

Week 21  
139/226

**Transforming Daily**  
“... *abundance of grace* ...”  
*Romans 5:17*

Paul tells the readers of Romans that though through Adam death entered the world, through Christ abundant life is offered to all who believe. Christ’s life doesn’t just remove the penalty of sin; He rewards those who believe with eternal life in heaven forever to be in the presence of God.

Paul says in verse 20 that where sin abounds, grace abounds more. His discussion in chapter five enters into chapter six where Paul states (rhetorically and cynically) a logical, but erroneous conclusion. “Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?” However, it is the logic and practice of many Christians even today. The error arises from misunderstanding the purpose of Christ in redemption. There is fullness in this life as well as the life to come, secured by God’s grace. It is a life of peace, joy and hope – a confident assurance – trusting God’s Word and resting in Christ’s work.

I have heard the story about the man who takes a cruise told in many ways. This is the way I remember it best.

There was a man who was given a ticket, a free gift, for a trip on a cruise ship. He graciously accepted it. He didn’t have any money for extras aboard the ship, so he made sandwiches to take along for the journey. On the trip, at every meal, he went to his room and ate a sandwich. He saw the abundance of food and thought how nice it would be to be able to afford to eat topside and from the various food buffets, but he knew he couldn’t afford it. Near the end of the trip the passenger inquired of one of the attendants how much a meal would cost. The attendant asked him if he had a ticket for the cruise. The man told the attendant that he did and showed him the redeemed ticket. The attendant then told the man that the price of the ticket included the whole cruise experience even the abundance of food.

There are many Christians living this present life that don’t understand the concept of the abundant life in Christ. Abundant life doesn’t mean a life without pain, but comfort and consolation as we live through the pain. Abundant life doesn’t mean a life without wrong turns and mistakes, but the confident assurance of the presence of the Holy Spirit to correct and redirect our steps as we journey along.

How are you living? Are you surviving? Are you just barely getting along? Do you feel like you are treading water instead of swimming with the current? There is no reason for the believer to be lacking anything spiritually where there is an abundance of grace.