

“Radical Grace/Radical Holiness”

Text: 2 Timothy 1:9-10:

“God,⁹ who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,¹⁰ and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”

INTRODUCTION

Proposition: *“Radical Grace, extended by God to His children, calls for and empowers Radical Holiness demonstrated by His children.”*

Radical = Extreme! Who wants to be extreme?

Radical Grace means Extreme Grace.

THE BACKDROP, TO SEE JUST HOW RADICALLY EXTREME IS GOD'S GRACE

“GOD IS GOD” – Job 38-41 -- “Profound?”

Just Who is God? We need to know the answer to that question, more and more
Just who is man? Are we willing to admit what we know about ourselves?

Romans 3:9-18: For we have already charged that all *** are under sin, as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Romans 8:23: “All have sinned....”

J. C. Ryle, *Holiness (Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties & Roots)* pp. 1-2

“We are all of course familiar with the terms 'sin' and 'sinners'. We talk frequently of 'sin' being in the world, and of men committing 'sins.' But what do we mean by these terms and phrases? Do we really know? I fear there is much mental confusion and haziness on this point. Let me try, as briefly as possible, to supply an answer.

“I say, then, that 'sin,' speaking generally, is ... : 'the fault and corruption of the nature of every man that is naturally engendered of the offspring of Adam; whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and is of his own nature inclined to evil, so that the flesh lusts always against the spirit; and, therefore, in every person born into the world, it deserves God's wrath

and damnation.¹ Sin, in short, is that vast moral disease which affects the whole human race, of every rank, and class, and name, and nation, and people, and tongue: a disease from which there never was but one born of woman that was free. Need I say that One was Christ Jesus the Lord. *** '[A] sin,' to speak more particularly, consists in doing, saying, thinking, or imagining anything that is not in perfect conformity with the mind and law of God."

GOD HATES SIN!!!

Psalm 5:4-6--⁴*For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.* ⁵*The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.* ⁶*You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.*

Christians, genuine born again Christians still sin! Are you shocked? If not, why do we hide? Consider:

Proverbs 21:2); ² *Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart.* **Jeremiah 17:9**)⁹*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? (1 John 1:8-10)* ⁸ *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.* ⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* ¹⁰ *If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

1 Timothy 1:9-10

An Incredible Dilemma—God's Rescue Plan

RADICAL GRACE

How much of God's grace can you see has been lavished, even squandered, on you? How do you think you would react if you really saw and understood the depths of your own sins?

ISAIAH 6:1-5

¹*In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.* ²*Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.* ³*And one called to another and said:*

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

⁴*And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.* ⁵*And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost (undone--ruined); for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"*

We should learn, and be instructed by, Isaiah's view of his sin, in light of God's glory.

R. C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*, pp. 29-31

"The instant he measured himself by the ultimate standard, he was destroyed—morally and spiritually annihilated. He was undone. He came apart. His sense of integrity collapsed. *** Isaiah was groveling on the floor. Every nerve fiber in his body was trembling. He was looking for a place to hide, praying that somehow the earth would cover him or the roof of the temple would fall upon him—anything to get him out from under the holy gaze of God. But there was nowhere to hide. *** [But] The holy God is also a God of grace. He refused to allow His servant to continue on his belly without comfort. He took immediate steps to cleanse the man and restore his soul. He commanded one of the seraphim to jump into action. The angelic creature moved swiftly, flying to the altar with tongs. From the burning fire, the seraph took a glowing coal, too hot to touch even for an angel, and flew to Isaiah. *** This was a severe mercy, a painful act of cleansing. Isaiah's wound was being cauterized, the dirt in his mouth was being burned away. He was refined by holy fire. *** Isaiah experienced a forgiveness that went beyond the purification of his lips. He was cleansed throughout, forgiven to the core, but not without the awful pain of repentance."

Anselm:

"The debt was so great that although man alone owed it, only God could pay it."

(Quoted from *Living the Cross Centered Life*, C.J. Mahaney, p. 67)

"We **needed**, and if we are a child of God we have **received** what C.J. calls "A Divine Rescue". This is Radical Grace."

Romans 5:6-11 tells me what Radical Grace looks like:

6 For while we were still weak [without moral strength], at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

- "As a result of God's Radical Grace your "rap sheet" is not only absolutely empty, without any accusations on it—it has marked on it "**Jesus Christ's righteousness belongs to this person**". This is Radical Grace! This is Extreme Grace!"
- "Radical Grace, extended by God to us, calls for and Empowers, Radical Holiness to overcome our Radical Sin. This is a holiness ***that will be increasingly demonstrated*** in God's children in the here and now."

RADICAL HOLINESS

- "Calls to holiness, radical holiness, extreme holiness, have the propensity to offend--in fact calls to holiness are *designed* to offend, and subdue, the flesh." *2 Timothy 1:9-10; Ezekiel 36:22-23*
- "God, for Himself, does not *need* our works!!"

Jerry Bridges, *Disciplines of Grace*, p.18:

"even our best works are shot through with sin--with varying degrees of impure motives and lots of imperfect performance."

and

"Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the *reach* of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the *need* of God's grace."

"God is not looking for perfection--BUT He applauds our effort!

Hebrews 12:14: " *Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*"

"The pursuit of holiness requires sustained and vigorous effort. It allows for no indolence, no lethargy, no halfhearted commitment, and no laissez faire attitude toward even the smallest sins. In short, it demands the highest priority in the life of a Christian, because to be holy is to be like Christ--God's goal for every Christian." *Disciplines of Grace*, p. 12.

More Scripture: *1 Thess. 4:3; 1 Peter 1:13-16; Luke 6:27-29; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Romans 12:14-21;*

WE MUST ALWAYS COME BACK TO GRACE

Jerry Bridges, *Disciplines of Grace*, p. 12:

"the pursuit of holiness must be anchored in the grace of God, otherwise it is doomed to failure."

Titus 2:11-12

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **12** training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.