

FOUNDATIONS: TRANSFORMATIONS LESSON #3 "FROM LAW TO GRACE"

Intro. We've been studying about how the Christian life is about transformation.

1. It takes us *from* something, *to* something...

2 Corinthians 3:18 says we are "being **transformed... from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Acts 26:18 says we are moved "**from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God...**"

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) 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.

2. One of those areas where we need our minds transformed is ***from law to grace***

John 1:14; 16-17 (NKJV)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

I. WE ARE SAVED BY _____ THROUGH _____

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is ***the gift of God***,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

A. GETTING SAVED IS MORE THAN JUST _____

1. The meaning of the word "saved" is far more _____ than some realize
 - a. It means "to be made whole"
 - b. In other words getting saved affects our whole life
 - c. God's salvation is meant to affect every part of our lives

B. AND IT COMES TO US BY _____

1. The simplest definition of grace is _____
 - a. It's a gift we receive when we believe in Jesus

C. EVERYTHING WE ARE ABLE _____ OR _____ IS BECAUSE OF THIS GIFT, GRACE

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 ***not of works, lest anyone should boast.***

1 Corinthians 15:10 (NKJV) But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

- *Paul was what I would call a successful Christian*
- *But he explained his success and accomplishments with one word; GRACE!*

II. _____ IN LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE DEPENDS ON GRACE

A. THIS CAN BE _____ BECAUSE OF WHAT SOME PEOPLE THINK GRACE IS

ex. *"I can do anything I want and live anyway I want and it doesn't matter because God's grace is on me!"*

That's a misunderstanding of what grace is and does.

That's one extreme. It's the "grace means nothing I do matters."

B. THERE'S ANOTHER _____ THAT IS JUST AS DAMAGING AND WILL MESS OUR LIVES UP JUST AS MUCH

1. It's what I would call a _____ belief
 - a. It's where we see Christianity as a set of do's and don'ts
 - b. If we follow the rules, God will be good to us and help us, but if we don't, *He'll get us*
- *It's where our relationship with God is "law-based" rather than "grace-based"*
 2. "Law-based" means it's _____
 - a. It's all about us being good, doing good, and keeping the rules
 3. "Grace-based" means we recognize it's all about _____
 - a. He died on the cross to forgive us but He didn't stop there
 - b. He also gave us **grace** so that we could have the power to live the kind of life that pleases Him
 - c. It's not just about us following the rules; it's about us receiving grace so we can be who God wants us to be

Romans 8:2-3 (NKJV)

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For **what the law could not do** in that it was weak through the flesh, **God did** by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh.

C. THE TRUTH IS WE'RE NOT GOOD AT JUST _____ ARE WE?

1. What the OT law _____ was we can't just follow rules
 - a. Even when we want to do good and do right we just don't have it in us
2. This is why Jesus _____

Again, Romans 8:2-3 (NKJV)

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For **what the law could not do** in that it was weak through the flesh, **God did** by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh.

- *If we could have followed the rules, Jesus wouldn't have had to die*
- *But the law showed us none of us can live up to God's standards.*

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

3. This is what makes the Gospel _____

ex. *Jesus came, died, and rose again. And if we ask Him to He forgives us and gives us **grace!***

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

8 **For by grace you have been saved through faith,** and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- *It's by grace we have been saved; this includes wholeness in our "whole" life*
- *It covers everything; our forgiveness, our emotions, our physical bodies, our ability to live for God, our usefulness to God, everything!*

ques. *So does that mean it doesn't matter how I live, what I do, because grace covers everything?*

Romans 6:1-2 (NKJV)

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Romans 6:13-14 (NKJV)

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, **but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead,** and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

- *Grace gives us the power to say no to sin!*
- *It's not "will-power" – It's grace-power!*

ex. *Jesus didn't die just to forgive us so we wouldn't go to hell. He died so we could have grace; the power to live!*

III. HOW GRACE _____

A. GRACE COMES _____, BY BELIEVING

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV) *For by grace you have been saved **through faith...***

- *It's not about trying harder; it's about believing*

ex. *"God I can't even begin to pull off being who You want me to be or doing what You want me to do, but I believe in Your grace to help."*

B. THAT'S WHAT GRACE DOES; _____

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find **grace to help in time of need.**

- The phrase "in time of need" means "a convenient time"

ex. *"God I need You to help me overcome this "thing." "I need Your help in my family, my finances."*

"I really want to do something for You and want my life to count, but I need help!"

- *This is what grace is for; to help*
- *We need to believe for it!*

1. Grace helps us say _____

2. Grace not only gives us the power to say no to sin, it also gives us the power to say _____

ex. *It's good to be able to overcome the negative things that have messed us up.*

But the Christian life isn't all about what we don't do. It's more about what we are able to do.

Grace is the ability to live our lives on a higher level!

Hebrews 12:28 (NKJV)

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, **let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably** with reverence and godly fear.

- a. This isn't talking about just what we are able to say "no" to
- b. Now we are free to say yes to God about living on a higher level
- c. This is what the Bible is talking about in Galatians chapter 5 and the fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-18 & 22-25 (NKJV)

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

22 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

ex. *Grace is the ability to have love, joy, peace, and all the fruit of the Spirit in our lives as we learn to yield more and more to Him.*

PRAYER AND CONFESSION: *Thank You Jesus for Your grace in my life. I believe in the power of grace that helps me become all that You want me to become and to do all that You want me to do. By grace I say yes to You and Your will in every area of my life, in Jesus' name, Amen.*

FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #2

I. WE ARE SAVED BY ___(GRACE) THROUGH ___(FAITH)

A. GETTING SAVED IS MORE THAN JUST ___(MISSING HELL)

1. The meaning of the word "saved" is far more ___(expressive and expansive) than some realize

B. AND IT COMES TO US BY ___(GRACE)

1. The simplest definition of grace is ___("a gift")

C. EVERYTHING WE ARE ABLE ___(TO DO) OR ___(BECOME) IS BECAUSE OF THIS GIFT, GRACE

II. ___(OUR SUCCESS) IN LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE DEPENDS ON GRACE

A. THIS CAN BE ___(CONFUSING) BECAUSE OF WHAT SOME PEOPLE THINK GRACE IS

B. THERE'S ANOTHER ___(EXTREME) THAT IS JUST AS DAMAGING AND WILL MESS OUR LIVES UP JUST AS MUCH

1. It's what I would call a ___("law-based") belief
2. "Law-based" means it's ___(all up to us)
 - a. It's all about us being good, doing good, and keeping the rules
3. "Grace-based" means we recognize it's all about ___(Jesus)

C. THE TRUTH IS WE'RE NOT GOOD AT JUST (FOLLOWING THE RULES), ARE WE?

1. What the OT law ___(proved) was we can't just follow rules

2. This is why Jesus ____(**came**)

3. This is what makes the Gospel ____(**Good News!**)

III. HOW GRACE ____(COMES**)**

A. GRACE COMES ____(BY FAITH**), BY BELIEVING**

B. THAT'S WHAT GRACE DOES; ____(IT HELPS!**)**

1. Grace helps us say _(**no to sin**)

2. But grace not only gives us the power to say no to sin, it also gives us the power to say ____(**yes to God**)