

MOCKERY OF GRACE

Romans 5:20-21 (NKJV) ²⁰Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:1-4 (NKJV) ¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

This passage holds the key to the foundational base of our born again Christian living.

In the latter part of the verse 20, we read

WHERE SIN ABOUNDED, GRACE ABOUNDED MORE...

The site where more sin = more grace happened was at Golgotha, where Jesus hanging on the Cross spoke forgiveness not only to the Roman killers but to you and me.

All the armies of evil rejoiced around the Cross of Calvary, but with one word, "Father forgive them.." the head of satan was crushed. Evil was defeated.

In the place of pure evil, grace started to flow. The head source of evil was crushed.

Jesus offered love and forgiveness to the very ones who had crucified Him. The same people but now the most evil of them, receives forgiveness, receives grace and joins the camp of Jesus.

This is Redemption. We all are sinners but saved by Grace that was bought by the Blood of Jesus on Calvary.

The reason why Grace is given free is that no one could buy. It is priceless.

So, now the message today is HOW HAVE I RECEIVED GRACE?

HOW DO I KEEP THE GRACE GOD HAS BESTOWED ON MY LIFE?

In the first verse of 6th chapter Paul clearly speaks about how to live in this Grace.

He anticipated some ridiculous interpretation, where some one would say, "Ok if Grace abounds where sin abounds, then let me sin more for more grace."

To plane this kind of ludicrous arguments Paul emphatically writes in the second verse, "Certainly not! How can we who died to sin live in it any longer?"

This is a hammering truth, a truth many of us choose to carefully push aside.

Most messages in many churches, dwell on Grace, Grace and more Grace.

Paul speaks about this Grace for the sinner and not for the saved.

Once you are saved, Paul clearly writes that s/he is dead to sin. They cannot sin anymore because their old life is buried with Christ. That is why baptism is important. We consciously kill our old person.

But sadly the temptations of this world keep overcoming us, instead of we overcoming the temptations by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Rather than regretting and asking for forgiveness, we claim Grace laugh and rejoice and still go back to the same pornography viewing on Monday morning.

Isn't this a mockery of Grace?

Think about it. No matter what you think about Grace or what you hear preached about Grace, what is important is what is written in the Word of God.

Not only Paul, John also writes that

1 John 3:7-9 (NKJV) ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

We have been saved by Grace, so that we could walk in the highway of holiness.

But most of us still linger in the valley of the carnal, slipping again and again into the abyss of lusts of the flesh, power and wealth, yet thinking we are justified Christians, where more sin, will bring more grace from God.

Do not be deceived.

Today the believers are full of sins, which are not found even among unbelievers. Unholy relationships, pornography viewing, lying, drinking, dissimulating, self love, spiritual pride and the list goes on.

Despite all this, most of us think God should be glad that I come to worship Him in His house, play instruments for Him, sing for Him etc.

With such unholiness inside, will God truly receive our worship?

God is not mocked. His precious Grace is not mocked.

What will you do when the Lord of Lords comes on the clouds to judge?

Will you hide in that Grace?

This Grace is given so that we walk out of darkness and into the Light and become children of light.

Let us go to the Lord and ask more of His Grace to go forward in His light and cut away all the sins of the carnal world.

Hebrews 7, 25 (Amp) Therefore He is able also to save to the uttermost(completely, perfectly, finally and for all time and eternity) those who

come to God through Him, since He is always living to make petition to God and intercede with Him and intervene for them.

Meditate on this quote by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He was one of the very few Lutheran pastors who spoke against Hitler's Nazism for which he was imprisoned and later hanged, 23 days before the Allies came in and liberated the camp where he was. He was 39 then. Most of his most powerful works were written in prison.

Read what he has to say about cheap grace and costly grace. This is a message that I treasure.

Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession.... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost Of Discipleship*

Read the whole text in

<http://www.scrollpublishing.com/store/Bonhoeffer.html>

GRACE GRACE GRACE THAT IS GREATER THAN ALL OUR SIN

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5Bg_DutrYk