

SIN VS. GRACE

Tuesday: God & I Time

Romans 5:20-6:2 ²⁰ *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:* ²¹ *That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.* ¹ *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

Have you ever been asked a hard question? Questions like, "Why is the sky blue?" or "How can someone not like red velvet cake?" Certain questions just don't make sense (like that last one about red velvet cake!) Paul asks a couple of difficult, probing questions in Romans 6. The two questions are *Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?* (6:1) and *What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace?* (6:15). These are the questions we want to study this week and see how Paul instructs us to handle sin.

Paul asks these questions based on what he wrote in chapter 5:20-21. So before we dive into chapter 6 we need to take a step back into the previous chapter. This will give us groundwork to be able to understand how to answer Paul's question.

Let's look closely:

5:20a *The law entered, that the offense might abound.*

Write the definition of law below. (Go back to the key words and definitions page.)

Law - _____

The question we need to ask here is, into what did law "enter"? It entered into the human experience. People read the law and began to realize that they fall very short (Romans 3:23) of being able to meet the demands of the law. We need to understand that the law had a purpose. We see that purpose in the last part of this verse...*that the offense (wrongdoing; sin) might abound.*

The word abound means "to become great; and therefore be more noticeable." Paul is not saying that because the law came we sin more, he is saying the law came to help us recognize sin more easily. The law did not come to keep us from sinning but to show us how much we do sin. Write out Galatians 3:24 below. This verse teaches us that same truth.

Paul says that the law was a *schoolmaster*. A schoolmaster was somebody who guided a student to school. In this context the *law* is what guides us to the understanding of what God demands for every person. God demands perfect righteousness. The law *entered* so that we can see just how much we have offended a holy God. However, here comes the good news.

5:20b... *where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.*

Grace is what helps us stay away from sin. Write the definition of grace below.

Grace - _____

Based on that definition, explain how God's grace helps us win the battle against sin. _____

Abound - grow; increase; overflow

Explain in your own words what this phrase means: *But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.*

The incredible truth is this: sin is way overmatched by grace from God. It is not even a contest. Think of some illustrations of teams or armies that have completely overmatched their opponents and write them in the space below.

These illustrations don't even come close to comparing to the fact that grace in a believer's life can overpower sin. This truth should give all of us who sin, hope. If you are a believer, **YOU CAN WIN THE BATTLE AGAINST SIN!!!** Think about this, the sin that seemingly has held you captive for years—you can beat it by God's grace. Draw a couple of emoji's in the box below that show how this truth makes you feel.

Paul goes on to say in 5:21, *That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

5:21a *That as sin hath reigned unto death,*

That word reign means to rule; or be king of. When a king reigns, he has supreme rule. Whatever he says is what happens. Paul is saying sin was king, and all it brought was death. Death is separation from life, and it's not just separation from physical life but separation from eternal life. What does it mean to be separated...

1. From physical life - _____
2. From spiritual life - _____

5:21b *...even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord*

Fill in the blanks. As sin reigned unto _____, grace reigned unto _____. It is important for us to understand that grace reigns unto eternal life, but it reigns through righteousness. Grace only becomes king in people's lives who are righteous. We need to understand what righteousness is. The word righteous in the Bible means to be completely right with God. The problem is we sin every day and cannot become righteous in our own strength. Because we cannot become righteous in our own strength, God does what the Bible refers to as justifies us. Justification means the act of being declared righteous. We are justified through the blood of Jesus Christ and through Him alone.

Acts 4:12 tells us this truth. In your own words below explain what Acts 4:12 says.

(If this does not make sense to you, can you go talk to your counselor now and ask him or her to clarify it? This is a very important truth to grasp.)

Grace only reigns when God makes people right with Him. Jesus Christ came and caused grace to be king through His righteousness. That is the Gospel. When you boil it all down, it means that because of Christ, we can have eternal life, and when we are Christians, sin cannot reign over us. Grace reigns and grace overpowers sin because it comes from God.

On the heels of hearing the incredible truth that we can defeat sin because of God's grace, Paul asks a question:

6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Paul was concerned that people would read verses 20-21 of chapter 5 and say, "Hey, since we will receive more grace when we sin, why not sin more to get more grace?" His very emphatic answer was, *God forbid!* Write Romans 6:2 in the space below.

Think about this illustration. What if you spent your whole life living on the streets and eating out of a trash can and then one day somebody comes and says, "Hey, I want you to come live with my family. I have the wealth to give you all you need. You no longer need to scrounge for food in the garbage. I have all you need and it's always there and it's always free." Most people would absolutely welcome that and never look back on their former life. It would make no sense for a person to willingly go back to living on trash on a cold street. When a person becomes a Christian, he begins the life of hating sin. As a Christian spends more time in God's Word, he understands what sin is and that it grieves the true Christian because they know it grieves God. He desires to do more and more to remove sin in his life.

You might be saying, "I want to defeat sin and it grieves my heart when I sin, but I can't seem to win the battle." Let's keep studying this week. Romans 6 gives us the instructions on how to do that. You can win. The Bible will show you how. Write a prayer below asking God to help you see clearly this week what it takes for a Christian to win the battle against sin to the praise of the glory of His grace.

Take five minutes and write a prayer to God asking Him to help you understand this vital truth:
