**January 2020**

**Grace - God’s love gift**

The gospel without grace is ***contaminated and unfit*** for human consumption. Remove the ***grace*** and you remove the ***truth***.

John 1: 17 (grace and truth came by Jesus Christ)

John 3: 16 - 17

Ephesians 1: 3 – 7 & 2: 4 – 9

***Matthew 5: 17***

Jesus did not come into the world to destroy the law. He came to fulfil it.

* God is rich in mercy and grace.
* By grace are we saved through ‘*right believing’*.

1 Corinthians 6: 19 - 20

* It cost us nothing. It was a gift from God.
* It cost Jesus everything (purchased with a price).
* Glorify God in your body *and* in your spirit, which are God’s. We should look after our bodies because it is God’s temple (1 Corinthians 3: 16).

**Why the gift?**

To understand the gift, we must understand the spiritual state of man and God’s plan of redemption.

1. The law was added because of transgression to ***help us see*** that we were indeed sinners in need of salvation (Romans 5: 12 – 13).
2. The law gives us the ***knowledge of sin*** but it cannot save us – ***Diagnosis***.
3. God then sends Jesus as grace to the world – He is the physician who heals our condition.
4. To the self-righteous – they must receive step one before they can receive step two. If they are not willing to accept the witness of the law, they will not be able to receive the help of grace and truth.

Romans 5: 1 – 2 & 12 – 21 (NLT)

* Can’t have peace without grace. Without it, man would have remained eternally separated from God.

***Luke 15: 20-24***

The parable of the prodigal son.

Hearing

Receiving

Believing

Speaking

Acting

* ***To impute*** – to count us as righteous. God finds ***no fault*** in us. This was the *gift of grace*, the Father treating us as if we had never sinned.
* With sin comes condemnation but with grace comes freedom.
* Grace allows us to live in triumph over sin and death, *if it’s received* (v17).
* Grace ***reigns*** (rules) – giving us right standing with God (v21).

Revelation 4: 11 (Man’s importance to God)

* You have created all things and for your ***pleasure*** they are and were created (determination, desire or will).

***Eph 4: 27- 32***

Neither give place – a spot, opportunity or occupancy to the devil.

* The garden was perfect, but a predator was walking about seeking whom he may devour (a fallen angel - Satan who was cast down from heaven to earth (Revelation 12: 7 - 9).

Disobedience brought spiritual death – separation from God.

* Satan needed authority and jurisdiction *(Exousia)* to operate in the earth. Adam gave it to him through disobedience (Luke 4: 6).
* Death and life are in the power of the tongue. It sets on fire the course of nature (the wheel of life or course of life - James 3: 6 & Deut 30:19).

Genesis 2: 15 – 17 (dress and keep it = serve and guard)

* You shall surely die - separation from God.
* Adam’s disobedience transferred the blessing and it became a curse.
* Satan coundn’t remove the blessing – continued through covenants.

Jesus didn’t come to make bad men good, He came to make dead men alive – I am come that they might life and have it more abundantly (John 10: 10).

**Israelites identified as slaves not sons**

Time lines:

-64 years between Joseph’s death and Moses birth.

-144 must have passed before their deliverance (Moses was 80 years old).

All they knew was bondage. It was ingrained in their thinking.

All they knew was ***performance***. All God wanted was their ***trust***.

Exodus 1: 7 – 14 & 2: 23 – 25

* Goshen was the best land Egypt had to offer.

Goshen means “*Drawing near*”

* Because of Moses, their Egyptian taskmasters placed them under greater burden. All they knew was hard work, bondage, performance quotas and punishment.

With love comes trust

* Deuteronomy – 1: 26 – 32 NLT (Israel didn’t believe God’s love for them).

Their hearts had been ***discouraged*** (to dissolve or melt).

* The report of the spies had demoralized them (evil report).
* Hebrews 3: 13 tell us to exhort one another daily (warn).
* Numbers 14:26 – Caleb had a different spirit or “another attitude”.
* Numbers 32:12 – Caleb and Joshua “wholly’ followed the Lord (means consecrated or set apart).

The prodigal son wanted to perform for acceptance.

* The prodigal saw himself as a slave not a son (Luke 15: 17 – 24).

**Under grace our identity is in Christ**

The gift that keeps giving

2 Corinthians 5: 17 – 21 & 6: 1 – 2 (NLT).

The ***gift*** brought us back to God through Jesus Christ.

* We are sealed

You have an ambassador’s ‘seal’. The devil recognises it and trembles.

