

# Sola Gratia: The Gospel of Grace Alone

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## I. GRACE: GOD'S HEART UNVEILED

### A. *God's Revelation to Moses in Exodus 34:6-7*

#### 1. **God's response to Moses' petition: Show me Thy Glory**

*Exo 34:6-7* And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty.

#### 2. **God opens a window into His gracious heart**

### B. *The Dilemma of this Revelation: God Can By No Means Clear the Guilty!*

#### 1. **An apparent contradiction: A forgiving God who can by no means clear the guilty**

#### 2. **A key point: God cannot be gracious at the expense of His justice**

### C. *The Resolution of this Dilemma: The Cross—The Foundation of God's Grace*

#### 1. **The cross: The vindication of God's love & justice**

*Psa 85:9-10* Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. 10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

#### 2. **The cross: God gave Himself (in His Son) to be Himself!**

## II. GRACE: THE THEME OF OT WORSHIP

### A. *Mt. Sinai: The Revelation of Law and Gospel*

#### 1. **The giving of the law: God setting the stage for the revelation of His grace**

#### 2. **God's grace to Israel: Unmerited, Forfeited—and the exact opposite of what they deserved!**

*Exo 34:9* And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance.

### B. *The Bloody Sacrifices: God's Visible Exposition of His Grace*

#### 1. **The Morning & Evening Sacrifice: God's daily gospel lesson**

*Exo 29:43-46* And there I will meet with the children of Israel... And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God... And they shall know that I am the LORD their God.

#### 2. **The basis for God's grace to Israel: The slain Lamb**

### C. *God's Grace: A Counter-Intuitive Truth*

#### 1. **The need for daily repetition: Our inclination to appease God by our own works**

#### 2. **Our daily need: To (re)focus to Christ & Him crucified**

### III. GRACE: CORRUPTED BY HUMAN MERIT

#### A. God's Grace Corrupted by Phariseeism

1. **Israel's decline: From will-worship to idolatry—and then to Phariseeism**
2. **Christ's radical confrontation with Phariseeism**  
*Mat 5:20* For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

#### B. God's Grace Corrupted by Roman Catholicism

1. **The period From Augustine to Luther: A gradual and growing corruption of the gospel of God's grace**
2. **The heretical outcome: Salvation = God's grace + human merits**  
*Rom. 10:2-3* They have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

#### C. God's Grace Recovered by the Reformation

1. **Luther's dramatic recovery of the gospel of God's grace**  
*Luther* Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.  
*Luther* The faith towards God in Christ must be sure and steadfast, that it may solace and make glad the conscience, and put it to rest. (Table Talk)
2. **Calvin's enduring exposition of the gospel of God's grace**  
*Calvin* May we learn so to magnify his grace, as it is shown to us in the Lord Jesus Christ, that we might be completely taken up with it; and may we not only do so with our lips, but place our entire trust in him. (Sermon Gal. 2:15-16)

### IV. GRACE: EMBODIED BY JESUS CHRIST

#### A. Jesus Christ: God's Unspeakable Gift to Men

1. **God so loved the world....**
2. **Jesus Christ: The full and definitive unveiling of God's gracious heart**  
*John 1:18* The only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.  
*John 14:9* He that hath seen me hath seen the Father;  
*Heb 1:1-2* God...Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,

#### B. Christ & Him Crucified: The Focal Point of God's Grace

1. **The cross: Christ received the exact opposite of what He deserved**  
*2 Cor. 5:21* He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin.
2. **The cross: God's definitive rejection of human merit**
3. **The rent veil: The open door of God's free and unconditional grace**

#### C. Grace: God's Riches At Christ's Expense

- 2 Cor 8:9* For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

## V. GRACE: THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

### A. *God's Grace in Christ: A Radical Gospel for Radically Lost Sinners*

#### 1. The gospel of God's grace: God's radical assessment of sinners

*Philip 3:7* But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

#### 2. Jesus Christ: A willing, able, all-sufficient, and qualified Savior for radically lost sinners

### B. *God's Grace in Christ: Producing Radically Transformed Lives*

#### 1. The grace that saves sinners also transforms them

#### 2. God's radical grace in Christ produces

- Radical repentance
- Radical faith
- Radical obedience

### C. *God's Grace in Christ: Offered Without Money & Without Price!*

#### 1. God's grace: A full pardon of sin—for Christ's sake

#### 2. God's grace: Full reconciliation with God—for Christ's sake

#### 3. God's grace: Irreversible adoption into God's family—for Christ's sake

*Gal 4:4-5* God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

#### 4. God's grace: The bottom line of Scripture

*Rev. 22:17* And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life **freely**.

*Rev 22:21* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.