

Sermon Outline March 6, 2016

"Responding to God's Amazing Grace" Romans 12:1-2

I. God's Great grace should be great, amazing, wonderful, marvelous and mind-boggling in our esteem! Why?

1. Because of Who and more so What GOD IS –Westminster Shorter Catechism; Question 4 What is God? Answer: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, ...

A. God is worthy because He is our creator –

"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." (Revelation 4:11 NKJ)

B. God is worthy because He is our provider / sustainer –

... **O LORD, You preserve man and beast. (Psalm 36:6 NKJ)**

All the myriads of creatures, rational and irrational, are fed by Jehovah's hand. The countless beasts, the innumerable birds, the inconceivable abundance of fishes, the all but infinite armies of insects, all owe their continuance in life to the unceasing outgoings of the divine power. What a view of God this presents to us! What a debased creature must he be who sees no trace of such a God, and feels no awe of him! C.H. Spurgeon

2. God's great grace should be great, amazing, etc... in our eyes because of who and what we are SINNERS –

The entire book of Romans (and the rest of the Bible) tells us this:

A. We would not retain God in our knowledge –

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; (Romans 1:28 NKJ)

B. None of us sought God –

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)

C. We are all guilty, with a capital G-U-I-L-T-Y...

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the

world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. (Romans 3:12-20 NKJ)

We are guilty of every imaginable sin! Every sin is a PROTEST AGAINST GOD!

Every sin tells God, to one degree or another, we despise Him ...

⁶ **All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6 NKJ)**

3. God's great grace should be amazing in our esteem because of how it was attained and WHO attained it for us – ... Christ died for us.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8 NKJ) See also WSC Q. 21

4. God's mercies, His grace should be great in our sight because of the magnitude and wonderful nature of the mercies themselves –

³ **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (Ephesians 1:3 NKJ)**

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:28-29 NKJ)

II. How should we respond to God's Amazing Grace, His many magnificent mercies?

1. By giving our bodies as a living sacrifice –

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice ... (Romans 12:1 NKJ)

A. Why? Because He gave HIS body for us –

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19 NKJ)

B. *How? We are LIVING sacrifices, which is opposite of dead ... dead in sins, we are to be ALIVE spiritually, morally, we are NOT to be spiritual, moral ZOMBIES – See (Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJ)*

... just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Rom 6:4 NKJ)

2. *By living “holy” lives – see Romans 12:1 b & 2 –*

....**holy**, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* (Romans 12:1 NKJ)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2 NKJ)

Holy means “set apart” Paul himself was “separated to the gospel of God” (Rom 1:1 NKJ) -

Such “holy” living proceeds from -

The new birth – John 3:3 ... a vision of Heavenly things!

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

Of things not seen by the world -

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJ)

This leads to:

A. *A hunger for, a delight in, Heavenly things*

...¹³¹ I opened my mouth and panted, For I longed for Your commandments. (Psalm 119:129-131 NKJ)

B. *An increasing energy, liveliness about God’s service and worship, those closest to God are not sleepers –*

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8 NKJ)

Note the four “living” creatures are called LIVING, that is their name ... we should be “living” creatures too -

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. (John 10:10 NKJ)

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

C. *Holy living should impact every part of our lives ---*

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJ)

D. *It is dependent upon a constant connection with Christ – John 15:5*
"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5 NKJ)

E. *It makes us Odd balls in the eyes of the world, but shining stars in the eyes of God –(John 15:18 NKJ)*

¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (Philippians 2:15 NKJ)

F. *It is not sinless perfection – 1 John 1:8-9*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9 NKJ)

G. *Yet, it is a high call we strive for –*

¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJ)

3. *By being transformed –*

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2 NKJ)

A. *Not conformed, the world’s constant goal for us – Daniel 3*

B. *But TRANSFORMED – *Truths that Transform – James D. Kennedy*
**Renewing Your Mind – R.C. Sproul*

It is God’s Word the Bible that transforms us –

The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; (Psalm 19:7-8 NKJ)

Arnold Brevick