

The Sufficiency of God's Grace

Romans 5:11~21, part 1

I want to speak to you tonight, on the subject of “*The Sufficiency of God's Grace...*”

God's Grace is sufficient... I don't know whether or not you firmly believe that or not, but I want you to know that it is! It is more than sufficient! My prayer to God is that at the conclusion of our study, here in Romans 5:11~21, you will rest in the assurance of the Sufficiency of God's Grace! Because, that is what Paul is teaching us in this passage

The question is not... **Have I lived good enough?**

Some think they have...but Paul has “*unquestionably*” shown that not to be the case...

But the question is... **Is God's Grace sufficient? Is the blood of Christ sufficient?**

Because that is at the “heart of the gospel” message...

²⁰Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, **grace did much more abound:**

The Problem is SIN... (Romans 6:23) *The wages of sin is...DEATH...*

Not only in the reality of physical death, which is true, but Sin has also resulted in our “*Spiritual Death.*” Our **sins** have separated us from God... **Sin** has broken our fellowship with God...

But God has made it possible...through “*Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ,*” (Who became the embodiment of God's Grace & Mercy towards men) **our fellowship with God can be restored...**

Paul describes it this way in Ephesians 2...

¹And you hath he **quicken**, who **were dead** in trespasses and sins;

(What is the difference between one who is “*Spiritually Dead & Spiritually Alive?*”)

²Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience: ³Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the **children of wrath**, even as others. **(Speaking to being enemies of God...)**

⁴**But God,** who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: ⁷That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast...

God's Grace is Sufficient...

Notice, the “**not only so's**”...in verses 3 & 11... Paul is making known to the “*follower of Christ*” just what all he has received, when he/she placed their trust in Christ... As I studied this section, what came to my mind was that of opening up a “*gift.*” It's almost as if Paul has opened up a gift, and one by one reveals what is in the box...

First, he pulls out... “PEACE with God...” **My goodness, what is that worth?**

Hey, look what else is in here... GRACE... **Ah Man, I am so thankful...**I'm in desperate need for that!

We have gone from being the “*Objects of His Wrath...*” to that of being the “*Objects of His Love!”*”

I found it interesting, that Paul used the word “Grace...” I believe it was because he couldn’t use the word love...mainly for the reason, man does not understand “True Love...” Man’s is based on “*desirability,*” the object must be of value, it is based on the worthiness of the object...

Illustration... “*I love chocolate ice cream...*” I say that on the basis of what it does for me! The taste pleases me... If it didn’t, I’d have no part with it ...**right?** I know that is a silly illustration, but it gets the point across! The principle is true with everything man loves... It’s always how it pleases him...

But not God’s love... God’s love isn’t earned on the basis of the objects worthiness... It’s not dependant upon our performance! God doesn’t love us because we are lovable... God loves us, because God is Love! And true love, love’s regardless of the object... Man’s love is just the opposite, once again a testimony to the truthfulness of the scripture, of the fallen nature of Man!

Beloved...**because of Christ, we stand in the “Grace of God...”**

(Vs3) But that’s not all... “**not only so**”... We also have been given the “*Holy Spirit...*” (Vs 5)
We have a Helper! God will see us through everything we face in life...

(Vs11) But that’s not all... “**not only so**”... ¹¹*And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*

Restoration of Fellowship with God! The “*Exchange...*” My life of sin...for life with God...
That because of SIN...I was DEAD... But now, because of Christ...I am ALIVE!

In verses 12~21, Paul looks to the “Source” of our problem...

¹²*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world...*

Adam, “*Opened the Door*” as it were, and Sin entered! Sin entered the world, and has taken up residence! And it’s been **reeking havoc** ever since! And truth is, we’ve all visited this house on several occasions...

If Adam had not eaten of the “*Forbidden Tree,*” than we would’ve never known Sin... But, because of Adam’s fall, ever since then, for thousands of years, we have watched and seen it’s devastating effects on man! Every Sickness, every disease, every sorrow, every pain, every evil work, every suffering...is a direct result of Adam’s fall. Ultimately ending in the death of every man!

... and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

I don’t think we can fathom what it would be like if Adam hadn’t opened that door!

