

## **GRACE IS GREATER, Romans 5:17-22**

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INTRODUCTION: *Grace is Greater* is message number five in a series, *Chats of Cheer*, designed to help believers appreciate the great work of God in their lives from a doctrinal point of view. This series is an effort to get the appreciation of salvation back on God where it belongs and away from the current trend of appreciating God only when He, in some manner, prospers the believer in our earthly lives. This series is also designed to help unbelievers understand some of the many wonderful ways God can enhance their lives and families

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#### **I. CONTEXT OF THE PASSAGE**

The entire context of chapter five of the Book of Romans is an account of the Apostle Paul's inspired handling of the subject of justification. The most important question which faces every human is "How can a sinful person obtain a righteous standing before an infinitely holy God?" A second question also faces everyone, "How righteous does a person have to be to live eternally in the presence of God?"

#### **II. THE CONDITION OF MAN: Romans 5:12-14**

Sin and Death are presented in this passage as more than events; they are pictured as monsters that entered the human race. It is worded as if they are persons and more than precepts. The idea is that Sin come into the world and brought Death along with it.

The teaching of the text is that sin entered the world through Adam's rejection of God's right to rule over him. As part of God's creation, his transgressing, "willingly going past what God demanded," defined sin. What entered through Adam passed on through the human race, bringing death with it. Death means "separation" and never "ceasing to exist". There are three different ways death is used in the Bible: 1) spiritual death—separation from God, 2) physical death—separation of the soul from the body, and 3) eternal death—eternal separation from God that follows physical death. The Bible teaches the universal depravity of all humanity, meaning that all have sinned and left alone are incapable of self-redemption in part or in whole, Ephesians 2:1-5.

### III. THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST: Romans 5:15-16

The seemingly unfairness of inherited sin is offset by an equally undeserved free grace from God. Lostness is not a condition solely resulting from Adam since everyone has also sinned as an action of their own wills. The word "offense" has a strong meaning, implying that one has deviated from a prescribed path by choosing to do so.

Grace is presented as a free gift, unearned and undeserved. It is also presented as available to anyone without cost and efficacious by being vastly larger than the whole debt of sin.

Condemnation and justification are contrasted in the sense that the gift of justification overrules and replaces condemnation. Justification by definition is "the legal action of God whereby He declares righteous anyone who accepts His Son's payment on Calvary for their debt of sin." Functionally, our sins are placed on Christ at the Cross and His righteousness is accredited to our sin debt. This is done as a consideration of the merits of Christ.

### IV. THE CONVERSION OF THE LOST: Romans 5:17-19

Just as sin and death reign and rule in the human race, equally so righteousness and life reign through Jesus Christ for any who want to receive forgiveness as a gift from God.

What is vital to the conversion of people is that salvation is given on the terms of the giver, Christ, and not available as a result of anything accomplished by the lost person.

Theologically, every person has a standing before God by being either in Adam condemned, or in Christ graciously forgiven and declared righteous.

### V. THE CONSEQUENCE OF GRACE: Romans 5:20-21

Sin and its consequences "abound" everywhere, at all times, in every person and in every culture. The historical volume and cost of sin are incalculable! Yet, the text teaches that in spite of the abundance and abounding of sin, the grace of God and the cross of Christ super abounds as an equal amount plus a whole lot more, resulting in eternal life!