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GRACE
CHANGES EVERYTHING



WEEK 2 | The Scandalous Gift

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you that I have been justified by faith, without deeds of the law or works of the flesh. Thank you that I am accepted because of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you that by faith in him, I have been clothed in Christ's righteousness and set free from the bondage of the law. May I live my life by faith and not seek to gain your approval through deeds of the law or works of the flesh, knowing that Christ loved me and gave himself for me. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

What is the most special gift you've ever given someone? How was it received?

NOTES

WORD

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. ³¹ Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

ROMANS 3:21-31

Have you ever been given a gift so valuable that you couldn't figure out what you did to deserve it? The Apostle Paul is highlighting all of humanity's sin, that none of us can even come close to closing the gap.

The term "propitiation" (vs. 25) means appeasement, regaining good favour, or goodwill with God. God is not only the one who, because of our sin, needs to be appeased because of what is impossible to repay, but he is also the one who pays the price of appeasement, to justify us from our sin.

Our response? Vs. 31 says that we don't overthrow the law, but in response, we uphold the law.

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = never; 10 = always), how would you rate your frequency in giving generously to those in need? Share why you have rated yourself this way.
2. Verses 23-24 highlight that all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory, yet we find our redemption and the repayment in Christ Jesus. What does this mean for you personally in your life?
3. Paul writes in verse 27 that we have nothing to boast about, because it is solely God who paid the price for us to be justified. Only God paid the price for all of us. Do you have a tendency to see EVERYONE, no matter what their background may be, as being made worthy by God because of the price he paid? Or do you have biases?
4. How do you uphold the law of God and the gift of grace in your life? Are you willing to live a life that reflects God's gift and redemption?
5. If you do not yet have a relationship with the God who saves us, and sets us free from trying to pointlessly work our way into righteousness, would you like to follow him and enter into a saving relationship with him through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer with them:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.