2 Corinthians 1:20 - 22 ***seal*** (mark or stamp for security or preservation).

***Earnest*** (a pledge given in advance as security).

Galatians 2: 20 – We lived because Jesus ***loved*** us and gave himself for us.

Ephesians 1:13 & Ephesians 4:29 - 32.

***2 Timothy 2: 19***

Nevertheless, the foundation of God stands sure, having this ***seal***, The Lord knows them that are his (***a stamp marked genuine***).

* We are complete

***Col 1: 21-23 NLT***

Holy, blameless and without fault.

Colossians 2:10 – to make full or perfect.

Remember ***all*** things have become new.

* We are without spot or wrinkle(without stain, blemish, defect, disgrace)

Ephesians 5: 25 - 27 (faultless, without fault, blameless). It’s about what Jesus did - He loved the church and gave himself for it.

2 Peter 3: 13 - 14.

**With identity comes access**

* Our identity in Christ gives us access to all that grace has made available.

***Access*** means -

admission or approach. Only used 3 times in NT.

* Faith is the debit card.
* Card activation occurs only when we are born again – new creations.
* Trying to apply the law and receive from God through works is like using an expired card. It is no longer valid.

Access is always denied through works and performance.

Access *by faith* takes a hold of the grace of God.

* Romans 5: 1 - 2
* Hebrews 4: 16
* Ephesians 2:18 (access by one Spirit).
* Ephesians 3:12 (boldness & access with confidence).

**Right believing is the key**

The gospel declares that God first loved us and died for us. Religion focuses on our ability to love God.

Right believing gives us access to the throne of grace, not right performing, or right doing or right behaving. Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The Old Testament way of relating to God is not the same as the New Testament way of having a relationship with God.

* The old was legalistic and based on performance.
* Ongoing sacrifices for sin (Hebrews 10: 1 – 4 NLT). Always having a sin consciousness and sense of unworthiness.

The New Testament is based on our acceptance of Jesus and the sacrifice He made for our redemption – bringing us back to God.

* The new is based on relationship.
* Sin is removed forever by one sacrifice.
* The only performance that counted was Jesus at Calvary.
* We are ***now*** seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Hence the right of access.

**Warning against identity theft.**

Satan is the identity thief.

* Matthew 4: 1 - 4 “*if you be the son of God*…”?

Satan deceives the nations.

Rev 12: 9

Rev 20: 3

* *“It is written”* is 100% protection against identity theft.
* 1 Peter 5:8 –The devil is looking for someone to ***devour*** (swallow/drown)
* Devil means false accuser or slanderer.
* He comes ***only*** to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).
* To ***deceive*** means – go astray, seduce, wander, roam, err or be out of the way.

***Diplomatic Immunity***

* As ambassadors we have diplomatic immunity (2 Corinthians 5: 20).
* Diplomatic immunity is a form of legal immunity that ensures diplomats are given safe passage and are not susceptible to lawsuits or prosecution under the host country’s laws.
* Satan is the accuser of the brethren. We are operating in his fallen domain.
* But that evil one touches us not (1 John 5: 17 – 19).
* Touch not my anointed and do my prophets no harm (1 Chron 16: 22).

The devil has a license to ***seek***, but not a license to steal, kill and destroy.

Must resist steadfast in the faith. (1 Peter 5: 9)

* He doesn’t want you to believe what you have become.
* He wants you to live in a dead past, not a glorious future.
* Submit to God, resist the devil and ***he will flee.*** He has no choice.

**Can’t mix law and grace**

**Don’t try and pay for the gift – it’s free and unconditional**

Romans 8: 3 – 4 (NLT)

Luke 5: 33 – 39 (NLT)

What is the application – The incompatibility of the old with the new (can’t mix).

***Ephesians 6: 14***

Having on the breastplate of righteousness.

***2 Cor 5: 17***

We have been made righteous.

* The bible never told us to improve ourselves.

***Galatians 3: 27***

For as many of you that have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

* Under the New Covenant we put on Christ as a new garment.
* Robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61: 9 – 11).
* Our new garment is the righteousness of God.
* Ephesians 4: 24 – put on the new man (righteous and holy).
* Our conduct has no merit at all. Only the death of Jesus on the cross is meritorious.

Successfully mixing law & grace is as impossible as serving two masters. It can’t be done.

Galatians 3: 1- 3 (NLT) – human effort cannot make us perfect.

Matthew 22: 11 – 14 (NLT)

***Luke 14: 23***

Go into the highways and ***compel*** them to come. (*Constrain or necessitate).*

* This marriage was between Jesus and his church. The king is God.

