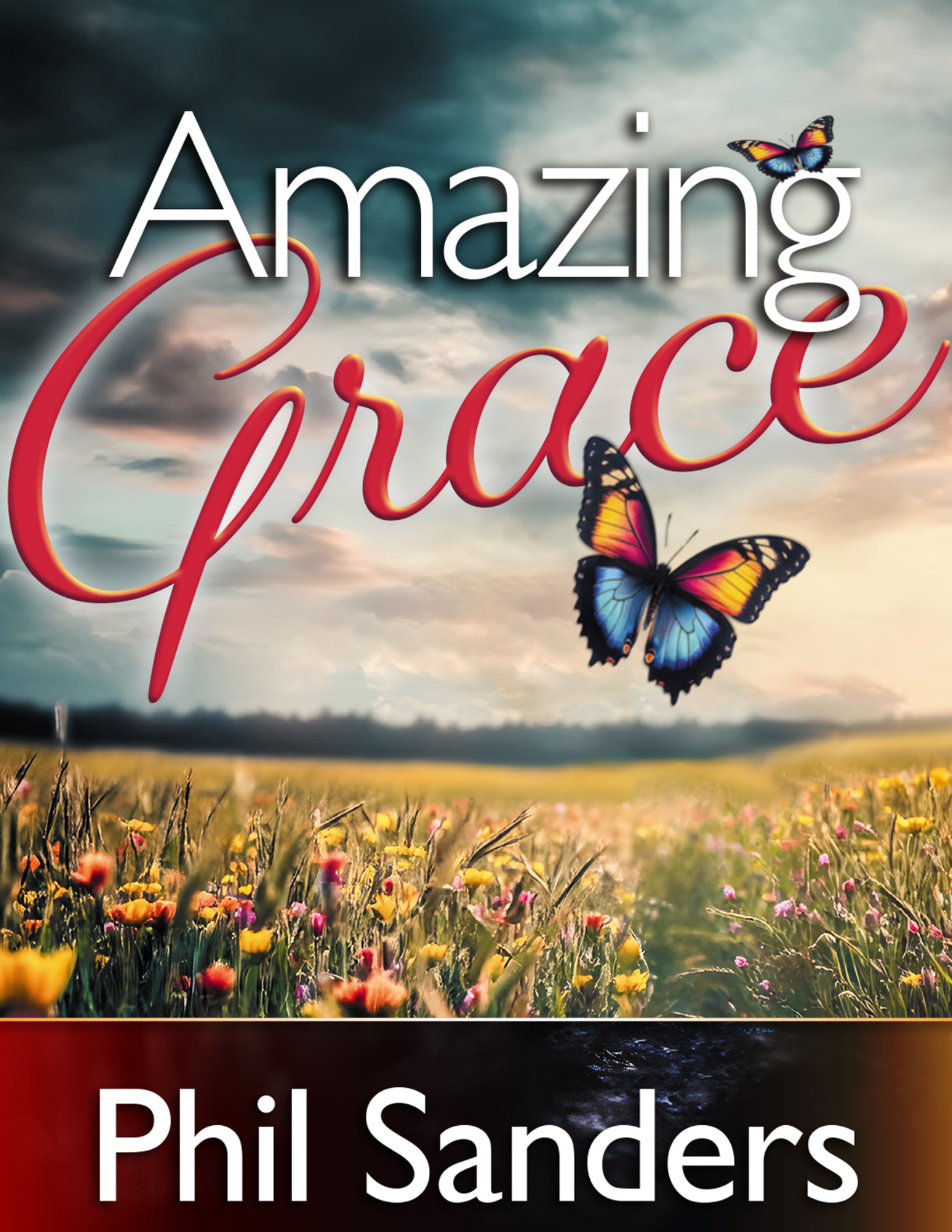




Amazing *Grace*

Phil Sanders

SEARCH PROGRAMS

April 2026

Topics subject to change without notice

APRIL 5 – JESUS SAVES SINNERS

The Lord Jesus was born to be a sacrifice and save His people from their sins. We can be so thankful that no matter what our past has been, the Lord Jesus can still cause us to be born again and live a new life.

APRIL 12 – OUR FORGIVING GOD

We should not think the God of the Old Testament has no interest in saving us from sin. He loves us and sent His Son Jesus so that we would not perish but find everlasting life. We can know our Father by looking at Jesus.

