

# God's Gift of Grace

Romans 3:21 – 8:31



Apostle Paul (~ 5 – 67 A.D.)  
By Andrei Rublev (1410)

# God's Gift of Grace Introduction



# God's Gift of Grace Introduction

- Paul has shown us:
  - The guilt of the Gentile nations.
  - The guilt of the Jews who had God's covenant and his law.
  - The guilt of the whole human race collectively.

# God's Gift of Grace Introduction

- Key concept: **God's grace**
  - Unmerited favor, freely given to penitent sinners.
  - God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.

# God's Gift of Grace Introduction

- Paul's goals:
  - To introduce himself to the Roman church in preparation for later mission work.
  - To encourage unity among Jewish and Gentile believers.
  - To thoroughly explain the gospel he preaches as the means to both of the above.

# God's Gift of Grace Introduction

Our Topic Today:

1. The Righteousness of God 3:21-26
2. The Faith of Abraham 4:1-12
3. Our Peace with God 5:1-5
4. God's Love for Us 8:31-39

# God's Gift of Grace Introduction

*Paul has written at length to prove his point that as sinners we all deserve God's wrath and punishment ... But now he offers hope as he explains that there is a route to forgiveness through the death of Christ. If we believe in him, we can be made righteous.*

*– Ramesh Khatri, Association of Theological Education in Nepal*



# God's Gift of Grace Introduction

*None of us has earned this blessing.  
Consequently none of us can boast about  
being more righteous than someone else.  
This blessing also means that all of us can  
now belong to the people of God.*

*– Ramesh Khatri, Association of  
Theological Education in Nepal*



# God's Gift of Grace Introduction

- This is grace.
- This is God's gift, offered to unrighteous sinners.

# 1. The Righteousness of God

## 3:21-26



# 1. The Righteousness of God

3:21-26

- **Faith**, throughout the NT, is a fundamental disposition toward God that ultimately leads to works of obedience.
- It contains components of **belief** and **trust**.
- Bringing the Gentiles to “**the obedience of faith**” (1:5, 16:25) is the purpose of Paul’s apostolic ministry.

# 1. The Righteousness of God

3:21-26

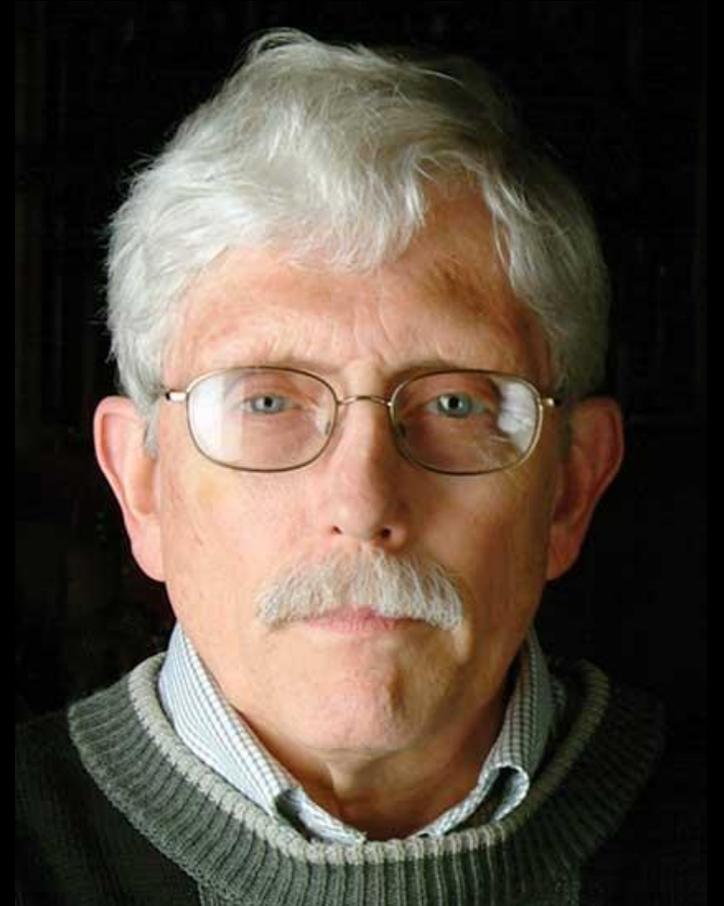
- Keeping the law *was not wrong*.
- Under the old covenant that was how people expressed a right relationship with God.
- But we should never imagine that law-keeping produces righteousness.
- Receiving **God's grace by faith in Jesus** is what is now necessary.

