



**April 4, 2024**

### **Social Time**

**Thanks to those who brought Treats!**

### **Bible Study Business**

### **Music – led by Lisa Scholterback**

- ELW 364 *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*
- ELW 599 *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*
- ELW 369 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia*

### **Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List**

### **Opening Prayer**

### **Bible Study**

Romans – Paul's Epistle on Sin and Grace (*Yancy addresses some of these texts on pp.185-188*)

1. According to Paul, what is the purpose of the Law?
2. Who has sinned?
3. Can we earn our salvation through being good and obeying the 10 Commandments?
4. If sin came into the world through Adam and grace comes through Jesus, what does that have to do with us?
5. Should we continue sinning all the more so God can give us all the more grace?
6. When our struggle with sin overcomes us, what are we to do?

### **Book Discussion – *What's So Amazing about Grace?* by Philip Yancy, Chapter 14**

7. Does sin matter if we are eventually forgiven?
8. How might a person abuse God's gift of grace?
9. Is there a limit to grace? – How about when a person sins intentionally?
10. Yancy shared a couple of stories about loopholes – one of a convicted murderer who killed rather than committing suicide so that he could be forgiven (p. 177) and a story about his friend "Daniel" who made a choice to divorce, assuming he could be forgiven later (pp. 179-180). What did these people misunderstand about grace?
11. The Billy Moyers special on *Amazing Grace* filmed Johnny Cash in a prison, asking a prisoner, "What does this song mean to you?" (p. 179) What did you think of his response?
12. Yancy recounts the story of the woman caught in adultery and Jesus' response to her accusers and to her (pp. 181-182). Who do you identify with more, the woman or her accusers?

13. How do you relate to Yancy’s response to this story at the bottom of page 182?
14. What do you think of the idea that “repentance is the doorway to grace” (or the catch to grace)? (p. 182)
15. What incentive does a Christian have to be good, when he or she knows the safety net of grace is always there?
16. Yancy wraps up the chapter by contrasting the attitudes of “What can I get away with?” with wanting to be in a loving relationship with God and pleasing God as a response to the “Grace Loophole.” Is putting love of God first the answer? (p. 191)

**A Definition of Human Forgiveness**

A conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group who has harmed you, regardless of whether they actually deserve your forgiveness.

**Common Mistakes People Make Regarding Forgiveness**

- ❖ Equating forgiving someone with excusing what they did or tolerating what they did.
- ❖ Expecting that forgiveness yields instant results.
- ❖ Thinking that if you forgive someone you must tell them you have forgiven them.
- ❖ Assuming that once you’ve forgiven someone the relationship will be the same, or that you are required to go back to that relationship in the same way.

**A Definition of God’s Forgiveness**

*For I will be merciful towards their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.* Hebrews 8:12

**A Definition of God’s Grace**

God's grace is often defined as “undeserved favor.” Grace cannot be earned; it is something that is freely given. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”* (John 3:16-17) It is through Jesus that our sins are forgiven and that we receive God’s grace – a free gift of eternal life – God’s love and salvation.

**For Next Time – Read Chapters 15 & 16**

**Birthdays**

**Closing Prayer, Lord’s Prayer**

**Revised Schedule**

Date	Chapter(s)	Title(s)
April 4	14	Loopholes
April 11	15 & 16	Grace Avoidance Big Harold: A Story
April 18	17 & 18	Mixed Aroma Serpent Wisdom
April 25	19 & 20	Patches of Green Gravity and Grace

## Romans Passages on Sin and Grace

### Romans 3:19-26

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

### Romans 5:6-8

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

### Romans 5:12-15

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— <sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

### Romans 6:1-5

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

### Romans 7:15-25

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!