APRIL 19 – POWER IN THE BLOOD

The Scriptures teach us that life is in our blood. If we wish to be atoned for our sins, then blood must be poured out. The Lord Jesus shed His blood that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

APRIL 26 – TRANSFORMING GRACE

The grace of God does far more than merely save us from sin. God's grace transforms our lives so that as we are born again, we can be redeemed from every lawless deed and become a person zealous for good works.

Jesus Saves Sinners

When Mary was found to be with child, an angel told Joseph in a dream in Matthew 1:21, "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." When John the Baptist introduced Jesus to his disciples in John 1:29, he declared, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" Our Father in heaven and the Lord Jesus are in the saving business. John 3:17 says, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Salvation is a gift, please receive it.

Jesus can make a difference in your life, if you'll let Him. Now perhaps you're watching or listening to us today, because you believe your faith in Christ matters. You may be looking for spiritual help; you may be looking for truth; or you may be looking for a loving relationship with God. You want to be right with God and you have the hope of heaven. I don't know all your needs in life, but I know someone who can help you through every struggle and every hurt. Jesus already knows all about you, and He cares. He's seeking you. Jesus can make a difference in your life and you can count on that!

Our reading today comes from Luke chapter 19 verses 5 to 10 and discusses a tax collector in Jericho.

When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

That is a great, great thing for us to believe about ourselves. That He wants to save us too. Let's pray together. Father we're thankful that Your son Jesus was one who had a mission and a heart to seek and save those who are lost. Father help us to come to believe in that great mission and to come to Him. And help us Father to reach out to others who need Thee. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus.

As chief tax-collector in Jericho, Zacchaeus supervised those who collected taxes. Now some of these collectors had no honor. He had made a bid for the privilege to be able to do this and he recovered his cost of this privilege by charging large amounts. Rome gave him a quota to collect, and he could keep everything above the quota. Well tax-collectors often became rich at other people's expense. The Jewish people despised Roman tax-collectors, because they often cheated the people. The people considered him a lowly sinner.

Zacchaeus had likely heard of Jesus, heard of his righteous ways, and heard of his miracles. And he wanted to see Jesus! He knew that Jesus cared about tax-collectors. In his eagerness, Zacchaeus did two unusual things for a man of his position: he ran (well in the East, dignified men didn't run), and he climbed up into a tree! Now sycamore fig trees grew tall enough to provide shade. But since Zacchaeus was short, the limbs were low to the ground and He was seeking to see Jesus.

And so it must have surprised Zacchaeus when Jesus spotted him. Luke 19:5 says that, "When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.'" Well, this surprised all the people. Can you imagine what it must have been like when they saw this high official in a tree? Zacchaeus wanted so badly to see Jesus that he didn't care what he looked like to the people. Now tax-gatherers were considered at the low end of the social scale in Judea, in Jerusalem. The Jews who wanted to keep themselves pure would have nothing to do with a tax-gatherer. Spiritually, Zacchaeus may have been the most despised person in Jericho!

But Jesus saw him and knew his heart. He had made some compromising decisions, yes Zacchaeus had, but Zacchaeus wanted to be accepted. And Jesus could make this despised nobody into somebody that He could eat with.

Jesus made Zacchaeus a “somebody” by going to his house and honoring him. The Lord Jesus told us about how He sees people in Luke 18:10 to 13. There it says that, “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’”

The Lord Jesus said in verse 14, “I tell you, this man (that is the tax gatherer) went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Those who think they are righteous may not be righteous in the sight of God, and the humble sinners who think God would never have anything to do with them may be the very ones that God justifies.

There’s a big difference between being right with God and not being right with God. When a person believes, repents, confesses Christ, and is baptized into Christ, they change their relationship with God. No matter what their past has been, in Christ they are new creatures, born again. 1 Peter 2:9 to 10 says that those who are saved by the blood of Christ, he says to them, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

When you become a Christian, the Lord doesn’t see you the way you used to be; He sees you as you are. I adopted a saying that started with John Newton and made it my own. “I’m not all I ought to be, I’m not all I want to be, I’m not all I’m going to be; but thank God by His mercy and grace I’m not what I used to be.” The Lord Jesus can save us and make us into new people freed from that old sinful way of life.

Luke 19:6 to 7 describes the situation. “So he hurried and came down and received him (that is Zacchaeus received Jesus) joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, ‘He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.’” And the people grumbled and thought Jesus had compromised by going to Zacchaeus’ house. Pharisees, you see, would not eat with sinners, but Jesus saw the need to help them. This is not the first time Jesus ate with sinners. Jesus explained why in Luke 5:31 to 32, “It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

Now Jesus was in the saving business. He didn’t devalue Zacchaeus; He knew Zacchaeus had a soul that needed saving. He didn’t focus on what Zacchaeus had been in the past; but He focused on what Zacchaeus could become. And Zacchaeus responded to that! Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much” (Luke 19 verse 8). Now this tax-collector wanted everyone to know that he was going to change and do the right thing.

Zacchaeus didn’t have to give half his goods to the poor; but he did this of his own free will. He also knew the problems of the “over-taxed” people. He didn’t want to mistreat them and offered to do the honorable thing. Zacchaeus actually did more than what he must do to make things right with those who felt defrauded. Numbers 5 and verse 7 says about a wrongdoer, “then he shall confess his sins which he

has committed, and he shall make restitution in full for his wrong and add to it one-fifth of it, and give it to him whom he has wronged.” Zacchaeus did more and exacted an extreme requirement of himself. Exodus 22 and verse 1 says, “If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he shall pay five oxen for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.” You see he, Zacchaeus, desperately wanted to restore his honor. Do you?

Now you may see yourself as a hopeless sinner, but you can change too! You can become a new person in Christ and live for the Lord. You don't have to continue to be what you used to be. You may feel guilty and shamed and despise yourself, but the Lord Jesus can give you newness of life free from sin. You can have a clean soul and a clean conscience, all made pure by the blood of Christ. Jesus wants you saved and to live righteously, just as He wanted that for Zacchaeus. And Jesus said to him in verses nine and ten, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” The Lord is seeking you too, no matter who you are or what your past has been.

Everybody is important to God. He loves and cares for every person. Jesus wants to draw close to everyone who seeks Him. Hebrews 2 and verse 9 says, “But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.” Jesus died for everyone, people that you know and people you don't know, people who look like you and don't look like you, and people who speak your language and people who speak a different language. Jesus tasted death for everyone.”

Instead of being like the Pharisee who only knew to disrespect and condemn others, we should be people who encourage others to come to Jesus and change their lives. I'm not interested in learning all the sins that you've committed in the past; I am interested in whether you love and are willing to follow the Lord today and in the future. True Christians help each other to walk in the light and to avoid the darkness. When a soul has repented and out of love obeyed the Lord, we should follow the steps of Jesus and encourage them. The Great Physician heals people with His grace, His mercy, and His love.

When Jesus encountered the woman at the well in John 4, He knew what kind of woman she had been. She had been married five times and was living with a man. He still offered her living water, water that springs up to eternal life. He didn't judge her soul as unworthy of life. He told her the Father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. Jesus told this woman that He is the Messiah, the Christ. She got excited, so excited that she went into town and told all the men about Jesus, and they came out to hear Him.

When the sinful prodigal son returned home in Luke 15, the Father ran to embrace and kiss him. The guilty son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” I tell you, sin and guilt makes us feel small and ashamed. “But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate.” God celebrates repentance and forgiveness; Christ and the angels celebrate with Him in heaven.

Christians struggle with sin but have their hearts set on serving God. They repent of their sins but face constant temptation. Some battles are fought constantly over a lifetime. Peter said in 1 Peter 5:8 to 10, “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. (because) Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered (He says to them) for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will

Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.” The wonderful grace of Jesus stands with you as you battle the devil.

James 4:7 to 10 reminds us, “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” Resist the devil but draw close to God! Remember your Lord is with you, and the devil will flee from Him. You're not alone.

The Lord hasn't forgotten you. John promises Christians in 1 John 1:7, “If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” He further promises in verse nine that, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Oh I tell you we can have clean hearts and clean souls.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father we're thankful that in Your grace and love that You have a way for us to be cleansed through the blood of Jesus. Help us Heavenly Father always to love, to confess, to believe, and to serve you. In Jesus name, Amen.

My friend, brothers and sisters, do you stand in the grace of God? If God was interested in Zacchaeus, He's also interested in you and the people that you know. 1 Timothy 2:3 to 5 says, “This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

When you consider the great price Jesus paid to deliver you from sin, how can you ignore or pass up His amazing grace? Come to the Lord in faith, love, and obedience. Turn away from those shameful sins that plague your soul. Don't ignore the Lord; He'll help you to stand strong and faithful. It's when we turn our backs on God and walk in darkness, that we lie and do not practice the truth (1 John 1:6). We must be honest with ourselves and turn from sin back to the Lord. God won't leave us, but sadly some abandon God and lose their hope and promise.

