

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 5-9-10 PM NOTES
"ADAM, CHRIST, AND GRACE ABOUNDING"
ROMANS 5:15-21
#28 in Series, "Verse by Verse through Romans"

"What an abyss is the grace of God! Who can measure its breadth? Who can fathom its depth? Like all the rest of the divine attributes, it is infinite. God is full of love, for 'God is love.' God is full of goodness; the very name 'God' is short for 'good.' Unbounded goodness and love enter into the very essence of the Godhead. It is because 'His mercy endureth forever' that men are not destroyed; because 'His compassions fail not' that sinners are brought to Him and forgiven."

—Charles Spurgeon

"Their conception of grace is not so much debased as non-existent. The thought means nothing to them; it does not touch their experience at all. Talk to them about the church's heating, or last year's accounts, and they are with you at once; but speak to them about the realities to which the word grace points and their attitude is one of deferential blankness. They do not accuse you of talking nonsense; they do not doubt that your words have meaning; but they feel that, whatever it is you are talking about, it is beyond them, and the longer they have lived without, the surer they are that at their stage of life they do not really need it."

—J. I. Packer

Revelation 13:8b (NKJV) "...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV) "who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began."

1 Peter 1:19-20 (NKJV) ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."

I. Adam and Christ—A Contrast in Effectiveness (v. 15)

1 Corinthians 15:22 (NKJV) "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."

II. Adam and Christ—A Contrast in Extent (v. 16)

III. Adam and Christ—A Contrast in Efficacy (v. 17)

"What Christ has done for us is not just to exchange death's kingdom for the much more gentle kingdom of life, while leaving us in the position of subjects. Instead, He delivers us from the rule of death so radically as to enable us to change places with it and rule over it, or *reign in life*. We become kings, sharing the kingship of Christ, with even death under our feet now, and one day to be destroyed."

—John Stott

"It is not only that we are forgiven, but over and above being forgiven, the righteousness of Jesus Christ is put to our account, is put upon us...Unfallen Adam was righteous, but it was his own righteousness as a created being, it was the righteousness of a man. Adam never had the righteousness of Jesus Christ upon him. What he lost was his own righteousness. But you and I are not merely given back a human righteousness, the righteousness that Adam had before he fell—we are given the righteousness of Jesus Christ. 'Much more'—abundance, superabundance—give full weight to it! We receive this abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness."

—Martyn Lloyd-Jones

IV. Adam and Christ—A Contrast in Essence (vv. 18-19)

Romans 1:16 (NKJV) “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for **everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

2 Thessalonians 1:9 (NKJV) “These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

Romans 2:5 (NKJV) “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”

V. Adam and Christ—A Contrast in Energy (vv. 20-21)

*Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt,
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.*

*Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse with-in;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.*

—Julia Johnston (1910)

“Where sin was thus multiplied, grace immeasurably exceeded it.” (New English Bible)

“Though sin is shown to be wide and deep, thank God His grace is wider and deeper still.” (J. B. Phillips Paraphrase)

“Nothing could sum up better the blessings of being in Christ than the expression ‘the reign of grace.’ For grace forgives sins through the cross, and bestows on the sinner both righteousness and eternal life. Grace satisfies the thirsty soul and fills the hungry with good things. Grace sanctifies sinners, shaping them into the image of Christ. Grace perseveres even with the recalcitrant, determining to complete what it has begun. And one day grace will destroy death and consummate the kingdom. So when we are convinced that ‘grace reigns,’ we will remember that God’s throne is a ‘throne of grace,’ and will come to it boldly to receive mercy and to find grace for every need.”

—John Stott