

Sin, GRACE, and Newness of Life

Class Booklet in Outline Format

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Sin, Grace, and Newness of Life

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SESSION 1 INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND

1. Luke 7:40-47 Degree of deliverance determines degree of thankfulness.
2. Ephesians 2:1 Death to life—the ultimate deliverance.
 - a) Without an understanding of man's utter failure, grace cannot truly be appreciated.
 - b) Conviction of sin precedes the enjoyment of righteousness.
3. Luke 2:34 Falling precedes rising.

B. OUR NATURE: SIN

1. Sin is more than action. It is a new quality that entered the world in Adam (Romans 5:12).
 - a) Romans 5:6-10 Without strength, ungodly, sinners, enemies—by birth.
 - b) Psalm 58:3 Essence of natural man is selfish and self-focused.
2. Romans 3:23 All have sinned—all need a savior.
 - a) By himself, no man can satisfy God's standard of righteousness.
 - b) Man's good works are only good by comparison with other men.

C. DEFINITION OF SIN

1. I John 3:4 Transgression of the law = lawlessness.
2. Isaiah 14:12-14 "I will, I will, I will." An act of rebellion by one's will.
3. What it is not:
 - a) Not an accident, a mistake.
 - b) Not solved by correcting conditions or circumstances.
 - c) Not determined by whether someone gets hurt.
 - (1) II Samuel 12:9-13 I have sinned against the Lord.
 - (2) Genesis 39:9 Sin against the Lord.
4. Man does not need help with his problems. Man IS the problem.
 - a) Ephesians 5:8 We WERE darkness!
 - b) Hosea 6:4-7 Verse 7 "Like men" = "like Adam."
 - c) Luke 18:9-13 Verse 13 "Be merciful to me THE sinner."
 - d) Matthew 9:10-12 Until sin is acknowledged, any help is useless.

D. SALVATION IS SO SIMPLE THAT ITS MAGNITUDE IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED

1. We are not to forget what we have been delivered from.
 - a) Philippians 3 Paul forgot his past “merits.”
 - b) I Timothy 1:15 Paul remembered his sin.
2. We can never begin to understand God’s grace if we don’t understand man’s utter failure.

SESSION 2 MAN’S CONDITION

A. THE GOSPEL

1. Romans 1:1-6; 16, 17.
 - a) The gospel is the power to save.
 - b) Salvation is needed by both Jew and Gentile.
2. The righteousness of God is about to be revealed. But why should that matter to me?

B. THE WRATH OF GOD

1. Romans 1:18 Not like man’s wrath. But it is very real (Ezekiel 7:9).

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2. Romans 1:19-31 Man is without excuse.
 - a) Romans 1:19, 20 Even by the five senses, God's existence and power can be seen in the world.
 - b) Romans 1:21-23 Man's response.
 - c) Romans 1:24-26 God's response to man's rejection.
 - d) Romans 1:27-32 Further evidence of man's conscious and willing rebellion against God.

3. Romans 2 Specifically for those who judge others (e.g., Israel).
 - a) Romans 2:1-4 Despising the riches of His goodness = thinking that I, by my own efforts, have earned the right to judge anyone. This is rejecting the goodness of God (because I'm assuming I do not need it).
 - b) Romans 2:5, 6 By relying on my (insufficient) works, what I'm gaining for myself is even more wrath in the day of wrath.
 - c) Romans 2:11ff. Conclusion: though Israel had the law, they did not keep it. Thus they show themselves to be equally worthy of judgment.

SESSION 3 GRACE

A. ROMANS CHAPTER 3

1. Romans 3:1, 2 What advantage then hath the Jew:
 - a) Because they were entrusted with God's Word, they would be able to identify the savior when he came (Psalm 147:19, 20).
 - b) God made His covenants with Israel (Deuteronomy 9:4, 5).
 - c) Further benefits: Romans 9:4, 5.

