

**“The 7-FOLD Excellencies of the Mystery:  
“The Abundant Life, Under Grace”**

**Theme Verses:**

**Phil. 1:10 . . .** That ye may **approve things that are excellent**; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

**Rom 12:1-2**

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may [ap]prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

**Review:**

- ***So we have been considering these Seven Excellencies revealed by Paul for the Gentiles, for the Church which is his Body. This is the list: A New Dispensation, A Better Gospel, Every Spiritual Blessing, An Abundant Life, The Church Which Is One Body, The Blessed Hope and Heavenly Calling (or rapture), and A Heavenly Warfare***
- ***We have already examined in detail Our Own Dispensation, the Dispensation of the Grace of God:***
  - ***The dispensation of the grace of God, was kept secret from the foundation of the world and hidden not in the prophet’s writings but hidden in God himself.***
  - ***This revelation concerned the plan God already had made before the foundation of the world for our blessing under his abundant grace.***
  - ***This dispensation has now been revealed for us Gentiles by the risen and ascended Christ to and through Paul.***
  - ***This grace dispensation or “house rule” or “administration” is distinctive from the dispensational work of God as revealed previously through the prophets and apostles, even our Lord Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry, for it is apart from laws, covenants, ritualistic service, priesthoods and temples, tribes or***

nations.

- **We then looked in detail at the gospel or good news unique to this dispensation, the gospel of the grace of God. This is our Second Excellency” of the seven we have outlined. According to this message of God’s good news to sinners, God saves now entirely on the basis of the shed blood of Christ, the finished work he was sent to perform, his death for sin and for sinners. Therefore, in recognition of this finished work, only personal faith on the part of the sinner is required for one’s salvation today, taking God at his word, believing this good news concerning his son.**
- **Then, last time we fellowshiped around the many, many blessings we have been granted, under grace, (which is our Third Excellency in this series of Seven):**

**#1: The Blessed Truth Summarized: “Every Spiritual Blessing In Christ Jesus”! Eph 1:3**

**#2: The Foundational Truth Proclaimed: The Imputation of Christ’s Own Righteousness Rom 4:22-25, 8:30, 2 Cor 5:19, 21**

**#3: The Glory of It All - Our Reality: The Full and Completed Forgiveness of Sins, Such A Transforming Thought - eph 1:7**

**Transition:**

**We continue today with “Grace, the Glorious Theme”, which is the title of an excellent book still in print today, by Lewis Sperry Chafer, one of the founders of Dallas Theological Seminary. That continues to be our theme as well today: Grace, the Glorious Theme!**

**It is our privilege to consider today our Excellency, #4: “The Abundant Life, Under Grace”**

**I. Abundant Grace: Our Dispensational Prerogative**

- **Today, God’s abundant grace is the central theme and the main focus of God’s working. Grace is what God is doing to his honor and his glory; we must acknowledge it fully and without compromise.**
- **Is this distinctive a dispensational one? How could that be, you might ask? Is this “more excellent”? Isn’t God, isn’t our Lord Jesus the same always and his working always the same as Hebrews 13:8 has been often said to teach, “Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, today, and forever?” But we see as we carefully study the Bible, comparing scripture with scripture, that the “before” the cross and**

***“after” the cross distinction is not enough. The issue, rather, is the dispensational plan and purpose of God, his “wisdom”, and what he has chosen to do to bring glory to himself -- and mankind’s place in this plan. And we see that there is throughout a focus on Israel and on God’s kingdom plan for Israel even after the cross -- until Paul, that is... Let’s look quickly at some of these dispensational management principles:***

- ***The Rule Under the Law - “live in them” - Man collecting sticks, etc. [Compare: Num. 15:32 & Gal 3:12 “And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.”]***
- ***The Rule In the Kingdom - the rule of law is severe indeed -***
  - ***Previewed: Rich young ruler - life eternal in coming age (the kingdom) [Compare Mar 10:30 “But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”]***
  - ***Reality: Full obedience or judgment -- flying scrolls! [Compare Zech. 5:4]***
- ***The rule during the Pentecostal Period (a preview of the Kingdom with signs and wonders!) - Ananias and Sapphira - Acts 5***
- ***The Rule under Grace today! - such abundance for us Gentiles since Israel has been temporarily set aside from the central working of God today.***

### ***#1: Abundant Grace: Our Dispensational Prerogative***

## ***II. Abundant Grace: the Foundation of Our Salvation***

- ***There must be a starting place - God’s grace appropriated through faith (see also Gal. 3:11 and Heb. 10:38)***
  - ***Rom 1:17***

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
- ***For Martin Luther in about 1510, that starting place was this verse. He was lecturing at the university on Paul’s letter to the Romans where he continued to read that grace and faith always went together. He saw that the works demanded by a law that could never be completely satisfied were incompatible with this faith that Paul***

called a “saving” faith.

