

Scandal #1: Grace Is Free To Anyone

Scandalous Grace Series- Part 01

Connect: Imagine for a moment that you came into a large sum of money, who is the first person that you would reach out to and say, "Here...take this gift of \$100,000." Why is this person deserving of your large gift?

Hook: The other morning I (Pastor Danny) pulled into the Chick Filet drive-through for a breakfast sandwich. When I got to the window, the cashier told me that the person in front of me had paid for my order. I remember that I was somewhat shocked. In a few seconds a number of questions ran through my mind: Why? Did I know them? Did they know me? Why would they do that? Did they know I had only ordered a sandwich? Hey, they can't do that to me, there are others with greater needs! Why am I still holding this debit card out the window?

"Well", I said, "that was nice. Then I guess I will pay it forward. Let me pay for the person's order behind me". And, again, then came the questions inside my mind: I wondered how big their order was? Did I just agree to pay for a dozen breakfast orders for a nearby real estate office? Why didn't I think of doing this for someone, FIRST? Will the person behind me wonder what I am up to?

The breakfast sandwich had become an act of grace toward me.... unmerited favor...er-r-r, an unmerited chicken biscuit. I actually struggled with the unexpected act...I wanted to understand why this unknown person would do this.

Can you relate a time when a complete stranger extended a gift to you, and did not wait for even a "Thank you"? How did it make you feel?

Book: Romans 3:21-27

Rom 3:20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

Rom 3:21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with Him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.

Rom 3:22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

Rom 3:23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Rom 3:24 Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Rom 3:25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when He held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,

Rom 3:26 for He was looking ahead and including them in what He would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate His righteousness, for He Himself is fair and just, and He declares sinners to be right in His sight when they believe in Jesus.

Rom 3:27 Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith.

Look:

According to the text today, what purpose did the Old Testament law serve and to whom does it apply?

Using our text scriptures, explain the following about **salvation**:

- How is it free?
- How is it unmerited?
- How is it received?
- Who can have it?

If you were God, what would you do differently with respect to the salvation of humanity?

Which aspects of grace and/or salvation do you struggle with?

In your own words, summarize what grace has done for you.

In what ways can we do what God has asked us to do and live lives of grace in this world?

How does the "grace of God" truly make our lives different in this world?