The quests ***didn’t notice*** the man. He relied on outward appearances.

* Jesus is the husband of the church. We are his bride.
* Those clothed in the proper wedding garments were clothed in Christ

(his righteousness).

* This man was not clothed in righteousness – speechless and cast out.
* We are clothed with the white garment of mercy and grace (gift).

The Law

You work to get. Peter ***toiled*** all night and caught nothing (Luke 5: 4 – 10).

The word toil is the same meaning as the word ***sorrow*** in Genesis 3:17 (labour, wearied, pain, exhausted, worry, hard work or fatigue).

Martha was distracted with business (Luke 10: 40). To drag all around with care (over occupied or too busy). Yet grace was right in her midst.

Grace

You get what you don’t deserve. Jesus (Grace Himself) got into the boat and they caught a ’boat sinking’ load of fish.

* Works and performance will always cause you to draw away from God (depart from me Lord). The word says to draw near to God.
* Grace declares ‘fear not’.

The two women served as an illustration of God’s two covenants.

One brings slavery.

One brings freedom.

Abraham’s two children

Galatians 4: 21 – 30 (NLT)

Genesis 21: 9 – 13

* Mocking – To laugh outright or to scorn.
* The son of the slave will not share the inheritance of the free woman’s son.

**Hear him only**

When the law was given there was a thick cloud or thick darkness where God was (Exodus 19: 16 & 20: 21). When grace appeared, the cloud was bright (Matthew 17: 5).

- Exodus 40: 34.

- 2 Chronicles 5: 13 – 14. The glory came.

Both Moses and Solomon had finished their respective work. Jesus was also preparing for his departure.

John 1: 14 – 17

* Dwell means - tent or tabernacle.

The grace is in the glory. It’s yours to receive.

Luke 9: 28 – 35

Matthew 17: 1- 8 & Mark 9: 2 - 9

Acts 3: 22

***Luke 18: 9***

The religious leader was self-righteous

relying on his performance.

The tax collector recognised he was a sinner in need of a saviour.

***The law exalts, but grace humbles.***

* Jesus prayed. The way of grace is always dependent on God.

***2 Corinthians 4: 7***

But we have this treasure in earther vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

* Under the law man depends on self-effort or performance.
* The glory that manifested now resides in us (earthen vessels).

What they represented

* + ***Moses*** was the law giver (represented the law).
  + ***Elijah*** represented the prophets (he was also the law restorer).
  + ***Jesus*** represented the ministry of grace.
  + Jesus came to fulfil the law and the prophets not destroy (Matt 5:17).
* As he prayed his face shone – When all this happened, he disciples were sleeping. The spirit was willing but the flesh was weak.
* About 6 to 8 days early, Peter had declared Jesus was *The Christ*, the son of the living God (Matthew 16: 16).
* Three tabernacles (booths, shelters, tents or dwelling place) put them all on the same level.
* Three tabernacles represented three equal options. Must be Jesus only.
  + Feast of tabernacles (shelters, booths or Sukkot) – a celebration (seven days) of God’s continued provision and a reminder of his provision and protection during 40 years in the wilderness.

In the end, they saw ***JESUS ONLY*** – that’s God’s plan for the world. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

* John 2: 5 – Whatever he says to you, do it.
* John 6:63 - My words are spirit and they are life.
* John 8: 32 – You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.
* John 10: 10 – I have come that they might have abundant life.
* John 14: 6 – I am the way the truth and the life.
* Romans 3: 21 – Righteousness without the law.
* Romans 5: 21 – Grace might reign through righteousness.
* 1 Peter 1: 10 – Prophecy of the grace that should come.
* 1 John 1: 1 - They looked upon and handled the Word of Life.

**Grace – the stain remover**

**Exodus 20: 24 - 25**

God introduced the “*Alter of Sacrifice*” because of His mercy. Blessing would now come through the sacrifice, no longer through the promise given to Abraham.

* Sacrifice means to kill or to slay.

God couldn’t bless them through faith, He could only bless them by obeying the law through works and performance.

* Genesis 12: 2 – 3.
* Galatians 3: 13 - 14 & 29.

Atonement

* Leviticus 16: 29 – 34 KJV & NLT (The day of atonement or Yom Kippur).

***Atonement***

Was only temporary.

The blood of animals could only cover sin.

