

“Grace in Action”
Romans 1:5
(Preached at Trinity, November 5, 2006)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. We’ve been at Paul’s opening salutation to the Book of Romans. In these opening verses Paul gives us a lengthy description of himself and his calling.
 - A. In **Verse 1** Paul identifies himself as a servant, an apostle called by Jesus Christ, a man set apart unto the Gospel of God.
 - B. The next three verses describe this Gospel. The Book of Romans is a book that defines and outlines the Gospel.
 1. It is a planned Gospel, God’s purpose of redemption for His people. It was foretold by the prophets in the Holy Scriptures.
 2. It is a Gospel that finds it’s fulfillment in Christ. Jesus Christ IS the Gospel.
Romans 1:3-4 – “Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; ⁴ And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”
 3. It is a Gospel that describes the death of Christ, the perfect propitiating sacrifice
It is a Gospel that describes His resurrection
 4. It is a Gospel that describes the infinite power through which Christ has now been exalted to the right hand of the Father.
2. In **Verse 5** Paul adds yet another statement about himself and his calling. This power has been brought to bear upon his life.
Romans 1:5 – “By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:”
3. Here we find Paul encapsulating his entire life upon the word grace. Grace is essential for your understanding of the Book of Romans. The word occurs twenty-four times in the book.
4. Few people have an adequate understanding of this word “grace.” They see grace as perhaps refinement, style, or charm. “That young lady carries herself with much grace.” Or perhaps they understand grace as something you say before a meal. “Would you like to say grace before we eat?”
5. This morning I want to examine the subject of grace under three headings:
 - A. The Nature of This Grace – “By whom we have received grace and apostleship - the power Paul received for the fulfillment of his office as apostle.
 - B. The Effect of This Grace - “to bring about the obedience of faith”
 - C. The End of This Grace – “for his name” or “for his name’s sake” God does all things for His own glory that His name might be known throughout the whole earth.

I. The Nature of This Grace

- A. As Christians we should at least have a general idea of what God's grace is.
1. It is often referred to as God's "unmerited favor." Favor you have no right to; favor you do not deserve.
 2. There is nothing we can do to earn it.
 - a. Grace is all of God – we can do nothing to earn it
 - b. An employee has earned his wages and has the right to demand full payment - The employer is obligated to pay all wages due
 - c. Grace cannot be earned. It can only be given
- B. Every blessing upon this earth is by God's grace
1. The only thing human beings deserve on earth is God's wrath and judgment – "The wages of sin is death"
 2. The warmth of the sun, the food we enjoy, the beauty we behold, good health, friendship and love – all acts of God's grace
 3. God restrains evil, by His grace
- C. The greatest demonstration of God's grace is seen in Him sending His only begotten Son into the world to die for sinners – **John 3:16**
1. The Gospel is the revelation of God's grace.
 2. Paul knew this unmerited grace from God.
 - a. He was on his way to Damascus in his quest to persecute Christians
Acts 9:1-2 – "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, ² And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.
 - b. He had absolutely no interest in Christ – he hated Christ. He was a blasphemer.
 3. God came to Paul even while he was carrying out his evil schemes against the church and saved him. Why? It was grace!!!
1 Corinthians 15:9 – "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."
- D. What is the nature of this grace Paul is speaking of here?
1. Paul is talking about the grace that gives him the power to conduct his ministry of apostle.
 2. In **Romans 12:3** Paul speaks of this power given him by grace
Romans 12:3 – "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."
 - a. Paul says here, "I'm speaking to you through the grace given to me
 - b. This grace is the power to conduct his ministry

