

9-7-14 Message
GOD'S GRACE – GREATER
Romans 5:15-21

Introduction:

- Some see the universe as being in a t_____ -of-war – good vs evil
 1. From our perspective – it goes back and forth
 2. From God's perspective – good _____ wins because God's grace is greater.
- This passage gives us three ways that God's grace is greater
 1. Much of the arguments are from l_____ to greater - "Since that is true, how much more true is this."
 2. See the words, "much more" or "even so" (NIV – "so also") in verses 15,17-19,21

Grace Has a Greater Reason (15,16)

- Who are "the many"? (the Greek word "the" is before many and so refers to a specific group)
 1. The Old Testament was written in H_____/Aramaic and uses the term "the many" to refer to the Jewish people who had f_____
 - a. Dan 9:27 – a firm covenant will be made with **the many** for one week (all agree that this refers to Jewish people)
 - 1) Jewish people were not defined by race only, but by f_____ (e.g. Rahab and Ruth who were Gentiles that joined the Jewish culture and came to be considered Jews – Matt 1:5)
 - 2) So I would define "the many" in the Old Testament as the Jewish people of faith, not the Jewish race.
 - b. Is 53:11 - *My Servant, will j_____ **the many** as He will bear their iniquities.* – the Jewish people of faith
 - c. Dan 11:33 – understanding would be given to **the many**
 - d. Dan 12:3 – those who lead **the many** to righteousness will shine as stars.
 2. The Old Testament was translated into Greek long before Jesus came. The Greek translation of "the many" is just "many." This is important to know when reading the New T.
 - a. The New Testament was written in Greek and records Jesus' references to "the many" as simply "many" but it is still referring to the Jewish people of faith (Matt 20:28; Mk 14:26; compare to Matt 1:21)
 - b. The apostle Paul knew both Greek and Hebrew and expands the term "the many" to refer to all the people of faith regardless of r_____.
- The first argument from lesser to greater (v. 15)
 1. Since it is true that by the sin of ONE (Adam), the people of faith d_____ (Abraham, Moses, etc)
 2. How much more true it is that by the gift of ONE (Jesus), the people of faith are lavished with g_____.
- The reason for grace (v. 16)
 1. Judgment came from ONE (sin), resulting in c_____
 2. The free gift came from MANY sins resulting in j_____ (which means to be declared righteous or innocent of sin).
 3. Aren't you glad that grace came? Where would you be without God's grace?

Grace Has a Greater Representative (17-19)

- There are only two representatives of mankind (17)
 1. A_____ (the first man)
 2. J_____ (the second and last Adam - I Cor 15:45,47)
- Jesus is the greater representative (Heb 4:15; Phil 2:8,9)
 1. Only He can undo d_____ (v. 17)
 2. Only He can undo c_____ (v. 18)

3. Only He can change our status of s_____ (v. 19)
- The second argument from lesser to greater (v. 17)
 1. Since it is true that by the sin of the ONE (Adam), that d_____ reigned through Adam
 2. How much more true it is that by receiving the gift of grace from Jesus, that we will reign in l_____ through the ONE (Jesus).
 - a. Physical death is only t_____ for the believer (see I Thess 5:23,24)
 - b. The last e_____ that will be defeated is physical death (I Cor 15:26)
- The third argument from lesser to greater (v. 18)
 1. Since it is true that through the one sinful act of Adam, c_____ came to all people
 2. Then it also must be true that through the one righteous act of Christ, s_____ came to all people (called justification, which literally means to be declared righteous).
 - a. What was the one righteous act? – dying on the cross or His entire life?
 - b. Does salvation come to all people?
 - 1) Not in the sense of every individual
 - 2) But in the sense of every c_____ of people (the Jew, the Roman, the Greek, people from every tribe, tongue, nation, and people group – Rev 5:9,10)
 - 3) Jesus will not r_____ until all classes of people are saved (Matt 24:14; see also 28:18-20)
- The fourth argument from lesser to greater (v. 19)
 1. Since it is true that through the disobedience of ONE (Adam) we (the many) were made s_____
 2. The it also must be true that through the obedience of the ONE (Jesus) we (the many) will be made r_____
- Which representative do you want to represent you?

Grace Has a Greater Result (20,21)

- Two ways to gramatically understand verse 20
 1. Law came for the p_____ of increasing sin.
 2. Law came r_____ in the multiplication of sin
- The context of Romans favors the second option
 1. The purpose of the law was to r_____ sin (Rom 3:20; 5:13; 7:7)
 2. The result of law was the multiplication of sin (Rom 7:8)
- The final argument from lesser to greater
 1. Since it is true that sin reigned in death
 2. Then it also must be true that grace will reign in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord
 - a. Eternal life is not just the quantity of life – f_____
 - b. Eternal life stresses the q_____ of life
 - 1) Jn 17:3 – defined as “knowing” God and Jesus
 - a) Not knowing about the Lord (the devil knows this)
 - b) But knowing Him p_____ - a relationship of love and trust (see Matt 7:22,23)
 3. Do you have eternal life?