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Grace Pt 2 Grace reigns through righteousness

This is our second study on grace. In our first study we will look at the meaning of the word grace in the scriptures, and covered three points– (i) we are justified freely by His grace, (ii) we are saved by grace, and (iii) the grace of God, and gift of grace is by one man Jesus Christ. In this teaching we will establish an additional three points– (i) today we are under grace, (ii) grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Christ Jesus, and (iii) Christians have received the abundance of grace– the gift of righteousness.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our points–

1. Today we are under grace

“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. [15] What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid” (Rom 6:14, 15).

Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” (Jn 1: 17)

Jesus Christ was full of grace and truth

“And the Word was made 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” (Jn.1: 14).

HOW are we under grace?–

2. Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Christ

“That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom.5: 21).

Question– shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?” (Ro.6: 1).

Answer– “God forbid” (Rom.6: 2).

For sin shall not have dominion over us, for we are not under the law but under grace

“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace” (Rom.6: 14).

Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Christ–

* Serve, or Yield yourselves to obedience unto righteousness

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Rom.6: 16).

* Serve or yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness

“I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness...” (Rom.6: 19).

3. We have received abundance of grace– the gift of righteousness

“For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.” (Rom.5: 17).

Where sin abounded grace did much more abound
“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound” (Rom.5: 20).

The by-product of grace is righteousness
“For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2Cor 5:21).

Illustration

Today Christians are prone to either following the holiness doctrine where our salvation depends on living a holy life. Where you can lose your salvation when you sin. And on the other side- those who drift away from worship and church because they are under grace and can do as they please. For those who adopt the belief that being under grace allows them to sin, they potentially have a worldly understanding of grace which neglects righteousness, and should read and understand Romans 6.

Question of the scriptures

How does grace reign in righteousness?

Answer from the scriptures

Christ dwells in us (Eph.3: 17), so therefore the grace of God reigns in us
“And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you” (2Cor.9: 14)- cf. Rom.5: 17- “For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)”

Grace is multiplied to the brethren through the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ
“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord” (2 Pet.1: 2).

Not just any knowledge, but TRUTH - hence we only know the grace of God in truth
“Which is come unto you...bringeth forth fruit, as [it doth] also in you, since the day ye heard [of it], and knew the grace of God in truth” (Col.1: 6).

Individual Christians grow in grace, and in the knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus
“But grow in grace, and [in] the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [be] glory both now and for ever. Amen” (2 Pet.3: 18).

How do we know if we are growing in grace, and therefore living righteously?-

When

* our speech is with grace - seasoned with salt

“Let your speech [be] always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col.4: 6).

* we preach the Lord Jesus- people see the grace of God

“And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch...preaching the Lord Jesus. [23] Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all...” (Acts 11:20, 23).

* we are humble ourselves before God gives us grace

“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (Jam.4: 6). See also 1 Pet.5: 5.

Given that Christ dwells in each one of us, and He was full of grace and truth, let us grow in grace, with humility- let our words minister grace, kindness, and mercy, building up the brethren in love, exhorting our brethren to continue in the faith and in the grace of God, witnessing to our Saviour- The LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS Amen!!