If you think about it... Adam & Eve would have lived forever, is Sin had not entered ...

Revelations gives a little insight what could have been, by telling us what will be... No sickness, no sorrow, no pain, no suffering, no tears...NO Death!

Scripture teaches, that all of us are condemned sinners, not because what we have done, but what Adam has done!

We are not Sinners because we sin...we sin because we are sinners!

We are the “seed” of Adam...we are earthly, we are born into sin... We take on his nature, because we are his children. We see this illustrated in our own children, how they look like us, and act like us, and talk like us! When it comes to being sinful or godly, there’s no debate, where just like Adam, rotten to the core!

Paul tells us that Sin has always been in the world, from the days of Adam till the days of Moses...

¹³*(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.*

¹⁴*Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.*

What Paul is saying, is that even though there was no "LAW" during that period of time, Sin abounded! And we know this is true, because of Death! From Adam to Moses, the time of the giving of the Law, every single one has died!

What is the wages of Sin? What is it's reward? DEATH! Death is a constant reminder of Sin!

(Ro 6:23) ²³For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The reason he specifies from "Adam to Moses..." it is a reference to the time that the Law entered the world! It was through Moses, that God gave the Law, His righteous standard for man...

¹⁴*Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.*

(Deut. 18:15) ¹⁵*The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;*

Moses gave us the Law... What was the purpose of the Law?

It served a two-fold purpose...

1) It was to set "*The Standard of Righteousness...*"

2) Thus manifesting the guilt of all men, of failing to keep its standards...

Who has been able to keep it? NOBODY! None of us have, we've all fallen miserably short! It was to this end that Paul tells us in Romans 3:20, that God gave the Law...

²⁰*Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

The ONLY thing the Law can do, is to manifest our SIN! And when the Law has fulfilled it's purpose, it condemns us guilty before God, helpless sinners... and thus we must look to God for mercy and Grace!

Now I want you to think about something... It is true that NO MAN has fulfilled the righteousness of the Law... **right?**

Has anyone ever keep the whole Law, and is innocent before God?

Yes! Christ!

He was the "sinless" Son of God! The scriptures teach this in several areas, but none so clearly as...

(Hebrews 4:15) ¹⁵*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

Christ Never Once "Transgressed" the Law of God!

(1John 3) ⁴*Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

Christ Never “*Transgressed*” the Law of God! Not even once...

As a matter of fact... Matthew 5:17, we see that He came to fulfill the law...

¹⁷*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.*

Did He fulfill all the Law? Did He fail in any aspect of the Law... ¹⁸For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Jesus “Fulfilled the Law!” Thus in essence, when Moses gave us the law, what was he giving us? Christ... The Law was the written commandment of God, and Christ was the “embodiment” of it!

A very interesting thought came to my mind, as I thought about this...

By keeping all the Law, He was “*without sin...*” **Right?**

With that being the case, had not Christ taken “*Our Sin*” upon Himself, He would have never died! **Death is the result of Sin...**

(2Co. 5:21) ²¹*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Christ had to “*Lay down*” His life for us! He did so, by taking “Our Sins” upon Himself, and paid the price of sin through His death on the Cross! But listen, having been “Our Sin”...when the flesh was killed, He was risen because He Himself was Sinless!

(Vs 15~17) Paul contrast the two...

¹⁵*But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. ¹⁶And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. ¹⁷For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*

Because of what Adam did...we all pay the price...

Because of what Jesus did...we all receive the gift...

Because of what Adam did...we all have become guilty...

Because of what Jesus did...we all have been declared Justified...

Because of what Adam did ...Sin **has reigned** unto Death...

Because of what Jesus did... Grace **reigns** unto “life...”

The difference between life and death...**is Grace**...

Through Jesus Christ, we have been given eternal life... Eternal life is not a reference to a” Quantity of Life in years,” but rather speaks to “Quality of life.”

(John 17) ¹*These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, **Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:** ²*As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.**

³*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

Beloved...we have been restored to a living relationship with God, by Grace!
Jesus Christ...is the embodiment of God's Grace...

His death on the cross for our sin, was God's underserved, unearned, love towards sinners!

And I just want to go on record as saying...

God's Grace is Sufficient!