

Week 21
138/227

Transforming Daily
“... grace and truth came through Jesus Christ ...”
John 1:17

Whereas the Law of Moses contains an expression of God's grace in that it was used as a teacher to point to Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:24), the Law is not grace. The Law was a form of protection and provision for the well being of the adherents. But when Christ came, grace fulfilled the Law. Jesus Christ not only offers grace, He is the embodiment of the fullness of grace. Jesus is the Lord's Christ.

John explains in this passage that because of the incarnation of Christ the believer no longer walks under the penalty of the Law. The Law required strict adherence. In a word, the Law required perfection. The Bible says in Romans that, with the exception of Jesus Christ, there is none righteous, not even one. No one is perfect. No one can keep the Law without failing, hence, the need for the Savior.

Jesus did not do away with the Law, he fulfilled the Law. That is, He is perfect. Therefore, He is able to offer grace to any and all who would believe His witness. Only then is the believer in Christ declared righteous, that is perfected, converted, regenerated, saved, transformed, etc., and not based on our own merit, but by the grace of God through faith.

One of my professors explained it this way. Imagine a courtroom setting, and you're the defendant charged with being a sinner. God is the judge. He finds you guilty. He then takes off His robe comes down from the bench and becomes the defense attorney, Jesus Christ. Having received the verdict by God's Word of guilty as charged, "the wages of sin is death," the defense attorney, Jesus Christ, says to the Judge, "If he/she is willing, I will take the defendant's place." A bit oversimplified, but you get the picture.

Grace is extended to the world because of God's unconditional love. And whoever receives God's grace will not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Grace is further extended to us in that those of us who are born again have received the down payment of this promise by God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Have you received God's grace? Do you understand that His grace has nothing at all to do with your works? It is Christ alone; nothing more and nothing less, for grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.