



## Grace Alone

Lesson Fourteen

### Grace Alone Is the Answer but What Is the Question?

*Does the will of fallen people have the capacity for exercising faith in the gospel or is a faith response to Christ the gift of God's gracious enabling?*

*"...by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the LORD." 1Corinthians 1:30-31*

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10*

#### Definitions

Grace is "the unmerited goodness or love of God to those who have forfeited it, and are by nature under a sentence of condemnation."  
— Louis Berkhof, Systematic Theology

"Salvation is of grace. The gospel is a system of grace. All its blessings are gratuitously bestowed; all is so ordered that in every step of the progress of redemption and in its consummation, the grace, or undeserved love of God, is conspicuously displayed. Nothing is given or promised on the ground of merit. Everything is an undeserved favor. That salvation was provided at all, is a matter of grace and not of debt. That one man is saved, and another not, is to the subject of salvation, a matter of grace." — Charles Hodge, Systematic Theology

#### Confessions

##### The London Baptist Confession on Free Will

**Article 1** God has endowed human will with natural liberty and power to act on choices so that it is neither forced nor inherently bound by nature to do good or evil.

**Article 2** Humanity in the state of innocence had freedom and power to will and to do what was good and well-pleasing to God. Yet this condition was unstable, so that humanity could fall from it.

**Article 3** Humanity, by falling into a state of sin, has completely lost all ability to choose any spiritual good that accompanies salvation. Thus, people in their natural state are absolutely opposed to spiritual good and dead in sin, so that they cannot convert themselves by their own strength or prepare themselves for conversion.

**Article 4** When God converts sinners and transforms them into the state of grace, he frees them from their natural bondage to sin and by his grace alone enables them to will and to do freely what is spiritually good. Yet because of their remaining corruption, they do not perfectly nor exclusively will what is good but also will what is evil.

**Article 5** Only in the state of glory is the will made perfectly and unchangeably free toward good alone.

#### Affirmations

"The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands." — Martin Luther

"To be convinced in our hearts that we have forgiveness of sins and peace with God by grace alone is the hardest thing." — Martin Luther

### LAST WEEK: Romans 5:12-21 Is the Tale of Two Men: Everyone Is Either in ADAM or in CHRIST!

*God gives the super-abounding gift of saving grace **through Christ alone** to those enslaved under sin's deadly rule in Adam.*

1. Reflect on the Reign of DEATH in Adam. 5:12-14
2. Reflect on the Reign of LIFE in Christ Alone. 5:15-19
3. Rejoice in the Reign of GRACE in Christ Alone. 5:20-21

❖ Bad News: The Law entered the picture not make one righteous but to **INCREASE** one's sinfulness.

*"The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,"*

Compare Romans 3:20; 7:7-11; Galatians 3:19-24

❖ Good News: Where sin abounds, grace **SUPER ABOUNDS** through Christ alone!

*"so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

### What's So Amazing About God's Grace?

#### 1. God's Grace Is His SAVING FAVOR/KINDNESS Given to Undeserving Sinners.

❖ Why are all sinners so undeserving of God's grace?

- 1) All have sinned in and with Adam. *Romans 5:12-21*
- 2) All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. *Romans 1-3* (Grace comes in at the “But now...” of 3:21)
- 3) All are dead (separated) in their sins by birth and by choice. *Ephesians 2:1-7* (Grace comes in at the “But God...” of 2:4)

- ❖ God **SHOWS** Common Grace to All Undeserving Sinners. *Luke 6:35*
- ❖ God **GIVES** Saving Grace to Those Undeserving Sinners He Chooses to Save. *Rom 3:21-25* (“But now”); *Eph 2:4-7* (“But God”); *Titus 3:3-7* (“But when”)

“For from the error of not knowing, or understanding, what sin is, there necessarily arises another error, that people cannot know or understand what grace is.” – Martin Luther

## 2. God’s Grace Is a **FREE GIFT** Given to Undeserving Sinners.

“If God were willing to sell His grace, we would accept it more quickly and gladly than when He offers it for nothing.” – Martin Luther

**Grace Must Be Free Because Sin and Death Rule Over Us.** *Romans 5:14, 21*

**Grace Must Be Free Because Our Wills Are Not Free.** *Ephesians 2:1-3*

- ❖ We are enslaved to the **WORLD** system. *1John 2:16; James 4:4*
- ❖ We are enslaved to the **DEVIL** and his demonic forces. *John 8:43-44*
- ❖ We are enslaved to our sinful **DESIRES**. *Romans 8:6-8*

## 3. God’s Grace Is Given to Undeserving Sinners Through **CHRIST ALONE**.

“I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,” *1Corinthians 1:4*

- ❖ Christ is God’s grace **WITH** us in the cradle of the incarnation. *John 1:14, 16-17; Romans 3:21-23; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7*
- ❖ Christ is God’s grace **FOR** us on the cross of redemption. *Romans 3:24-25; 5:15; 1Corinthians 1:30*
- ❖ Christ is God’s grace **OVER** us with the crown of resurrection and exaltation. *Romans 5:21; Hebrews 4:14-16*

## 4. God’s Grace **ABOUNDS** Much More than the Sin of Undeserving Sinners.

**So How Much Does God’s Grace Super Abound?**

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;” *2Corinthians 9:8*

## 5. God’s Grace **RULES** Over the Sin of Undeserving Sinners.

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?” *Romans 6:1-2*

- ❖ **MAY IT NEVER BE!** God’s Grace Reigns **THROUGH** Righteousness unto Eternal Life.
- ❖ God’s grace rules over sin to liberate both *the lawless* and *the legalist* from its mastery.

“For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.” *Romans 6:14*

“This grace of God is a very great, strong, mighty and active thing. It does not lie asleep in the soul. Grace hears, leads, drives, draws, changes, works all in man, and lets itself be distinctly felt and experienced. It is hidden, but its works are evident.” – Martin Luther

## 6. God’s Grace Is Able Save Undeserving Sinners **WITHOUT** Distinction.

- ❖ Saving grace does not save all people without exception (= universalism), but it does save all **KINDS** of people without distinction. *Romans 1:16-17; 3:21-23, 28-30; 10:11-13*

## 7. God’s Grace Means All the Glory Goes to **GOD ALONE!**

“But by his doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.” *1Corinthians 1:30-31*

**Justification Is by GRACE ALONE through FAITH ALONE in CHRIST ALONE!**

God gives the free gift of being justified through Christ alone to those who were once enslaved under sin's deadly rule in Adam but are now the recipients of His super-abounding grace in Christ alone.

**RECEIVE the GIFT  
of Super-Abounding Grace!**

*"But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested...even the righteousness of God through faith **in Jesus Christ** for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;"*  
Romans 3:21-22

**REJOICE in the GIFT  
of Super-Abounding Grace!**

*"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God **through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also** we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God."*  
Romans 5:1-2

**REIGN Over Sin by the GIFT  
of Super-Abounding Grace!**

*"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?...Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God **in Christ Jesus.**"*  
Romans 6:1-2, 11

**RE-GIFT the GIFT  
of Super-Abounding Grace!**

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous shall live by faith."*  
Romans 1:16-17