* ***To cover***, to make up for, to cancel to appease, to forgive, to cleanse, be merciful or pardon.
* However, the sin stain remained.
* There had to be a blood sacrifice for cleansing.
* Hebrews 9: 22 – without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
* Hebrews 10: 4 – For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sin.

Remission

* First used in Matthew 26: 28 – “Is shed for many for the ***remission*** of sins”.

***Remission:***

Released from bondage or imprisonment.

* Means –***freedom***, pardon, deliverance, liberty & forgiveness. In other words, to wipe away (word not found in the Old Testament).

The message of reconciliation. Come back to God. It’s ok.

* God treating us as if our sins had not been committed.
* To Remit - to forsake, lay aside, put away (wipe away) or to leave.
* Reconciliation means – exchange / restoration to divine favour (to be the same in relationship. United as one). 2 Corinthians 5: 17 – 19.
* Hebrews 8: 12 – their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Colossians 1: 6 (NLT)

* Must ***hear*** and ***understand*** the truth about God’s wonderful grace.

***Romans 10: 17***

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

* There must be faith in the grace of God.

Ephesians 1: 4 - 7 & 13 (NLT)

* According to the riches of his grace.
* The word of truth is the word of grace.

2 Corinthians 1: 20 - 22

* God has sealed us and given us the guarantee of his Spirit.
* In Him we cannot fail.
* The world system is a failed system. If you remain tethered to it you will fail with it. It cannot lead you in victory.

Ephesians 2: 8 - 9

Ephesians 3: 17 – 20

* We are his workmanship

**Self-righteousness (the enemy of grace)**

* Blinds you to the grace of God.
* ***A counterfeit*** (*made in exact imitation of something valuable with the intention to deceive or defraud*).

Matthew 6: 1 – 7 (NLT)

***Matthew 23: 27 - 28***

Jesus was critical of the religious leaders who trusted in their self-righteousness.

Hypocrite – An actor under an assumed character (pretender).

Self-righteous people can be very dangerous because they often preach false doctrine and become false teachers.

John 5: 39 – 47 (approval of men)

John 9: 33 -34 (exalting themselves)

John 12: 42 - 43

Love the praises of men more than the praise of God.

Compare with John 9: 22 – the parents of the blind man feared the Jews.

Luke 15: 28 – 32

* The brother was angry not joyful.
* He relied on performance for acceptance.
* Wouldn’t acknowledge his brother, but judged him.
* He couldn’t see that all that the father had was already his.
* The father didn’t see death, he saw life. Didn’t see lost, he saw found.

Luke 18: 9 – 14 NLT (confident trust in self and despising others)

***Pharisees***

Separatist. Exclusively religious. They hated Jesus and what he proclaimed.

They loved outward appearances, works and piety to gain popularity.

For that they were severely rebuked by Jesus.

* Stand means to ‘present’.
* Self-confident. Elevating himself (the exalted shall be humbled).
* Judgmental / critical.
* Performance based, self-righteous approval.
* Be merciful to me a sinner – ***the way of grace***.
* Jesus said, “I will have mercy not sacrifice”. He came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance (Matthew 9:13).
* Jesus declared the publican ***justified*** (*innocent or free* - righteous).

Luke 18: 18 (Matthew 19: 16 - What good things shall I do)

* He was relying on performance to earn salvation.
* He was blinded by self-righteousness.
* He was very sorrowful (2 Corinthians 7: 8 – 11 NLT).
* Worldly sorrow lacks repentance.

**Jesus came to seek and to save the lost**

Grace revealed through Jesus

John 8 – Woman caught in adultery

John 8: 32

John 14: 6

2 Timothy 8 - 9

James 1: 17

Every good and perfect gift is from above

**Love was bestowed upon us**

Bestowed means – to give or to grant

1 John 3: 1- 9

1 Corinthians 15: 10

2 Corinthians 8: 1

**Ministry gifts**

Romans 12: 3 - 8

1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 12

Ephesians 4: 7 – 15

Hebrews 4: 16

James 4: 6

**Grace will teach us**

Titus 2: 11- 12

**Grace defines us**

1 Corinthians 15: 10

**Grace empowers us**

2 Corinthians 12: 8 – 10

**Grace keeps us free from bondage**

Galatians 3: 1- 4

Galatians 5: 1 – 8

**Grace always gives**

2 Corinthians 8: 1 - 9

**Grace never fails**

Romans 8: 35 – 39

1 Corinthians 13: 8

Love is not a man that he should lie

**The Gospel of Grace**

Galatians 1: 6 – 7

Acts 20: 24

Romans 1: 16