Are you right with the living God? To become a Christian you must deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow the Lord (Luke 9:23). Because you love and trust the Lord's promises, put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Turn from sin and live in righteousness; you see, that's repentance. And repentance is a change of heart that leads to a change of life. Confess the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Peter taught this in the first gospel sermon in Acts 2:38, and it's still the way to come to the Lord. Why not do it today?

Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

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Our Forgiving God

Some people like to separate the God of the Old Testament from the God of the New Testament. They believe the God of the Old Testament was filled with wrath but was short on grace and love, whereas Jesus was filled with love and had no desire to judge anything. This view, however, is mistaken. The God of Old Testament is the same God as that of the New Testament. Everything Jesus did and said was in the heart of the Father from the beginning. Revelation 13:8 correctly speaks of Jesus as the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Our reading today comes from Isaiah 53 verses 4 to 6. This is about the suffering savior. The suffering servant who would become the savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Yes God had a plan and that was the sacrifice of Jesus. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're so grateful that Jesus was willing to bear our iniquities in His body so that we might be free from sin. Help us Heavenly Father never to take our salvation for granted. But to know how much You have graciously been merciful to us. This is our pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

In Exodus 34 verses 6 to 7 The LORD proclaimed about Himself to Moses, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” Iniquity is guilt from wrongdoing or wickedness. Transgression is evildoing and rebellion against God. Sin is missing the mark, which offends God and causes men to be guilty before Him.

People today think much about grace but often miss God's justice. God cannot tolerate sin. David wrote in Psalm 5 and verse 4, “For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.” The prophet Habakkuk also noted in 1 verse 13, that “Your (that is God's) eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor.”

Now our sins alienate us from God. Isaiah 59:1 to 2 says, “Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or (neither is) his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.” God won't hear the prayer of a person who loves sin. Psalm 66 and verse 18 says, “If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear.” Proverbs 15 and verse 8 says, “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.”

We must not ignore the fact that everyone who sins is facing condemnation. And everyone who reaches the age where they understand right from wrong and then breaks the commandments of God has committed sin. Romans 3 and verse 10 says, “There is none righteous, not even one.” Verse 23 says that, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” You see at some point each person realizes the awful evil of his own sin. We must admit that we've sinned against God.” Much of life is spent ignoring or denying the reality of our sins. We imagine sin is trivial. We blame others or blame God. God didn't make us sinners, we choose to sin. And we're all accountable to God and guilty when we sin.

Now we must realize that people with unresolved sin cannot enter heaven. Revelation 21 verse 8 says, "But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." Later on the Lord reveals through John in Revelation 21:27, "But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Now this reality created the need for action in the heart of God. On one hand, "the wages of sin is death" and banishment from God (Romans 6:23) because the Lord (according to Deuteronomy 32:4) could not be a faithful and righteous being if He overlooked man's iniquity and took Him to heaven anyway. On the other hand, the Lord loved man, and yearned for his salvation.

God said in Ezekiel 33 verses 10 to 11, "And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?" The apostle Paul assured Timothy in 1 Timothy 2 verses 3 and 4, "This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

How, then, could God remain just and at the same time justify sinners? Well, this was heaven's dilemma, but God was also wise. He knew what to do with the people that He created and loved. Our most critical need, right today, is reconciliation, an atonement by which we sinners may be restored to God's favor and may ultimately enter His presence. We need to be forgiven.

Have you considered how many times in your lifetime that you've sinned against God? Psalm 130 verses 3 to 4 asks, "If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared." David prayed, in Psalm 143 and verse 2, "And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no man living is righteous." We need the Lord's forgiveness!

In 1 John 2 and verse 2 Christ is called the "propitiation for our sins." Well, Christ is "the propitiation," because by His becoming our substitute and willingly suffering the punishment for the guilt of our sins, God was willing to remove our sin and accept us. Propitiation refers to the appeasing of God's wrath through the sacrifice of the blood of Jesus Christ. Now no one can earn salvation. Sinners cannot pay back, bribe, or impress God with lavish gifts. It took a sacrifice of blood to appease the wrath of God and to atone for those sins.

Now removing the sin and its consequences opens up the way for reconciliation. When the sin is gone, we can once again enjoy the favor and grace of God. The purpose of forgiving is so that we might return to a right relationship with God. God wants to love us in spite of our past iniquities, and transgressions and sins! John 3:16 to 17 says, "'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.'"

