**Finding Grace**

**Understanding Grace**

**Abounding Grace**

3 responses to the two kinds of abundance in God’s world

**I. Be Horrified by the Abundance of Adam’s Sin**

**Romans 5:14** - *Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.*

A. From the argument of the book up to this point

**Romans 1:28-32** - *And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*

**Romans 3:10** - *…as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one.”*

**Romans 3:23** - *…for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God…*

B. In the life/testimony of the writer

**1 Timothy 1:15** - *It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.*

**1 Timothy 1:12-14** - *I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.*

C. In the logic of verses 12-21

1. Abundant because of its treachery

2. Abundant because of its scope

v. 12 – *just as through one man sin entered into the world…*

v. 12 – *death spread to all men…*

3. Abundant because of its effect

a. death through sin – v. 12

b. death reigned – v. 14

c. guilt

**Romans 5:16** - *…for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation…*

**Romans 5:18** - *So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men….*

**Romans 5:17** - *For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one…*

**II. Be Amazed by the Abundance of God’s Grace**

“After describing the appalling sin and lostness of all mankind (1:18-3:20), Paul has revealed how Christ, by His justifying death on the cross, provided the way of salvation for everyone who comes to God in faith (3:21-5:11). The inevitable question that then arises is, ‘How could what one man did at one time in history have such an absolute effect on mankind?’ The analogy of Adam and Christ is antithetical, an analogy of opposites. Because of Adam’s sin, all men are condemned; because of Christ’s obedience, many are pardoned. Adam is therefore analogous to Christ only in regard to the common principle that what one man did affected countless others.” (John MacArthur, Commentary on Romans, p. 291)

A. Because it is a free gift

**Romans 5:15-16** - *But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.*

B. Because it is available for many

**Romans 5:15** - *But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.*

C. Because it erases guilt

**Romans 5:16** - *…but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.*

**Romans 5:17** - *…much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness…*

**Romans 5:18** - *So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.*

D. Because it allows life to reign

**Romans 5:17** - *For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

**III. Be Delighted by the Delightful Possibilities of This Abundance**

A. We can be honest about the reality of sin

B. We can be authentic in our discussions of death

C. We can be hopeful in our attempts to change

**Romans 5:20** - *The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more…*