

Grace abounds the more

By Amos C. Huckleby

Genesis 2:15-17

[15] And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. [16] And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: [17] But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

In these verses we see that God had taken man and placed him in the garden and directed him to take care of it. He also commanded man not to eat from one specific tree. God likewise was explicit in telling man the penalty should he eat from the tree. God said that he, man, will surely die; not that he might or could, but will surely die. In Genesis 3:6 it shows that man did eat of the tree and in Genesis 3:12 it shows that God asked the man whether he ate from the tree that he was commanded not to partake of.

These passages clearly show that this was a law that God had given to man. It was not a suggestion, nor was it a choice; it was clearly a command and a command spoken by God is interpreted as LAW. This law was given even before Genesis 3:6. This was when the woman observed the tree and contemplated as the serpent prods her to eat of it. The law was not something new. It is the right of God to instruct those that He created how He expects them to live in the earth that which He created; His earth, His Garden, His tree with instructions on how to relate to each. The following verses clearly define the origin of sin and its penalty.

Romans 5:12-21

[12] Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: [13] (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. [14] Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

[15] But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. [16] And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. [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.) [18] Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

[19] For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. [20] Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more

abound: [21] That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

The cause of the law is outlined in verse 13 and verse 20. Sin is exposed for what it is and what is required to satisfy its penalty. Where there is no law there is no transgression. Every man, male or female, stands guilty before the law. The results are found in verse 12, 14, 17, and 18. These verses classify the action of this one man in Genesis 3:6 as sin and rebellion. The term man refers to male and female.

Death freely reigned from the time of Adam up until Moses was given the law. Even for those that were born after Genesis 3:6. It also reigns in those today that have not believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are spiritually dead, at death without Christ, physically dead, separated from God, as He is not the father of the unrepentant spirit.

The reason why the law was given was so that man can see the condition that we are in biblically, legally, biologically, morally, socially, financially, and politically. All of those that refuse to come to the Lord, when they die they will suffer the consequence of sin, eternal separation from God, death not life, will be their inheritance.

So, God Himself gave us a substitute for the penalty of sin. It was through one man's disobedience, Adam's, that condemnation passed to his seed. Through one man's obedience, which is Christ, grace has passed to Adam's seed. We see this clearly in the passages in Romans. God defines for us the extent of His grace. He tells us that where sin abounds that through Christ Jesus much more do grace abounds to those of us who believe. So we must learn how to live in the grace that God has made available to us. This grace will equip us to be successful in every area of our lives. There is nothing that we will face or struggle with where we will not be made more than conquerors. But we must as believers learn the importance of grace and its function in our lives so that victory will be ours.

I speak along these lines because conviction cannot come to us until we understand our condition as we stand before God. We must first deal with our sin before we can move into the life of grace abounding.

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