Isaiah prophesied of Jesus in chapter 53, verses 5 and 6, "But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him." He suffered crucifixion for our sake. 1 Peter 2:24 says that Jesus "Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."

We need spiritual healing. We need saving. We need the only answer for our sins— and that's Jesus! Isaiah 53:10 to 11 describes what Jesus did: "But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, (that is the Father crush Jesus) putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities." He became the guilt offering, the sacrifice to bear our sins. Now because He bore our punishment, we can have life, newness of life, abundant life, and eternal life.

God wants to reconcile with us. He wants us to stand in His grace and favor. 2 Corinthians 5:18 to 21 says, "Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, (that's in the gospel) we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Now God's love demonstrated itself through Jesus. Romans 5:6 to 11 says, "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person— though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

God takes no pleasure in being angry with people. God said in Isaiah 43:25, "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins." When God forgives sins, He forgives all sins. Colossians 2:12 to 13 says, "having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions." If God could raise up Jesus, He can forgive you of all your sins by making you alive with Christ. When we're baptized, we die to that old man of sin and we rise up to walk in newness of life. Now all means all, not some or most.

2 Corinthians 5:17 the bible says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." Now all one's old sins are gone. Psalm 103 verses 8 to 12 reminds us that, "The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us." Oh, God can free us from sin. He can free us from a guilty conscience, and the spiritual consequences of our sins.

Micah 7:18 to 19 says, "Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea." Forgiveness means God no longer holds our sins against us; they are no longer on His mind when He thinks of us. The Lord said in Isaiah 44:22, "I have wiped

out your wrongdoings like a thick cloud And your sins like a heavy mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.”

I know that I can't change the past. History is history, and I can't make it undone. But my past is no longer an obstacle separating me from my God and my God from my soul. My sin is gone, my guilt is gone, and my shame is gone. I can pray, and God will hear. I'm not all I ought to be; I'm not all I want to be; I'm not all I'm going to be; but thank God by His mercy and grace, I'm not what I used to be. I'm born again, a new person.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're grateful for the grace and mercy that You show each of us for our sakes. And so that You will no longer be angry. And Father we're thankful that Jesus paid the ultimate price of His body and blood on the cross so that we might be healed from sin. Help us Heavenly Father to live a life worthy of our calling. In Jesus name, Amen.

It's to the glory of God that we can be freed from sin, guilt, and shame. Can you say, “My sins, for which I am ashamed, are all forgiven and washed away by the blood of Jesus. My sins are now fully forgiven? Can you say the rebellious sinner I once was is now dead to sin, and the person I have become belongs to the Lord Jesus? By God's grace my conscience is cleansed and my guilt removed. I am now at peace with God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ”? Can you say that? Or are you living with guilt and shame or are you free from sin? Can you look in the mirror and smile at the new person you've become?

When you're forgiven, the old man of sin is dead and you're free from sin. God no longer holds your sins against you. You're born again! Know this: “that your old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin” (Romans 6 and verse 6) Now that freedom takes place when you're baptized into Christ, buried and raised with Christ to walk in newness of life. That was the plan of the Father through the Son. And that's how you can get into a right relationship with Him and become a child of God.

Being born of water and the Spirit is the new birth. Titus 3 and verse 5 reminds us that the Lord saves us “by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.” In baptism we are born again and have newness of life. We're no longer slaves to sin (Romans 6 verse 7) but slaves to righteousness. At baptism the Lord forgives us, adds us to His church, causes us to become Christians, and gives us the hope of eternal life. Let God save you.

Date: _____

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Power In the Blood

There is power in the blood. Leviticus 17 and verse 11 says, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life." In the Old Testament, the Israelites sacrificed animals according to God's law in order to receive atonement from their sins. Their sacrifices, however, were temporary and offered year after year. But Jesus is better than those priests of old, because he offered Himself once for all time and for all people.

Jesus is both our High Priest and the sacrifice Himself. He entered the heavenly holy place not with animal blood, but with His own (Hebrews 9:11 to 12), and that blood cleansed us and prepared us for eternity. His blood removes our sins "as far as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103 verse 12). And we no longer have that yearly reminders of sin. Hebrews 10:14 says, "For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." When the blood of Jesus continuously cleanses you from sin, you can have confidence in God's fellowship and the hope of eternal life in heaven.

Our reading is from 1 Peter chapter 1 verses 17 to 21 and there is tells us about the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but (He) has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

That's a wonderful thing Jesus has done for us. To give us hope and a home with God in heaven. Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful for the precious blood of Jesus that redeemed us and gave us forgiveness and a hope of eternal life. Help us to live worthy of what has been done for us and to love You with all our heart and soul. In Jesus name, Amen.

