."
  - Verse 18 - all men are under judgment and condemnation, but because Jesus kept God's law in perfect righteousness, the free gift of His grace has come upon **all** men.
  - Verse 20 is absolutely amazing - grace has abounded more than sin has abounded!
2. Think of how pervasively and thoroughly sin has permeated mankind and this world. God's grace is greater! It has **more** abounded!!
  - You may ask, "Can I experience God's grace?"
  - If you are a descendant of Adam, just as sure as you are a sinner and deserving of condemnation, you can experience God's grace.  
**Romans 10:12-13, 11:32**
3. A Calvinist may quote **Romans 9:15** where God said to Moses, *"I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."*
  - This is a quote from **Exodus 33:19** and the context has to do with Moses seeing the glory of God as divine proof that Israel was God's people. It had to do with God being merciful to the seed of Jacob.
  - It has nothing to do with an eternal decree or eternal salvation.
  - The entire context of Romans 9 is that God is showing that He can offer mercy to all Gentile nations and all people if He so chooses. This is exactly what He has done.
4. According to Romans 5, God is giving you an opportunity to get out of the family of Adam and into His family!

## III. Third, because God's grace offers righteousness as a gift to sinful man.

1. In verse 15 God is offering a free gift by grace. What is this gift?
  - According to verse 17, it is the gift of righteousness.
2. In our natural, sinful state we all stand guilty and condemned in the courtroom of God.
  - How could I ever be declared righteous and innocent after breaking His law over and over again? God says He is offering it as a free gift by His grace.
3. On what basis can God offer this gift? Through His Son, Jesus Christ. vs. 15, cf. vs. 17, 18, 21
  - Jesus kept God's law in every point. He is the only One that didn't deserve death, yet look at verses 6 & 8. He took the death penalty that I deserve and paid the price in full. He did this willingly out of love.  
**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**
  - God's wrath against sin was poured out on Christ. He took the wrath that I deserve.

4. According to verse 9, now you and I can be justified (this means you are presented before God as righteous and acceptable) because Christ paid our debt.

#### IV. How do I receive the grace of God?

1. You receive it through simple faith in Jesus Christ. vs. 1-2, cf. 4:5, 4:16, 22-25
  - You cannot work for grace, otherwise it is not grace.
  - Grace **cannot** be earned, but it **must** be received. vs. 17
2. Calvinism teaches that God irresistibly imposes His grace on those He elected before the foundation of the world. All others cannot receive His grace, but rather are predestined to be damned.
  - Man is like a machine - some are programmed to respond to His grace and others are programmed to not respond. Of course, this is ludicrous. If grace is irresistible, why doesn't God impose it on all?
  - If grace is forced, it is not grace by the very definition. Grace is never forced or imposed. It is simply offered freely and then it is either willingly received or rejected. There is not one verse in the Bible that states clearly that grace is irresistible or that God imposes it on the elect who otherwise would not believe the gospel.
  - In **Psalm 81:8-16**, God wanted to extend grace to Israel, but they resisted His grace, therefore judgment came.
3. God's grace and the gift of righteousness are freely offered to all (without partiality and without respect of persons.)
  - Then why are some men not saved? **John 5:40** teaches it is because they will not come to Christ.
  - There are only two possibilities: either God causes men to go to hell or they make their own choice. It can't be both or "God's will" would coincide with that of totally depraved sinners.
4. Faith is the God-appointed means of receiving God's free gift (**Ephesians 2:8-9**), and according to **Romans 10:8 & 17** anybody can choose to exercise faith who hears the message of Jesus Christ.
5. **Psalm 86:15** teaches that God is a God of grace. His grace is always extended on His terms. His terms are very simple. Will you turn from your sin and believe on His Son, Jesus Christ? The moment you do, Christ's righteousness is imparted to you and you are reconciled eternally with God.