3. In **Romans 12:6** Paul states that it is by this same grace that our gifts are imparted.
Romans 12:6 – “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us”
- E. It is grace that enables us to carry out the task God has allotted to us.
1. Paul was given grace to do the work of an apostle.
 2. This is the same grace that enables you to do the ministry and work God has set before you.
 - a. This applies to mothers and single people and firemen and policemen and engineers and secretaries and teachers
 - b. God enables us to live by the power of His grace.
- F. How do you get this grace?
1. It comes by faith
Ephesians 2:8 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God:*”
 2. All of the power for all of our life comes through Christ
It is all of grace received by faith
- II. The Effect of This Grace - “For obedience to the faith”
- A. What is meant here by “obedience to the faith”
There are three ways to translate this phrase and all are true
1. The KJV translates it obedience to “the faith.” “The faith” here would refer to obedience to the body of teachings held by Christians. The absence of the Greek article in both the TR and NA² makes this unlikely. It would be better translated “to bring about the obedience of faith.” (which is how the KJV translates it in Chapter 16)
 2. It might be interpreted as obedience which is the result of faith – Or obedience that comes from faith – Obedience which faith produces.
For example we might say “works of love” – in other words, works which love produces. Likewise, Paul is saying “obedience of faith” – in other words obedience which faith produces.
 - a. In other words, Paul is speaking of Obedience which is the result of faith. Obedience is not an option. Genuine faith always produces obedience.
 - b. Or we might put it this way: Salvation demands faith AND repentance. Repentance demands a turning from sin and a pursuit of righteousness. The Christian has given his life in service to Christ.
 3. It might be interpreted Obedience which consists in faith.
Lloyd-Jones refers to it as “an obedience in which faith is the central principle.”
 - a. In other words faith is of the essence of obedience.
You might say of your children, “I’m trying to teach them the “obedience of making their beds” or “the obedience of telling the truth.”
 - b. Likewise God commands men to turn from their sinful disobedience and trust in Christ.

- c. Remember, faith and repentance are presented in Scripture as commands
Acts 17:30 – “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”
1 John 3:23 – “And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. ²⁴ And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”
 - d. This is the way Paul preached the Gospel. He preached in command mode and commanded obedience to the Gospel
Romans 6:17 – “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”
Romans 10:16-17 – “But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? ¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - e. Lloyd-Jones – “Why should I believe the gospel? The first reason that we all should have for believing the gospel is not that it is going to do this, that or the other for me; I should never preach it in that form. I preach this because it is the record that God gave concerning His Son, and I tell you that if you do not believe it you are making God a liar; you are rejecting the Word of the holy, eternal God, and that is the most terrible sin. We are to preach this gospel and then tell men that, if they do not believe it, they are refusing God, and nothing remains for them but perdition and punishment.”
- B. Faith and obedience are inseparably linked together
1. Faith commands obedience and obedience commands faith
 2. Paul’s great charge was to command obedience to the Gospel in all the nations
 3. Do you share the Gospel in command mode. The Gospel is not an offer, it is a command.
 4. Salvation is by grace. It cannot be earned. It is bought for us by Christ. Yet salvation demands a response of obedience and submission.
- III. The End of This Grace – “for his name” or “for his name’s sake”
- A. Remember, the idea of name has great significance in the Bible
1. We see a name as a label to call someone.
 2. The Biblical use of “name” is to sum up the whole person
 3. God’s name cannot be separated from His divine being or divine essence.
- B. God does all things for Himself – for His own glory
Psalm 72:19 – “And blessed *be* his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled *with* his glory; Amen, and Amen.”
1. God does all things that His name might be manifest throughout the whole world.

2. Paul reminds us of this truth in **Chapter 9**
Romans 9:17 – “For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.”
- C. There are some who charge God with a sinful self-interest
 1. For a man to be swallowed up in self-promotion it is sin, but God is not a man.
 - a. All things find their being in God.
 - b. God has every right to declare, “Thou shalt have no other God’s before me.”
 - c. God is worthy of all praise, honor, and glory
Revelation 4:11 – “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”
 2. There is another important thing for us to remember
 - a. Salvation demands calling upon the name of Christ
Acts 2:21 – “And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
Romans 10:13-14 – “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”
 - b. If God doesn’t make His great name known throughout the whole earth we lose.

Conclusion:

1. Paul saw himself as a man under a Divine mandate.
1 Corinthians 9:16 – “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”
 - a. He was called to be an apostle. He was equipped to carry out that office by the grace of God.
 - b. He was charged with bringing the Gospel to the Gentiles. His goal and purpose was to see them turn to Christ in faith and to see this faith demonstrated in the beauty of obedience.
 - c. It was all for the glory of God. For His great name’s sake.
2. What effect does grace have upon your life? God equips you for service. Do you see your life as a mandate to serve Him? Do you desire to see perfect obedience in yourself and others?
3. Is your life captivated by Christ? Are you motivated to do everything for Him – for His great name’s sake?
4. And if you are here this morning and have not turned from your sin and trusted Christ you must make it your highest priority. God commands you to turn from your sin and trust Christ. Continued rebellion is only heaping upon you God’s condemnation.