

## The Wednesday Word, June 24, 2015: Abounding Grace - Part 1

*Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.*

Here are some descriptions of grace:

It's Amazing! Matchless and Marvellous!

One of our old hymns says it like this,

*Marvellous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.*

According to Romans 5:20, Grace is also abounding!  
Listen to our verse again.

*Romans 5:20: 'Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.'*

There are two words for 'abound' found in this verse. They each have a different meaning. 'Sin abounded', (Gk 'pleonazo'), 'But grace did much more abound,' (Gk, 'huperperisseuo')! The sentence means something like this, 'Where sin abounded, grace super-abounded' or 'Where sin overflowed, Grace flooded in!!!'

We might have expected to read that where sin abounded God's anger and judgment abounded more. But sin can construct no dam which can keep us from the heaven-sent, abounding flood of grace that is ours in Christ Jesus.

One of the wonderful things about God's grace is that it abounds to us for the **past, present and future!** Often when we think about grace we limit it to the past. We think about how we were saved (past tense) by grace. Ephesians 2:4-5, for example, highlights past grace; "*God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*"

How beautifully undeserved is this grace. We don't earn it or work for it, grace is God's gift. He has saved us and called us—not because of anything we have done, but because of his own purpose and grace (2 Timothy 1:9). No wonder then that grace is Past, Present and Future!

Grace didn't just begin on the cross. Notice when this grace was first given? It was given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time" (2 Timothy 1:9).

That's abounding grace!

Praise God for His past grace! But, grace is not only for the past it is also for the present. God's grace doesn't end when we begin our Christian walk.

There is present grace. His grace impacts our lives right this moment. If we are saved, it's because

God's grace is continuing to save us at this very moment.

The Bible says that; *"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand"* (Romans 5:1-2).

We are standing in grace! Our feet are firmly fixed in grace! Abounding Grace has placed us as acquitted before the throne of God and risen in Christ forever beyond the reach of judgment.

God's abounding, present grace is operating right now, it is surrounding us at this very second. In fact, the only person who doesn't need God's continuing grace is the person who never sins. And we all sin! So why doesn't God just strike us down?...the answer is GRACE, abounding grace.

Look at what happened here in Ireland. The Irish nation, in its folly, became the first nation in the world to vote in, by referendum, the legality of same-sex marriage. In the wake of the vote, members of the LBGT coalition were quick to trumpet that a double rainbow appeared over Dublin immediately after the success of the Yes vote was announced. They said it was a sign of God's approval of the subject of their campaign (see [HERE](#)).

But here's a reality check! Rainbows have nothing to do with same-sex marriage! The rainbow is God's covenant promise that he will not destroy the earth again through literal floods of judgment (Genesis 9:11-17). The rainbow is a symbol of GRACE, not a demonstration of divine approval of same-sex marriage.

We are praying that the nation of Ireland will receive grace and not judgment for their defiance of God. And remember this, God gave a double rainbow on the day of the catastrophic result. Could that be prophetic? Prophetic of abounding grace? Perhaps it means that God will indeed visit us in Ireland with the converting power of His gospel? For, where sin abounds, grace super-abounds. Where sin overflows, grace floods in!

Grant it Lord, grant it! Abound in your grace!

And that's the Gospel Truth!