# 1. The Righteousness of God

## 3:21-26

*If a person ever needed proof of the absolute righteousness and justice of God, this is it. Also, if one ever needed proof of why Christ is the only path to salvation, this is it. All time, before and after the Christ event, points to Jesus' atoning work on the cross...*

*– Grant Osborne,  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*

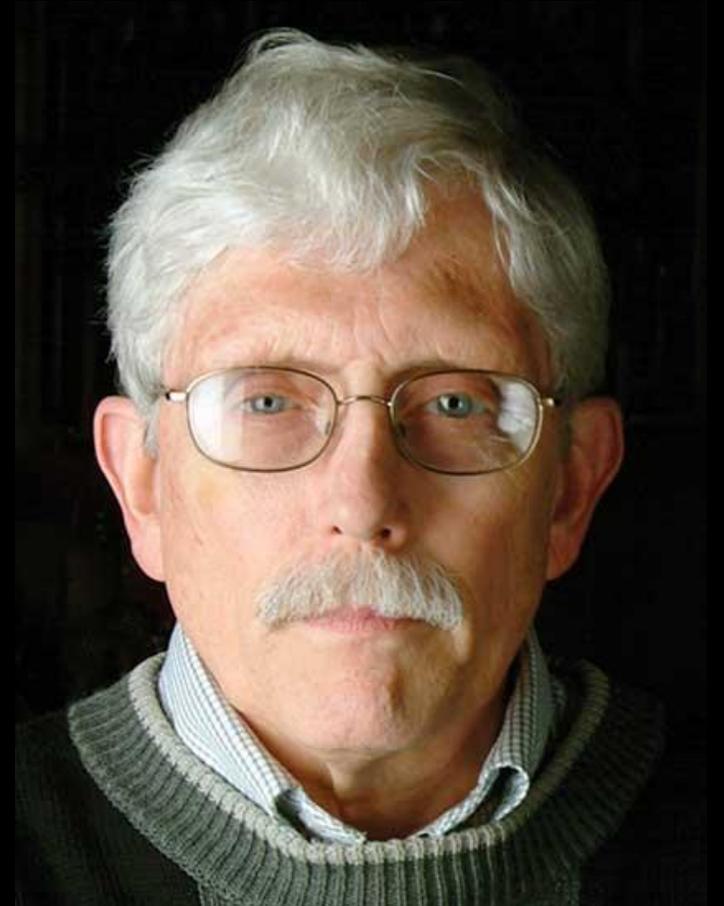


# 1. The Righteousness of God

## 3:21-26

*A God who would do all that for the salvation of sinful humanity would hardly turn around and let people come to him on their own terms any way they wished. There is only one way to satisfy his justice and that is the cross.*

*– Grant Osborne,  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*



# 1. The Righteousness of God

3:21-26

- It is possible that some who had lived under the old covenant – keeping the law – would object.
- Paul now gives us an Old Testament example.

## 2. The Faith of Abraham

4:1-12



## 2. The Faith of Abraham

4:1-12

- Abraham exercised faith before he was ever circumcised – before he came under any sign of the law or covenant.
- His example thus serves perfectly for both Jews and Gentiles.
- Both need to come to God on the basis of faith.

## 2. The Faith of Abraham

4:1-12



*As knowledge of the Bible declines – even among Christians – fewer and fewer people have any handle on the story line of the Bible as a whole ... As a result, many believers have little idea about how their faith in Christ fits into the wider plan of God ... Indeed, in what C. S. Lewis would call “chronological snobbery,” ...*

*– Douglas Moo,  
Wheaton Graduate School*

## 2. The Faith of Abraham

4:1-12



*... we can make the mistake of thinking our own time is the only important one ... Paul was determined not to make this kind of mistake. He well knew that his vision of the gospel ... had to fit into the plan of God as revealed in the Old Testament.*

*– Douglas Moo,  
Wheaton Graduate School*

## 2. The Faith of Abraham

4:1-12

- Since we possess no righteousness of our own, faith is our only option.
- Faith is not a meritorious work, but simply means trusting in God, just as Abraham did.

# 3. Our Peace with God

## 5:1-5



# 3. Our Peace with God

## 5:1-5

- **5:1** we have been justified by faith
- Justification, in the legal sense, doesn't mean we never did anything wrong. It means we are legally innocent.
- It is not a legal fiction, it is a legal reality.
- A criminal acquitted by a court can walk away free.
- The verdict of the court is binding.