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- d) Jesus Christ came in his earthly ministry to Israel (Romans 15:8).
 - e) In contrast, Gentiles were without God and without Hope!
(Ephesians 2:11, 12)
2. Romans 3:3, 4 Still, their unbelief did not hinder God—He is faithful.
 3. Romans 3:5-9 Conclusion: all are under SIN—Gentile and Jew.
 4. Romans 3:10-19:
 - a) Man has no response to God’s verdict.
 - b) By rights, God could close here. He has no responsibility beyond it. It was man who walked away from God.
 5. Romans 3:20 The law cannot help. But God made a promise, therefore...
 6. Romans 3:21 The righteousness that God imparts. Mentioned in 1:16, 17, now explained.
 7. Romans 3:22-24 By faith, “without a cause” (John 15:25).
 8. Romans 3:25, 26 A declaration of God’s righteousness.

B. ROMANS 3:20 IF GOD KNEW MAN COULDN'T BE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW, WHY DID HE GIVE IT?

1. Through the law is the knowledge of sin. It defined sin.
2. It was a legitimate offering, but the test is "Pass-Fail." It had to be fulfilled 100%. Therefore it showed the need for a savior.
 - a) The law is like a mirror. It can show you what you look like, but cannot change it.
 - b) It can diagnose, but not repair.
3. Matthew 5:20-22, 27, 28 They could act righteously, but Jesus showed that the evil of sin begins with the heart, not the action.

C. RELATIONSHIP OF SIN AND THE LAW

1. Romans 5:20 A further consequence: the offence abounded when the law entered.
2. Lawlessness rejoices at the prospect of new laws to break.
3. God gave the law to point out sin, not to cure it. God wanted man to understand how much he needed the savior.

D. MATTHEW 20:1-16 GOD'S GRACE IS OFFENSIVE TO MAN, BECAUSE MAN FEELS HE CAN EARN RIGHTEOUSNESS

E. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

1. II Timothy 2:1 Be Strong in Grace.
2. II Peter 3:18 Grow in Grace.

F. WORKS OF THE FLESH DO NOT CHANGE MY STANDING AS A SON OF GOD

1. Galatians 3:1-3 "Grace plus works" is no longer grace.
2. II Corinthians 10:12 A gospel of works measures man against man. Other believers become the competition.
3. My performance has no bearing on my standing with God.

SESSION 4 NEWNESS OF LIFE

A. GRACE IN SERVICE

1. II Corinthians 1:12, 3:5, 6 God supplies the ability.
2. I Corinthians 3:10ff. God supplies the directions.
3. Philippians 3:3 Just as we could not be saved without Him, we cannot live for Him without Him.

4. Words like humility and brokenness are not “negative”—they are essential.
5. Jesus Christ exhibited these qualities.
6. True confidence springs from true humility.

B. II CORINTHIANS 5:17 A NEW CREATION—HOW IS THIS DEMONSTRATED?

1. Substitution and identification.
2. Romans 5:18 As we were in Adam, so are we now in Christ.
3. Romans 6:1-4 Identification—his death becomes ours.
4. Romans 6:5-7 Our old man has not been repaired, but replaced.
 - a) The body of sin: influence, entity of sin.
 - (1) We are free from the guilt of sin.
 - (2) We are free from the penalty of sin.
 - (3) We are free from the influence of sin.
 - b) Destroyed = to be unemployed, to come to an end. Contract has been terminated because the price has been paid.

5. Romans 6:16-18.
 - a) If I am free, why do I still sin? Habits of slavery.
 - b) We must choose to yield ourselves to righteousness.

6. Romans 6:11 First imperative (command) in the Church Epistles.
 - a) Reckon = *logizomai*: a logical, mathematical conclusion.
 - b) We do not wrestle with the old man, we reckon him dead, and ourselves alive in Christ.

7. Romans 8:1-3 What could the law not do?

8. Hebrews 10:11-14 Blood of bulls and goats was only a temporary solution. Christ's sacrifice perfected us forever.
 - a) Hebrews 10:1, 2 Couldn't make the comers thereunto perfect.
 - b) Hebrews 9:9, 13, 14 Could not cleanse the consciousness of sin.