- **Luther’s life before - The Law with its perfect standard of works had continually condemned him and he could not escape that though he tried incessantly to do so.**
- **Luther’s life afterwards - the revelation in Romans that God freely offered his righteousness by grace and through faith alone became the key to his salvation. He received it by faith and then testified boldly to his students and even to governmental authorities. This was the spark that lit the fires of the reformation that could not be put out for many, many decades.**
- **So this is where the glorious gospel comes in - at the beginning. Salvation is by grace through faith (independently of any and all of our works). And then fruit bearing as the work of his grace, and that also by faith in the working of Almighty God as he brings forth fruit in us believers (“... not I but Christ in me”)**
- **So here there are great contrasts, works vs. fruit & bondage and slavery vs liberty. Amen.**

**#1: Abundant Grace: Our Dispensational Prerogative**

**#2: Abundant Grace: the Foundation of Our Salvation**

### **III. Abundant Grace: the Dynamic, the Empowering, of A New Life**

- **2 Cor. 4:10-15**  
10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.  
11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.  
12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.  
13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;  
14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.  
15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.
- **Gal 2:19-21**  
19 For I through [the] law am dead to [the] law, that I might live unto

God.

20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by [the] law, then Christ is dead in vain.

- *These verses (and many others in the Pauline epistles) fully reveal the working of God under grace in the believer.*
- *Verse 15 is a blessed statement indeed: God works through suffering, even death, to manifest the life of the Lord Jesus in us believers today. Paul writes here that this is all a revelation of God's "abundant grace".*
- *Paul, as we have seen many times now in our fellowship here, is our example in this grace. Paul was "delivered unto death", verse 11, that the life of Jesus, a resurrection quality of life, might be seen in him. Paul implies strongly here that the same may be true of each of us.*
- *The Galatians 2 passage says the same: Paul writes that he is "crucified with Christ" but "nevertheless lives". But the live lived is, as it turns out, the life of Christ himself, for "Christ liveth in me", he writes.*
- *IF we continue to take this to heart we WILL live out this resurrection quality of life ourselves, just as Paul did as our example or type.*
- *Finally, note that this is all of "grace" and in no way "of the works of law", verse 21. For if it were of works, then Christ would have died in vain!! Indeed, this is all about Christ's imputed righteousness, and not at all about our own works of righteousness. Oh, if more would see this truth today and not be caught up in the works of religion masquerading as "spiritual" work honoring God, when they are in their essence, just the opposite. **LAW SHORT-CIRCUITS THIS GRACE. SO THIS ABOUNDING GRACE IS UNIQUE TO THIS DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD. Amen.***

*[Your thoughts?]*

**#1: Abundant Grace: Our Dispensational Prerogative**

**#2: Abundant Grace: the Foundation of Our Salvation**

**#3: Abundant Grace: the Dynamic of A New Life**

#### **IV. Abundant Grace: An Exhortation**

***I find our next and final scripture today so precious indeed:***

- ***[READ ] Rom. 5:17*** For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.
- ***Verse 17 is a promise to every believer today: IF we will "RECEIVE the abundance of grace" then we "SHALL REIGN in life by one, Jesus Christ".***
- ***This is a certainty, beloved. To be persuaded of this changes everything in our lives.***
- ***Do we know this? Do we believe this? Have we lived it ourselves? That is the question. Paul did. What about us? Have you been delivered from bondage into the glorious liberty of the children of God?***
- ***Amen and amen.***

#### **SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS:**

***#1: Abundant Grace: Our Dispensational Prerogative***

***#2: Abundant Grace: the Foundation of Our Salvation***

***#3: Abundant Grace: the Dynamic, the Empowering, of A New Life***

***#4: Abundant Grace: An Exhortation***

- ***Next time: "Excellency #5: "The Church Which Is One Body"***

***[Your thoughts?]***

***Rom. 15:13*** Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.