

“The Reign Of Grace”
Romans 5:18-21

Introduction:

1. Turn Back With Me In Your Bibles This Morning:
 - To Romans 5!
 - I Appreciate Brother Art For Bringing The Message:
 - Last Sunday From Psalm 89:
 - While We Were Away!
 - But - Today - We Return To:
 - And Will Finish Our Look:
 - At Romans 5!
2. Where - In 5:12-21:
 - The Apostle Paul Is Explaining To Us - Just How:
 - Through One Man - Jesus Christ:
 - Eternal Life Can Come To You!
 - Well - It Is Partly Because:
 - Through One Man - Adam:
 - Sin And Death Came To You!
 - Picking Up Again From 5:12:
 - “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: / 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. / 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. / 15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. / 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. / 17 For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)”
 - Before We Go On:
 - In These Verses - Paul Explains:
 - The Hard Truth That:
 - “In Adam’s Fall, We Sinned All!”
 - But - The Good News Of The Gospel:
 - Is That - When You Believe In Jesus Christ:
 - You Gain More:
 - **Much More:**
 - Than You Ever Lost In Adam!
3. And So Now - Paul’s Focus Shifts:
 - From The Reign Of Sin And Death:
 - Through Adam – To:
 - The Reign Of Grace:
 - Through The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Which We See Next In 5:18-21:
 - “Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. / 19 For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. / 20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: / 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord!”
4. Now - One Of The Primary Attributes:
 - That God Is Known For:
 - All Throughout The Bible:
 - Is His Grace!
 - God Is A God Of Grace!
 - We Are Told This:
 - Back In Exodus 34:6:

- When God Proclaimed Himself To Moses As - “The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth!”
- God Is A Gracious God!
- He Reveals His Goodness And Offers His Favor To:
 - Undeserving Sinners - Like Us!
- We Read This Last Week:
 - In Our Take 20 Bible Reading:
 - From Jonah 4:2 - Where Jonah Used The Character Of God As An Excuse For *Not* Wanting To Go To Nineveh!
 - When - “He prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil!”
 - God Is A Gracious God!
 - He Reveals His Goodness And Offers His Favor To:
 - Undeserving Sinners - Like You And Like Me!

5. God’s Plan And Design:

- To Save Sinners – To Save Us:
 - Is Entirely Of His - As We Sang Earlier:
 - “Marvelous, Infinite, Matchless Grace!”
 - And So - This Morning:
 - I Want You To Remember That, From First To Last:
 - Your Salvation Is Made Possible Only:
 - By God’s Grace!

* And - As We See From 5:18 - It Is By:

1. ***The Decision Of God’s Grace!***

- 5:18 - “Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life!”
- With This Verse - The Apostle Paul:
 - Picks Up Where He Left Off:
 - Back In 5:12 - To Show That The Comparison He Describes:
 - Between Adam And Jesus Christ:
 - Is Mostly A Comparison Of Contrast!
 - And Here - He Wants You To Know That:
 - As One Decision:
 - Made By One Man:
 - To Offend God:
 - Brought Judgment To Us All!
 - So - Another Decision:
 - Made By God:
 - To Justify Sinners:
 - Brings Salvation To All Who Believe!
 - And So - Paul Reminds Us Again Of:
 - The Decision To Offend:
 - By Adam - In The First Part Of 5:18!
 - Now - Some Translations Of This Verse:
 - Refer Again To The “Offense Of One” As Well As “The Righteousness Of One!”
 - While Other Translations Have It As:
 - “One Offense” As Well As “One Righteousness” Or “One Righteous Act!”
 - The Original, Greek Order Of These Words:
 - Most Likely Refers To:
 - The Single Acts, Rather Than The Single Individuals:
 - Which Have Already Been In Focus - And Will Be Again In The Next Verse!
 - But - I Think Paul’s Emphasis Is Clear!
 - It Wasn’t Just By:
 - A Single Man:

- That Sin And Death And Judgment Came:
 - To Us All!
- It Was By:
 - A Single, Deliberate Decision:
 - To Offend God:
 - That Brought Eternal Condemnation To Everyone Who Is Connected To Adam!
 - To The Entire Human Race!
- Doesn't This Reveal:
 - What God Thinks Of Sin?
 - Not Just Of All Sin - In General:
 - But Of Every Sin:
 - In Particular!
 - All It Took Was:
 - A Single Sin:
 - To Condemn The Human Race To Eternal Separation From God!
- And - So It Is With Your Sin & My Sin!
 - Every Single Sin We Commit:
 - Deserves The Judgment Of God:
 - In Which He Will Say - "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels!" (Matthew 25:41)
 - But - Praise God - There Was Another Decision:
 - Apart From Adams Decision:
 - To Sin! And That Was:
- The Decision To Justify:
 - By God - In The Last Part Of 5:18:
 - "Even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life!"
 - The Word Here Translated "Righteousness" Can Also Be Translated "Justification" - And Seems To Refer:
 - To God's Decision To Justify Sinners:
 - Who Are Connected To Jesus Christ By Faith!
 - So - "By One Decision To Justify":
 - God Made It Possible:
 - For Sinners To Receive:
 - All The Blessings And Promises He Offers:
 - In Jesus Christ!
 - This Involves:
 - God's Decision To:
 - Send His Son:
 - Into This World!
 - Sacrifice His Son:
 - For Our Sins!
 - And - Save Through His Son:
 - All Who Believe On His Name!
 - And - When You Do:
 - Believe In Jesus Christ:
 - And Receive The Free Gift Of Salvation:
 - You Will Experience The "Justification Of Life" That He Provided For You Through Christ Jesus!
 - So That Now:
 - You No Longer Need To Fear:
 - His Words Of Judgment And Condemnation:
 - "Depart From Me!"
 - Instead - You Hear:
 - His Words Of Justification And Life:
 - When He Says - "Come Unto Me!"
 - As He Does:
 - In Matthew 11:28 - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you

- rest!”
- And - As He Will:
 - In Revelation 22:17 - “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely!”
- And - This Comes Entirely:
 - From The Gracious Decision:
 - Of God - To Justify Sinners!
 - So That Now:
 - You Are “Passed From Death Unto Life!” (John 5:24)
 - Remember This Decision:
 - By God - To Save You!
 - Remember & Never Forget It!
 - Remember His Grace!

* But Then - We Also See:

2. ***The Deed Of God's Grace!***

- In 5:19 - Which Further Explains:
 - How God's Design & Decision To Justify & Save Sinners:
 - Was Put Into Action!
 - “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous!”
 - So - Here As Well:
 - Paul Wants To Focus Our Attention:
 - On The Work And Deed:
 - Of Christ - By Looking At And Comparing It To:
- The Deed Of Adam:
 - Which Was “Disobedience!”
 - To Disobey Here:
 - Means To Disregard:
 - What Has Been Said!
 - And - Wasn't This The Nature:
 - Of Adam's Sin?
 - He Heard God's Word!
 - He Understood God's Word!
 - But - He Ignored God's Word:
 - Deliberately - And Then:
 - He Disobeyed God's Word!
 - And - What Happened As The Result:
 - Of Adam's Disobedience?
 - “Many Were Made Sinners!”
 - “Many” Here Means All Who Are Connected To Adam In A Natural Way!
 - It Means Everyone - Except One!
 - Again - “In Adam's Fall, We Sinned All!”
 - So - This Answers The Great Theological Question:
 - Are We Sinners Because We Sin? Or Do We Sin Because We're Sinners?
 - The Answer - We Sin Because We're Sinners!
 - We All Act According To The Sin Nature We Inherited From Adam!
 - This Is Why In Psalm 51:5:
 - David Says - “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me!”
 - This Was Not An Excuse For His Sin, But It Was An Explanation For His Sin!
 - Because Of Adam's Disobedience:
 - We Now All Have The Propensity And The Desire:
 - To Disobey & Disregard God's Word:
 - Ourselves!
 - But - Praise God - There Was Another Deed:
 - Apart From Adams Deed:
 - Of Disobedience Sin! And That Was:
- The Deed Of Christ:

- Which Was “Obedience!”
 - 5:19b - “So by the obedience of one” – Which Can Also Be Translated – “The One” – “Shall many be made righteous!”
 - “The One” - Of Course - Is Jesus Christ!
 - And He More Than Made Up For The Single Disobedient Act Of Adam In The Garden Of Eden!
- To Be Obedient:
 - You Must Hear And Heed:
 - The Word Of God:
 - Completely And Entirely!
 - And - This Was The Testimony:
 - Of Jesus’ Entire Life!
- In John 8:29 - Jesus Said:
 - “I do always those things that please him!”
- Several Times In Jesus’ Ministry - His Father Said:
 - “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!”
- In Philippians 2:8 - We See That Jesus:
 - “Humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross!”
- Though Jesus Was Tempted:
 - Even By The Tempter / The Devil Himself:
 - Hebrews 4:15 Tells Us That:
 - He “Was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin!”
- So - Because Of:
 - The Perpetual Obedience Of Christ:
 - To Both The Letter:
 - And In The Spirit:
 - Of God’s Word:
 - 5:19b - “Shall Many Be Made Righteous!”
 - “Many” Here Means All:
 - Who Are Connected To Jesus Christ:
 - In A Spiritual Way!
 - It Means Everyone Who Believes On The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Not Only Will You Be:
 - Declared Righteous By God:
 - When You Believe!
 - One Day - You Will Also:
 - Become Righteous:
 - Since You Believed!
- And - This Comes Entirely:
 - From The Gracious Deed:
 - Of Christ - All According To:
 - The Plan & Design Of God:
 - To Justify Sinners!
 - And All You Must Do Is:
 - Rely Upon This Deed!
 - Rely Upon And Trust In The Work Of Jesus Christ To Save You!
 - Have You? Do You?
 - Rely Upon His Grace!

* But Then - We Also See:

2. ***The Display Of God’s Grace!***

- In 5:20 - Where Paul Explains The Place Of The Law:
 - “Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound!”
 - So - In Between:
 - The Time Of God’s Decision:
 - To Justify Sinners - And:
 - The Time Of Christ’s Deed:

- “The Law Entered!”
 - That Is - It Came Into The Picture!
- Now - Even Though:
 - When God Gave His Moral Law:
 - The Ten Commandments To The Children Of Israel:
 - In Exodus 20 - It *Was* Done In A Dramatic Way!
 - Yet - The Force Of Those Commandments:
 - Was Not What The Children Of Israel:
 - Made Them Out To Be!
- “The Law Entered” Into God’s Plan:
 - Not To Save Them!
 - Not Even To Sanctify Them!
 - But - The Primary Purpose Of God’s Law:
 - Was To Sink Them:
 - Deeper And Deeper In The Quagmire Of Their Sin!
- And So - To Focus Our Attention:
 - On The Display Of God’s Grace:
 - Paul Wants Us To First Look At How:
- God’s Law Amplifies Sin!
 - God Gave His Law:
 - So That “The Offense Might Abound!”
 - **IE:** God’s Law Is Like A Mirror - It Shows Us Just How Spiritually Ugly We Are! But - It Provides No Power In Itself To Change Us! Neither Do We! Only God Can!
 - So - The More A Sinner Knows:
 - About God’s Law:
 - The More Their Guilt Abounds!
 - But Also:
 - The More A Sinner Knows:
 - About God’s Law:
 - Often Times - The More Their Own Sin Abounds!
 - Because Sinners Do Not Like To Be Told What They Can / Cannot Do!
 - **IE:** Think About What’s Been Happening In Portland, Oregon For The Last Two Months! Demonstrations And Riots! The More They Are Told To Stop, The More They Continue! Even To The Point They Blame The Police And Federal Agents Who Are Trying To Protect Property, Maintain Order, And Enforce The Law! Laws Have No Power Over Lawless People, Because Lawless People Hate The Law!
 - But - Praise God:
 - There Was Another Principle At Work!
 - More Powerful Than The Principle Of Sin!
 - And That Is The Principle:
 - Of God’s Grace!
 - Because:
- God’s Grace Abounds – Over Sin!
 - 5:20b - “But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound!”
 - Though The Words Translated Here:
 - “Abound” - Are Similar:
 - There Is A Difference!
 - So - Though Sin Does Abound:
 - When Confronted With God’s Law:
 - And We Remain Bound:
 - With The Chains Of Its Guilt!
 - Yet - God’s Grace:
 - “Super-Abounds!”
 - In An Exponential Way!
 - To The Point Of Overflow!
 - **IE:** Like The Flood-Waters In Genesis 6 Cleansed The Whole Earth Of Sin & Sinners - So God’s Grace Floods Over All Who Are Found In Jesus Christ!
 - So - God Used His Law:

- To Highlight His Grace:
 - Even More!
- So That Now - You And I Can:
 - Rest - Entirely & Completely:
 - In The Grace Of God!
 - As Edward Mote Once Wrote:
 - “When darkness veils His lovely face, / I rest on His unchanging grace; / In every high and stormy gale, / My anchor holds within the veil!”
 - Are You Resting:
 - In The Super-Abundant:
 - Overflowing:
 - Grace Of God Today?
 - You Can - Because Of What We Find At The Very End Of This Chapter! And That Is:

4. ***The Domain Of God’s Grace!***

- 5:21 - “That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord!”
 - To Focus Our Attention:
 - On The Domain Of God’s Grace:
 - Paul Wants Us To First Look At:
 - The Reign & Domain Of Sin!
 - We’ve Already Seen From:
 - 5:17 - That The Tyrant Of Sin:
 - Has Been Reigning Over:
 - The Hearts & Souls & Bodies:
 - Of Men - Since Adam!
 - And - It Does So:
 - Through Death:
 - And Even The Fear Of Death!
 - Not Only Is Death:
 - The Proof That Sin Reigns Over Men:
 - But Death Is Also:
 - The Power Of Sin’s Reign!
 - But - Praise God:
 - This Is Why He Sent Jesus!
 - As We Are Told In Hebrews 2:14-15 - “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; / And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage!”
 - And So Now - Through Christ:
 - We See:
 - The Reign & Domain Of Grace!
 - 5:21b - “Even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord!”
 - The Reign Of God’s Grace:
 - Is Not A Despotic Reign:
 - But A Delightful Reign!
 - Because It Brings About:
 - To Full Completion:
 - God’s Design To:
 - “Save Them To The Uttermost That Come Unto God By Him – Jesus Christ!” (Hebrews 7:25)
 - Grace Reigns:
 - Through Righteousness!
 - That Is - Through The Righteousness:
 - Of Christ!
 - A Righteousness That He Can Apply To The Account Of Those Who Believe In Him!

- Grace Reigns:
 - Unto Eternal Life!
 - That Is - Through The Life:
 - Of Christ!
 - As Jesus Himself Said In John 10:28 - “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand!”
 - Grace Reigns:
 - By Jesus Christ Our **Lord!**
 - Jesus Is The Lord Of Grace!
 - Jesus Is The King Of This Kingdom!
- And So Now:
- You And I Can:
 - Rejoice In Domain Of God’s Grace!

Conclusion:

1. Because - Everything You Are:
 - As A Christian!
 - Everything You Have:
 - And - Everything You Will Be:
 - All Flows From:
 - The Grace Of God!
 - As Ron Hamilton Once Wrote:
 - I found grace to save my soul
 - At the cross Christ made me whole
 - When my Savior took control
 - And washed my sin away.
 - Now the fellowship is sweet
 - As I worship at His feet.
 - Only by His grace
 - I have found this holy place
 - Underneath His wings of love
 - Trusting in my God above
 - Grace for every need
 - Grace that overflows and far exceeds
 - Lavished on my soul at Calvary
 - Only by His grace.
2. If You Are A Christian Today:
 - Remember! Rely Upon! Rest In! And Rejoice In!
 - The Reign Of God’s Grace!

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