

The Revelation of Grace (Rom. 5:17-21; 2 Cor. 5:17-21)

I. FREELY RECEIVING THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. God's grace is a revelation that enables us to reign in life and gives us confidence before God. Two important scriptures on the grace of God are Romans 5:17-21 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.
¹⁷ Those who receive...the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ...¹⁸ Through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men... (Rom. 5:17-18)
- B. **Receiving the gift of righteousness:** It has both legal and emotional implications.
1. Legally, we are in a new position to stand in the Father's presence with confidence. Receiving His righteousness is a legal fact in God's court. Jesus paid the legal debt of our sin that was required to satisfy the claims of justice in God's court. Everything that could disqualify us from receiving a new relationship with God was removed at the cross.
 2. Emotionally, God enjoys and delights in relating to us.
- C. **Reign:** To walk with a sense of triumph and victory when facing trials and temptations, etc. Why do so many not have this victory? It begins with lacking the revelation of grace.
- D. **One Man's righteous act:** Jesus' work on the cross.
- E. **Free gift:** We receive God's righteousness freely, fully (100%), and instantly (at our new birth).
- F. **Analogy:** A homeless beggar receives notice that a distant relative died and put him in his will to inherit the ownership of a large company that had great wealth. He had to engage in the legal processes to receive the benefit of his new wealth. The lawyers of the company resisted his efforts to use the money with legal challenges and by giving him confusing information. Since he was accustomed to living in poverty, he had to "renew his mind" to engage in the legal process. We are transformed by changing the way we think as we come into agreement with God's Word.
² Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Rom. 12:2)

II. THE REIGN OF SIN AND THE REIGN OF GRACE

²⁰ Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹ so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life... (Rom. 5:20-21)

- A. Paul made a declaration that where sin abounds, grace abounds more (Rom. 5:20-21). He applied this declaration by saying that in the same way that sin reigned in our lives before our salvation, even now grace reigns in us. In other words, as the dominion of sin brought damage and loss to us, so now the dominion of grace brings restoration and blessing, in a greater measure.

- B. **The reign of sin:** We were under judgment and condemnation before God. We were powerless and defenseless before sin (at the heart level). We had no ability to challenge Satan's attack against our lives. We had a mindset of condemnation and defeat. We grew accustomed to thinking and feeling condemned and powerless before we were saved.
- C. **The reign of grace:** It includes forgiveness, new power, new desires, and new insights. We have new abilities to resist sin and Satan. Do not ask God for these, but thank Him for them.
1. **The Father's acceptance and affection:** Receiving God's righteousness allows us to be accepted by God legally and embraced by God emotionally.
 2. **Authority to use the name of Jesus:** We have authority to use Jesus' name to release the works of God and to hinder the works of Satan in our life, circumstances, and nation.
 3. **The indwelling Spirit:** We receive the Spirit who empowers our heart with new desires (love and holiness) and insights, and our ministry to release God's life to others. We are no longer defenseless before sinful desires, or in darkness without divine guidance.
¹⁶ The Father...will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you...¹⁷ the Spirit of truth...will be in you... ²⁶The Helper...will teach you all things... (Jn. 14:16, 17, 26)
- D. The revelation of grace breaks our sense of timidity before Satan or sin, so that we live without guilt and expectation of persistent failure. We are not beggars, but joint-heirs with Jesus.

III. HOW GOD PROVIDED US WITH THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

¹⁷ If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new...²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin [Jesus] to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

- A. Paul describes what God did to provide us with the gift of righteousness and what happens to us when we accept His gift. He made it possible on legal grounds for us to become a new creation.
- B. We approach the Father with freedom, without any sense of condemnation (guilt and defeatism).
¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus... (Rom. 8:1)
- C. Many believers live in perpetual defeat because they neither know who they are in Christ, nor the position they have before the Father. Our great need is to know who we are in Christ and how the Father sees us. The sense of condemnation is a root cause of many spiritual failures. It kills faith, leaves us with a sense of rejection, makes prayer difficult, and hinders our desire for God.
- D. The knowledge of God's righteousness makes our spirit strong and bold. Understanding God's righteousness causes us to have a confident spirit instead of living as a slave with a sense of inferiority before the reign of sin. Preoccupation with guilt and slavery to sin began at the fall.



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