

The Sufficiency of God's Grace

Romans 5:11~21, part 2

Paul has been explaining the *tremendous blessings* that we have in Christ... Our faith in Christ, has placed us in a position to received the abundant blessings of God! Prior to coming to "Faith in Christ", we were the enemies of God, but through faith in Christ, we are have "*peace*" with God.

And because we have "peace" with God, as a result, we enjoy the kindness and love of God. In verse 2, ... "*By whom also we have access by faith, into this **grace** wherein we stand...*" Which is a reference that we stand to receive God's love, contrasted to where we used to stand, to receive His Hatred and Wrath... We now stand in God's *grace*... We were the "*objects of His wrath.*" But now, through "*Faith in Christ*", we have become the "*object of His affection...*"

(Vs 3~5) The "Work" of grace... (Grace –vs- Law for character)

(Vs 6~10) The "Hope" of grace... (There's nothing God won't do for us...)

(Vs 11~21) The "Sufficiency" of grace... (Nothing can separate us from his love...)

This is where, those who teach "*works salvation*" draw the line... They totally disagree with what I'll be teaching this morning... They teach, that you can mess up, and you are separated again from God... And if you die in that state, you will perish! It's really little more than trusting in one's own sufficiency to keep the "Righteous standard" of God's law...

Well, I will be the first to admit, that if that is the standard, then I for one, am in trouble... Because I for one, do not measure up the "Holy standard" of God's word... That's why I am so thankful for God's grace! Where I lack, He fulfills...

This morning, I would like to *continue* on the subject... "*The Sufficiency of God's Grace...*"

The word *sufficiency* means, ***to have as much as is needed, to have what it takes to meet the need, to have enough...***

Sufficiency is something we don't think about very often... *something* we often take for granted. I would venture as far as to say, that the average household today, never deals with *insufficiency*. The average family does not know what it means to lack...to not have enough. We've got plenty of food in our pantries, nice clothing on our backs, good dependable cars, a warm place to sleep, a nice hot shower...

Most of us, if not all of us in this room have everything we need... Truth is, we likely have "*much, much more*" than we NEED. And, if we do come across something that we don't have enough of, we just run out and get it...

I can only speak for my family, but we don't "*Lack*" for anything...matter of fact, we have too much! We've had to end up getting a storage building, in order to hold all the stuff we never use!

My point is...*sufficiency* is almost a non-issue in our lives...

Well, there's one area in all of our lives, that we all lack in, and that is "*Righteousness...*" If any of us hope to escape the "*Judgment of God,*" we must understand...it will not be because we have lived righteous lives! It will not be because we have met the righteous standard of God.

If any of us escape "*His Judgment*", it will only be as a result of "*His Grace!*"

The question will NOT be... **Have I lived good enough?**

For Paul has "*unquestionably*" shown that **not to be the case...**

The question will be... Is God's Grace Sufficient?

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

God's Grace is sufficient... Regardless of a man's condition, regardless of, God's grace is sufficient... whatever the requirement, grace is able to meet the need.

To fully understand the *Sufficiency of grace*... we must first understand our "Deficiency..." It is to these two that Paul compares here in this passage.

Beginning in verse 12, Paul goes to **the source** of our problem... Our problem goes much deeper, and is much bigger than we might ever imagine...

According to the scripture, I'm a sinner, *not on the basis of what I've done*... Which we often think is the case. We often look back to particular events or things we've done... But those things are only the evidence that we are sinners...

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

In this passage, Paul reveals that we are sinners before God, not because of what we do, our problem goes much deeper than our "Actions..." but who we are... "We are the descendants of Adam..."

Beginning in verse 12, Paul points out the fact that we are sinners based on what Adam has done... 6 times, Paul makes reference to the source of our problem... ADAM!

¹² *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

Through Adam's transgression... he, as it were, "Opened the Door" and Sin entered the world... And as a result, we have been suffering it's effects ever since! He opened the door to every manner of sickness, every manner of disease, every sorrow, every hurt, every suffering... climaxing in the death of every man!

(Vs 13~14) Paul declares, that generation to generation we've seen the proof of this to be true... Even from the generation of Adam to Moses... SIN reigned... we know that to be true because every man has died! (Ro. 6:23) *The wages of sin... is death*... From Adam to Moses, death has reigned!

His point here is, that we are not sinners, by the transgression of the Law of Moses... For from Adam to Moses, there was NO LAW... **Yet, every single person has died!** In short, we are not sinners because of our deeds in reference to the Law! We are sinners because we are the descendants of ADAM!

4 times, Paul eludes to this fact... (Vs 12, 15, 16, 17). Summing it all up in verses 18~19...

