

**Introduction (SLIDES 1-4)**

When I think of Grace, two BIG passages come to my mind. (SLIDE 5)

Ephesian 2:8-9: “For by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourself, it is the gift from God - not by works, so that no can boast.”

Romans 8:1-4 “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

These two texts speak loudly and clearly saying GRACE is an unmerited GIFT  
Eph 2:9 says: “no one can BOAST” and Romans 8:3, Our flesh could not meet the laws demands. SO, God did something about it. He sent his son, in flesh to be a sin offering.

IF we cannot boast, and we have no ability to reach the requirements of the LAW, Humanity then fails at every level. When Romans 8:1 SAYS.. “Therefore there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.” ... we must conclude that GRACE is a huge GIFT. This is a great comfort and security! Not my doing!

GRACE IS “God’s riches at Christ’s expense” (SLIDE 6)

FOR one not to be condemned they must be, gifted, with all the benefits of Christ himself. The gift can be ours only because CHRIST paid the price. It Cost him his life, an high price has been paid! Because we are unable to save ourselves.

Let’s look at GRACE ALONE under two headings.

1. God’s Riches
2. Christ’s expense

**1 GOD’S RICHES (SLIDE 7)**

The first Rich blessing of God is in Eph 2:4 God’s great love for us!

His love for us ... moved HIM to action - to show mercy and in showing MERCY he made us ALIVE Eph 2.5. Mercy was extended when we were DEAD! Not literally dead, but dead because we were slave to sin. “you were dead in your transgressions and sin” Eph 2:1. Mercy is God going beyond his duty and providing something one does not deserve!

The other Riches of God is His Kindness Eph 2:7 God’s GRACE is “expressed in his Kindness to us in Christ”. SO the activity of Christ is the outworking of His kindness. Kindness is seen in the expense, the cost of Christ’s action. JESUS was nailed to the cross.

Let me Illustrate! (SLIDE 8) Imagine, you are on safari in Africa you have not gone on the cheap but you have lavished out ...want to see all the beauty .. all the wonder ...all the magnificent wild life in all the splendor of the natural habitat. But the diver takes a short cut.

Rather than witnessing the natural wilderness you are in the middle of a slum (SLIDE 9) and a little boy - captures your eye. They have absolutely nothing, nothing to offer, alone .. Indeed they are on death's doorstep ... no escape! Many of our missionaries find themselves in similar situations.

But, Filled with compassion, moved to action, you provide mercy and do all you can to deliver the child ... to show kindness by putting great effort and cost in to getting the child out and into your home. Moving them from death to LIFE.

Our missionaries are moved by the desire for others to know Christ ..go for him! That is like the riches of God's Grace... We were dead ... but he made us alive When we were helpless, with nothing to offer, with no escape...God looked and saw our wretched predicament, was motivated to change our entire destiny.

Now grace is bigger than God's love, mercy, and kindness ... his rich provision has many more Benefits. (SLIDE 10) They are like Jewels in a crown love, mercy, kindness are 3 Jewels. His riches are like a crown laden with sapphires, rubies, diamond. To be saved, one is: Adopted, forgiven, redeemed, sanctified, justified.

To Some, in our world, these benefits are: worthless! BUT when one knows the wretched state we are in, DEAD in our sin ! Then, this Grace become PRICELESS.

Eph 2:2 As for you, you were dead in your in your transgression and sin. That is the beginning point - off everyone's life. We all begin Dead in our transgression and sin. We all have lived a life outside the boundaries God design for us to live within. Like a fish on the footpath. The end result is death. That us, dead in sin

Romans 5 ... says we are all ... in ADAMS flesh ... descendants of sinful man Born out of bounds - This is why we cannot keep the law's requirement ' My sinful beginning --- weakens my ability do live and do what God want.

We Cannot do anything to save ourselves in this situation. Just like the child in my story. HELPLESS unless one helped! GOD looked at us .... In our death ... and he came and said LIVE! ... His word became active in our LIVES.

For us to LIVE we needed GOD to act on our behalf. The action of GOD must deal with the consequences of sin, which is death and Judgement. IN Jesus the Consequences are dealt with, met! God did this by sending Jesus in the flesh.

## **2. At Christ'S Expense (SLIDE 11)**

Eph 2:5 .. we were made ALIVE with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions ... While still OUT OF BOUNDS/dead in sin, Christ was cursed for mankind's failures.

Galatians 3:13 "13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole."

Romans 8: 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.

Jesus achieves 2 things for us through His perfect life and sacrificial death.

1. Jesus met the laws demands - we could not! He was without SIN
2. The innocent one is condemned, cursed for the guilty sinner, ...US

Grace is about Jesus taking the punishment as a perfect offering

Jesus takes the life of a sinner CURSED CONDEMED ... yet he was innocent. THEN Jesus attributes his perfectly lived LIFE to us.

Jesus lived In the boundaries God created us to live, and freely GIVES those benefit to us as if they were our own.

Illustration: At school, friend caught smoking, I took the punishment, he was free!

(SLIDE 12) Romans 8:3 “And so he condemned sin in the flesh” By dying in the flesh.

But not only that, Romans 8:4, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us.

What our body cannot do Jesus did and “graced” (gifted) his results, his perfection to us ... I cannot keep the law Jesus did it for me!

Now there is no condemnation for us in Jesus --- because the law has been kept by Jesus and the punishment for ME not keeping the law has landed on Christ.

That is GRACE!

By Jesus swapping lives with us ... He gets the judgment and we get the benefits of his perfection. We end up with everything Christ has because Christ took on everything we deserved .... It cost him all.

He left the throne room of God ... to come in flesh and be cursed

We who receive this gift .. this costly gift will end up in the throne room of God

When Christian talk about GRACE, We cannot boast about, as if we deserve the benefits. Nor can we blame God if we do not receive his benefits.

I have a life that I am responsible for and Christ has provided an escape for all of our short comings. Question is: Will I cling to Christ ... for all that I need? Where else have we to GO? No where!

Grace starts with God, is delivered in Christ, continues in a new Spirit driven heart.

(SLIDE 13)

Grace is God's provision for a person to escape from God's judgment and assurance of our eternal destiny. Grace is LIFE IN CHRIST! SAFE & SECURE in HIM!

In the security of Christ's achievement - when I fail - I fear NOT but say sorry

While I remain in Christ achievements for me - there is NO CONDEMNATION

Only one response - I live my life in thankfulness.