There is power in the blood that Jesus sacrificed on the cross. The Lord Jesus died for many purposes, and His blood provides many benefits. We are loved, forgiven, saved, blessed, redeemed, ransomed, justified, and sanctified by His blood. Though the physical suffering and death of the Lord Jesus is heartbreaking to turn over in your mind, the spiritual values are indeed more precious than gold or silver.

The power in the blood reveals in the most dramatic way just how much God loves us. The Lord Jesus said in John 12:32, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." Our Lord's suffering on the cross demonstrated a love that cannot be denied. People may ignore the cross, refuse to accept the cross, or falsely relabel the cross; but they cannot deny what the word of says happened there. 1 John 4:9 to 10 says, "By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." Again propitiation is that atoning sacrifice that allows us to draw close to God. God loved people, even sinful people, enough to sacrifice His Son so that we could live eternally with Him.

Romans 5:6 to 8 says, "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." First, the pagan people at Rome didn't know God. And they were helpless. They couldn't save themselves by themselves. Second, they were ungodly. An ungodly person never thinks about God; and

they don't really care. Third, these Romans were sinners against God, offensive and separated from Him. And in spite of being helpless, ungodly sinners, God did more than talk about love—He demonstrated it in the most impactful way.

The Lord Jesus said in John 10:14 to 18, “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, (Jesus said) and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.” Now Jesus as the Great Shepherd knows each of us by name, He watches over us, provides for our needs, and protects us. The Lord Jesus is always with us; and we can have no greater blessing.

Now beyond His love, we also have redemption through Jesus. We were lost in sin, condemned to eternal punishment; but Jesus redeemed us. Ephesians 1:7 says, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.” Without His blood we would suffer eternally. Paul reminds the Gentile Christians at Ephesus of their former condition in Ephesians 2:12 to 13. He said, “remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

1 Peter 1:18 to 19 reminds us, “knowing that you were (redeemed or) ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” Your redemption was paid at a great price; your salvation was not cheap. Jesus didn't pay our way out of condemnation with gold or silver. Why gold and silver would have cost Him nothing. He created the world. He could make all the gold or silver He wanted with a word. But he redeemed us with the most precious thing He had, His body and blood.

Beyond redemption, we're sanctified or made holy by the blood of Jesus. To sanctify means to make holy. Make righteous, one that belongs to God. And God looks at the saved as holy people, saints. Hebrews 13:12 says, “So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.” People who in the past shamed themselves by their terrible sins, nonetheless could be sanctified, made holy, through Christ. 1 Corinthians 6:9 to 11 says, “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

Now beyond sanctification, we are also justified. To be justified means that we're declared innocent by God. It's just as if we had never sinned. Paul said in Romans 3:24 to 26 that we are “justified by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation (that is an atoning sacrifice) in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” When we place our full faith and self in His hands by obedience, His atoning sacrifice of blood justifies us, so that we can draw near to God.

Beyond our being justified, we're born again with newness of life. Romans 6:3 to 7 says, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin."

And being baptized into his death means coming into contact with His blood. In baptism we are crucified with Christ, buried with Christ, and raised with Christ. And this unity assures us of freedom from sin and newness of life. Romans 5:8 to 9 reminds us, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God." Yes, baptism into the death of Christ brings to us the justification by His blood, so that we can be saved from the wrath of God.

The blood of Jesus makes our salvation and enduring thing. 1 John 1 verse 7 says, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." Now there's an "if" here: "if we walk in the light." Walking in the light is a continual walk. Walking in the light of God means an ongoing love for God and the truth, a faithful servant heart, and keeping the commandments of the Lord. Walking in the light means we have fellowship with God and with brethren. It also means the blood of Jesus His Son keeps on cleansing us from all sin. This cleansing is a constant process, if we keep on walking in the light. Now while "God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all," we're human and need the blood of Christ to be cleansed from all sin. Since we can't live perfectly sinless lives, we need the blood of Jesus Christ to purify us.

1 John 1:8 to 10 says that, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us." And this points to the second condition: we need to confess our sins. We must be honest about our sins and admit them. As Christians we should constantly recognize when we do sin and be willing to admit our transgressions before God.

James 5:15 to 16 reminds us, "and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." Sin can have many physical consequences as well as spiritual. Confessing our sins and praying for God to forgive us should be a regular part of our Christian lives.

The blood of Jesus not only cleanses us from sin; it also purifies our conscience. Hebrews 9:12 to 14 says that Jesus "entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God." The Lord Jesus wanted us to purify our conscience along with our souls, so that we could serve Him. Having a good conscience that no longer has to be ashamed is a great blessing!

Well, how does the blood protect us? In a world full of spiritual battles, the blood is your shield. Revelation 12 and verse 11 declares: "And they (that is the Christians) overcame him (that is Satan who deceives the world) because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death." When I have the assurance of my eternal

salvation and inheritance in heaven, I can face even the threat of death. We must take up the helmet of salvation and wear the armor of God.

My friend, it matters whether we're crucified with Christ and have His blood to cleanse us from all sin. It matters whether we have fellowship with God and brethren. It matters whether our consciences are clean and whether we have pure hearts. It matters whether we are redeemed, sanctified, and justified by His blood. It matters whether He protects us from the evil one by His blood. The difference between being saved and being lost could not be greater. We need the blood of Jesus Christ.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're so grateful for all the things that the blood of Christ does in our lives. That we can be redeemed and forgiven, sanctified and justified. Father help us all to lean upon You to confess our sins and Father to serve You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus is the perfect Lamb of God, whose blood was shed only once but for all people. It's the ultimate act of love that changes everything for us. Hebrews 2 and verse 9 says, "But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone." Christ's blood possesses the power to atone for the sins committed by all people of all time.

God loves every man, every woman, every boy, and every girl regardless of your past. And God is more concerned about what you can become. Now even if you're ashamed of yourself, the blood of Jesus can remove that guilt and shame. You can be born again; you can become a child of God; and you can wear the name of Christ if you're willing to come to Him. Jesus said in Luke 9:23, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me." Will you love Jesus enough to deny yourself, to take up your cross daily, and to follow Him? That's a lifelong request!

To love the Lord Jesus, believe in Him and His words. Believing in Jesus means believing what He taught. Take His commands and His promises seriously. Loving Jesus means you regard Him as your Lord. You're willing to turn from sin and obey Him in all things. You stop doing your will and start doing His will. That's repentance. You confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and be baptized into Christ so that your sins are forgiven and washed away (Acts 2:38 and 22:16). And in baptism God's grace works on you and saves you.

Date: _____

What is the title and main subject of this lesson?

What scriptures are referenced within the lesson?

If this lesson includes any main Bible characters, who are they and what are some of their traits?

Why is this message important?

Are there specific things discussed in this lesson that you would like to work on in your personal life?

How would you share this message with others and with whom would you like to share it?

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Transforming Grace

The grace of God is certainly an amazing and undeserved gift that is far greater than we can imagine. The grace of God does far more than offer forgiveness; it's a lifelong blessing of God's loving favor and care. Those who stand in the grace of God are chosen of God, holy, and beloved. God doesn't see you the way that you used to be but He sees you as one of His children, born again into His kingdom and family. Your old man of sin has died and you have a new life ahead of you.

Colossians 1:21 to 22 says, "And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach." God knows we're human and commit sin, but His love for us gives us assurance. We can become children of God who live forever. Psalm 84:11 says, "For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly." You can belong to God; you can be born again to a new life in Christ.

Our reading today is Paul's letter Titus chapter 2 verses 11 to 14. And there he tells of tremendous things that grace does in our lives.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

My, what a wonderful thing the Lord Jesus has done for us. Let's pray together. Father we're so grateful for the grace that You have given to us. That favor that is unmerited, that good thing that You've done for us. Help us Heavenly Father to live in such a way that we live soberly and righteously in this godly in this world. Help us to love You and to serve You all the days of our lives. In Jesus name, Amen.

The apostle Paul knew what it was like to look at his past with shame and regret. When he was Saul, he saw himself as the worst of sinners; but Saul died; and Paul is no longer that person. He was once the enemy of God's people, but now, Paul, he is God's minister. He wrote in 1 Timothy 1:12 to 14, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus."

Now Saul of Tarsus didn't believe in Jesus. He ignorantly thought it was his role in life to destroy the church. Paul, whenever he was looking back at his past life and describing Saul, persecutor of the church, said to King Agrippa in Acts 26:9 to 11, "So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities." But the Lord stopped him and helped Saul see something better.

The Lord appeared to Saul and said in Acts 26:16 to 18, "But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance

among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.” Soon after this, Saul of Tarsus became known as Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ.