¹⁸ *Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.*

The TRUTH we must grasp here is: That we are sinners... not because of what we've done... but because of what Adam has done...

It can't get any clearer than in what Paul says in 19...

¹⁹ *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners,so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

Beloved, that is the “good news,” the “*gospel of Christ...*”*so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

Because of Adam’s transgression, were all sinners, separated from God... But through Christ obedience, were all saints! Truth is, I do not become a sinner, because of what I do, nor do I become a saint on the basis of what I do... *so by the obedience of (HOW MANY?)...one shall many be made righteous.*

It is only when you understand this truth, that you are able to understand the “True meaning and purpose” of the Law of Moses... which Paul explains in verse 20.

²⁰*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound...*

The Law was given with a two-fold purpose... One, to be fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ!
(^{19b})*so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

Christ fulfilled the “*Righteous Standard*” of God! The requirements of the Law were not met in the offering up of animals, of doing this or that... The requirements of the Law were met by one Jesus Christ... THE OFFERING!

★ But the law had a totally different purpose for man... Far from being the means of justification, by adherence to it, it was given by God to cause men to SIN!

²⁰*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might **abound**...*

Paul uses a word here “*abound*” that pictures a river overflowing its banks... Something that all of us here in Estill county understand... Rain causes our creeks and rivers to rise, and if there is enough rain, they run over, they exceed the limitations of their banks, and “*come out...*” causing flooding...

²⁰*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might **abound**...*

Like rain causes the water in creeks and rivers to rise, and overflow their bounds... In the same way, the Law causes the Sin in us to rise up and overflow...

Listen to what Paul is saying... God gave us the Law, to cause us to... What? To sin...
God gave the Law...to cause Sin to “Overflow...”

²⁰*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might **abound**...* The Law entered the world that Sin would “*come out!*”

I think it’s extremely important to point out... Using a river as his illustration, the water is sin... And we need to realize that with or without the law, sin is there! Just as the river is FULL of water, we are full of sin! The Law only helps us to realize that! With or without the Law, we are sinners! Rather than make our lives better, the adherence to the Law only makes us worse! Because all the Law can do is make us aware of our sinfulness...

(Romans 3:19~20) **That’s exactly what Paul says here...**¹⁹*Now we know that what things so ever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.* 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.*

That’s why, to “*straighten up our lives*” to simply “*do better*” **is not enough!**

It speaks to “*The insufficiency of Religion!*” Jesus said in Mt. 7, there were “2gates”, the “Straight and Wide gates...” Many think the “Wide gate” is a reference to those who want no part of religion, the

world. But it's not... Both gates have over them the sign... "Heaven..." There's only two kinds of religion in the world... One is the "Gospel of Grace," faith in God's goodness... All every other religion in the world... "Man's goodness..."

God gave the Law through Moses... for the sole purpose of revealing "our sinfulness!"

²⁰Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound...

Why on earth would He do that? To open our eyes... So that we would "see" our helplessness and hopeless condition... So that we would "realize" our "depravity" our "failures" our "Shortcomings..."

To help us realize that when it comes to righteousness... we are "not sufficient" within our selves!

Making that clear, is what makes the truth Paul shares so sweet...

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

DL MOODY ... The law tells me how crooked I am. Grace comes along and straightens me out.

Our sufficiency is found in God's Grace... Paul says, that when the Law causes the Sin to come out, that God's Grace does the more! Paul says that Sin could never go to far... for God's Grace to handle! God's Grace is sufficient... Regardless of a man's condition, regardless of the sin, regardless of the mess he's made of his life, God's grace is sufficient... whatever the requirement, grace is able to meet the need.

To understand this amazing truth, is to release the "power of God" in your life! If you "believe" this to be true, it leaves one with no choice but to turn from "his own sufficiency" in his own obedience to the Law for justification with God, and forces him to fall at the feet of God for mercy and grace!

²¹That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

The key word here being... "Reign..."

It all comes down to a question of... Who is your Master?

If the **Law** is your **Master**... Then Sin rules... and the wages of Sin is Death...

But, if **Christ** be your **Master**... Then Grace rules... and through Grace, we have eternal life, *fellowship with God*...

The **just are not** those who fulfill the righteousness requirements of the law...

ONLY Christ was able to do that... All others are only condemned by it...

The just shall live by faith... That means, we turn from trusting in our "good works" and "righteousness" by the Law, and place our trust in the "finished work" and "righteousness of Christ!"

Closing... We are sinners, we great needs! Within ourselves, as far as righteousness is concerned, we are grossly insufficient... We have not the means, we do not have near enough... But God's grace does... God's grace has what it takes to take care of what we lack... **His Grace is sufficient**...