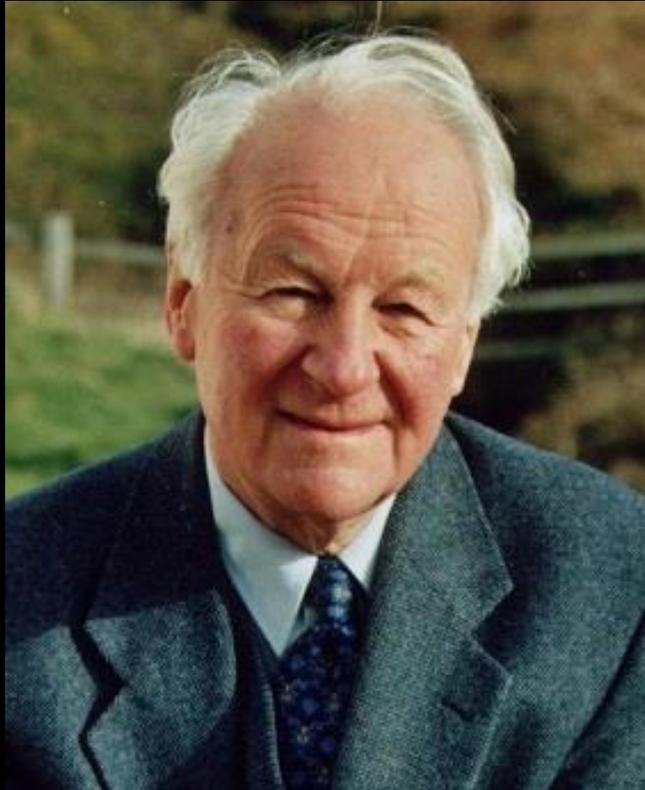
# 3. Our Peace with God

5:1-5

- This is grace.
- This is God's gift, offered to unrighteous sinners.
- The result is **peace with God**.

### 3. Our Peace with God

5:1-5



*The pursuit of peace is a universal human obsession, whether it is international, industrial, domestic or personal peace. Yet more fundamental than all these is peace with God ... And this peace becomes ours through our Lord Jesus Christ, who was both delivered to death and raised from death (4:25), in order to make it possible.*

*– John Stott (1921 – 2011),  
All Souls Church, London*

# 3. Our Peace with God

## 5:1-5

- **5:3-5** Notice now the change of character that comes over the people of God.
- We are now transformed by God's love, "poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."
- We are now ready to endure the upcoming trials of faith.

# 4. God's Love for Us

## 8:31-39



## 4. God's Love for Us

8:31-39

- As recipients of God's grace, we need never doubt God's love for us.
- Even if we do, all we have to do is look back to the cross.

## 4. God's Love for Us

8:31-39



*Paul speaks from experience. He has suffered many of the hardships he mentions here, and he can confidently claim that they will be unable to take the believer away from God's love in Christ.*

*– Douglas Moo,  
Wheaton Graduate School*

## 4. God's Love for Us

8:31-39

*God has provided for our victory. We can rest assured that his love will never let us down. All we need to do is trust God and be convinced that he can keep his promises no matter how unlikely that may sometimes appear in our circumstances.*

*– David M. Kasali, Bilingual Christian  
University of the Congo*



## 4. God's Love for Us

8:31-39

- We needed God's grace.
- God has provided for our need by giving us his gift of grace.

# God's Gift of Grace **Conclusions**



# God's Gift of Grace **Conclusions**

- Key concept: **God's grace**
  - Unmerited favor, freely given to penitent sinners.
  - God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.

# God's Gift of Grace **Conclusions**

- **Faith**, throughout the NT, is a fundamental disposition toward God that ultimately leads to works of obedience.
- It contains components of **belief** and **trust**.

# God's Gift of Grace **Conclusions**

- Since we possess no righteousness of our own, **faith** is our only option.
- **Faith** is not a meritorious work, but simply means trusting in God, **just as Abraham did.**

# God's Gift of Grace **Conclusions**

- In the courtroom of heaven, we can only be **justified by faith**.
- This is not a legal fiction, but a legal reality.
- Christ has born the punishment for our sin; we can go free.

# God's Gift of Grace Conclusions

- There is no further price to pay.
- We can be confident that nothing “can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

# God's Gift of Grace **Conclusions**

- This is grace.
- This is God's gift, offered to unrighteous sinners.

# God's Gift of Grace Conclusions



*This epistle is ... truly the purest gospel.  
... We can never read it or ponder over  
it too much; for the more we deal with  
it, the more precious it becomes and  
the better it tastes.*

*– Martin Luther*

# God's Gift of Grace **Conclusions**

- Key verses: **Romans 1:16-17** (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."