Now the Lord wanted to use this transformation from Saul to Paul to give people hope that God could still make a difference in their lives. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 1:15 to 16 that, “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, (and then he says) among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.” Now if the Lord could save and use the foremost sinner of all, He can save and use you to bring light to this dark, sinful world.

People who have sinned faced a lot of guilt and shame. Religious people sometimes fall and their heartache is overwhelming. And though David was a man after God's own heart, remember David committed adultery with Bathsheba and caused the death of her husband Uriah so that he could cover up the sin. David didn't realize at the time what his sin would do to his heart and his soul. David felt the full weight of his guilt.

David wrote in Psalm 32:1 to 5: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when (David says) I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand (God's hand) was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

The Lord sent Nathan to David and convicted him of his sin. And the sin David tried to hide would cause him much grief; but God forgave David and let him live. David honestly confesses his sin and he cries out to God in Psalm 51:1 to 4, “Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.” David recognized how he had sinned against God by his immorality.

Now in this Psalm David desires to return to a right relationship with God. He said in Psalm 51:10 to 12, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.” While he remained in unresolved sin, David couldn't find the joy of his salvation. With forgiveness came a clean heart and a good conscience.

Sometimes people think, “What I've done is so evil, God will never accept me.” Well they misunderstand God's compassion for sinners. When a heart mourns evil, with free will then desires to change, God's heart softens. David wrote in Psalm 51:17 that, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.” Again Psalm 34:18 says that, “The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.” The Lord declares in Isaiah 66:2, “But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.”

God can cleanse us, even when we think we're too evil to save. He can see good in us, even when we think we're evil. He not only sees us as we are; the Lord can see what we can become! When Judah had given itself over to idolatry, God was willing to make them clean again. He tells them in Ezekiel 36:25 to 27 “I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give

you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.” God can cleanse us and help us to change our hearts. We can become His children.

Paul in the New Testament speaks clearly to the Ephesians about their past as Gentiles and their journey to being in Christ. They can make a total change in their hearts and in their priorities. And so he describes the worldly life in Ephesians 4:17 to 19. He says, “So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.”

Instead Paul reminded them of a better way to live in Christ. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:20 to 24, “But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” He told them they could change; they can lay aside an old life of futility, and they change by following Christ into a life of righteousness, holiness, and the truth!

Paul gave them hope they could be free in Christ, no longer enslaved to their old sins. He wrote in Romans 6:8 to 13, “Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

Paul told Titus what things the grace of God teaches us. Grace does far more than merely bring forgiveness; it trains us to a better and nobler life. It lifts us out of the way of life that destroys us inside and out and opens up a life that blesses everyone around us. Titus 2:11 to 14 says, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.” Are you living an ungodly life, or are you zealous for good? Are you caught up in the sins of this world or are you zealous for what's right and good?

The Lord Jesus wants what is best for you. He is your friend; He died on the cross for your sake not only to forgive you but to open the door of discipleship and fellowship with God Himself. You can be a child of God; you can be a Christian; you can live a righteous life; and you can be an heir of a heavenly home for all eternity.

The Lord taught us whom God blesses. He said in Matthew 5:3 to 6, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” A poor in spirit person knows he desperately needs God; those who mourn their sins will find comfort. Those who are meek or gentle let God rule in their lives; and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will find God will feed them forever. God's grace has no limit and no end.

So let me encourage you to live for the Lord. Paul said in Romans 12:2, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 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." Oh, leave that old way of sin, turn to the Lord and follow Him.

Let's pray together. Heavenly Father we're thankful that by Your grace and mercy we can leave an old sinful way of life, die to sin and live to righteousness and follow You. Help us to be faithful to that commitment to be Your children and to follow You. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Where are you in your walk with God? Are you living with a guilty conscience, ashamed of yourself; or are you walking in the light and living for the Lord? You know sometimes Christians who once loved the Lord later in life like David commit terrible sins. Paul wrote in Romans 6:1 to 2, "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?" Are you putting sin ahead of righteousness? Are you presuming the grace of God will still save you while you continue in sin?

Romans 8:12 to 13 says, "So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if (you) by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live." God's grace is marvelous and wonderful, but it works with repentance. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 13:3, "unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Paul told the Athenians on Mars Hill in Acts 17:30 to 31, "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him (Jesus) from the dead."

Peter in the first gospel sermon told the people guilty of crucifying Jesus in Acts 2:38, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Repenting and being baptized are necessary to receive the forgiveness of sins. Won't you obey today?

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