C. EXAMPLE OF A NATURAL MAN UNDER THE LAW

1. Romans 6 and 7 are a parenthesis. They cover four questions regarding the sin, law, and grace.

2. Romans 7:1-6 A practical illustration.

3. Romans 7:7-12 Question 3: Is the law sin?
 - a) Verse 8 Sin was not technically dead, but the law made me aware of it.
 - b) Verses 9-12 The law gave sin a base of operations.

4. Romans 7:13-25 Question 4: Did the law become deadly to me?
 - a) Verse 14 The plight of unsaved man under the law.
 - b) Verses 15-20 Man under law can SEE what is right, but cannot LIVE it.
 - c) Verse 21 Sin nature referred to as a "law."
 - d) Verse 22 Law of God = Old Testament law.
 - e) Verse 23 Law in my members = sin.
 - f) Verses 24, 25 The ONLY deliverance from this problem is via the completed work of Jesus Christ.

SESSION 5 ENABLED BY THE SPIRIT

A. WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

1. Romans 8:1 - 3.
 - a) What the law could not do (Romans 7:25).
 - b) A third law: within me.
 - c) Romans 8:26-29 The great purpose of the spirit.

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2. Romans 8:4 Righteousness = the righteous requirement of the law.
 - a) Romans 6:11 Imitation of Christ must be preceded by identification with Christ.
 - b) Romans 12:2 We are transformed. It's a supernatural reality, not simply a motivation to work harder.

3. Galatians 5:1 We now live by a new standard. Better to fail at this than to succeed at religion.
 - a) Galatians 5:16, 17 By walking in the spirit we cannot fulfill the lusts of the flesh.
 - b) Galatians 5:22, 23 Walking in the spirit yields the fruit of the spirit—against such there is no law.
 - c) Galatians 5:24, 25 All who are born of the spirit have the ability to live this way.

B. NOT JUST CHANGING HABITS, BUT A HOLY LIFE

1. Ephesians 5:3-10 Practicing who you are.

2. I Thessalonians 4:1-8 Pleasing God, doing His will.

3. I Corinthians 6:9-12, 19, 20.

SESSION 6 GOD'S INNER WORKING

A. GALATIANS 2:20 CHRIST LIVING IN ME

1. II Corinthians 3:18 The Great work of the spirit.
2. II Corinthians 3:3.
 - a) Quoted from Jeremiah 31:31-34.
 - b) A related promise in Ezekiel 36:26, 27.

B. HEBREWS 8:10-12 IS THIS LIMITED TO ISRAEL?

1. Hebrews 10:14-17 Clearly speaking of the new birth.
2. Consider other Old Testament prophecy.
3. The promise of Jesus Christ: John 14:16, 17, 26.
4. John 16:12-15 Guide = to lead, not to force.

C. ROMANS 8:10, 11 THE SPIRIT IMPARTS LIFE

1. Romans 8:12-14 Led by the spirit.
2. Ephesians 4:25-30 Spirit can be resisted (grieved).

3. Philippians 2:12, 13 Requires my cooperation.

4. Philippians 2:14, 15 Shining as lights (see II Corinthians 3:18).

D. PHILIPPIANS 1:6 GOD'S WORK IN US

1. A growing love for truth.

2. James 4:5 The spirit yearns jealously.

3. James 4:6, 7, 8a The spirit enables us to resist.

SESSION 7 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. TITUS 2:11, 12: THE GRACE OF GOD TEACHES US HOW TO LIVE FOR HIM

1. Verse 13 Our Hope is a wonderful help (see I John 3:1-3).
2. How does grace teach us? II Timothy 3:16, 17 — *paideia*.
3. I Corinthians 9:24-27 This will never be easy, but will always be necessary.
4. Hebrews 12:1-11 The peaceable fruit of righteousness.

B. JOHN 8:31-36

SESSION 8 APPENDIX: WHAT ABOUT CONFESSION?