

Basic Bible Truths - Message #5
 "WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT LAW AND AMAZING GRACE"

Introduction:

1. I want to begin this session by telling you a story about a man named "John".

1. John was born into a Christian family.

But...he became an orphan at a young age and wound-up wandering around the streets of London. Later...he lied about his age and got into the Royal Navy. He was a good sailor and before long he became a navigator on the ship.

But...eventually he became a deserter and ended up in Africa, where he got into more trouble and found himself hungry and homeless. Somehow, he became part of a home that had a "harem" and was operated by a black woman...who, enjoyed mistreating this young, white Britisher. She would throw his food on the floor, much of it rotten, and make him eat it like a dog. On more than one occasion, she tied him to a post and beat him with a whip.

Eventually...John couldn't take this kind of treatment any longer, so, he escaped. Later, finding himself on the western most shoreline of Africa, he built a fire which attracted the attention of a passing ship. The sailors picked him up and he became a navigator on the ship. He was a prodigal, running from God.

But...John had a drinking problem. And more than once, he busted open cases of rum and passed it around, resulting in the sailors getting stone drunk. As punishment, he was beaten and thrown into the hold of the ship. Then...he was hauled up top to be beaten again, and this time he was knocked into the sea. And the "skipper" harpooned him in an attempt to save his life.

He was dragged back on ship, and dropped back in the hold, to die. Until the end of his days, John carried a scar in his side big enough to insert a man's fist.

It was while lying in the bowels of that ship that John came to his senses. God began to touch his life and he concluded that "*this is not the way God intended for him to live his life.*" And...John turned his heart back toward God...the God he had known as a child in England.

Before he died, he became a successful merchant, but he also wrote poems, some of which were later put to music.

Among other things...he wrote: "*Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken*", and "*How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds.*" But...you would know him best for these words...

*"Amazing Grace how sweet the sound,
 That saved a wretch like me.
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 Was blind, but now I see."*

2. Now...in our last session we pointed out that God never changes and His way of saving man never changes.
 1. But...we saw that God's way of DEALING WITH MAN does and has changed over history.
 2. We saw *"God's 7 Tests"* or "7 TESTING PERIODS.
 3. We also called them "7 DISPENSATIONS."
 4. Now...remember the definition we used for a "dispensation"...

"A dispensation is a period of time during which man is tested in respect of obedience to some specific revelation of the will of God." -C.I. Scofield

3. Now...on what basis is God dealing with man during this present TESTING PERIOD or "dispensation"?
 1. During this dispensation, God is dealing with man on the basis of GRACE.
 2. And the TEST God is giving to man at the present time is this...

"WILL A MAN BELIEVE THAT HE IS A SINNER AS GOD SAYS HE IS? Will he receive Christ into his life by faith... and repent of his sins? (Acts 20:21)

Which will result in God giving man that which he doesn't deserve and forgiving him of his sin, which is called GRACE!

3. During the last dispensation, God dealt with man on the basis of LAW.
4. Now...keep in mind that in these studies we are attempting to *"rightly divide"* the Word of Truth.
5. And one of the most obvious divisions in the Bible is the division between LAW and GRACE.
6. John 1:17 says...

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

7. So...let's look briefly at what the Bible teaches about Law & Grace.

2. First...what exactly do we mean when we talk about God's Law?

1. When we speak of "LAW" in the Bible...we are referring to the law given by Moses.
 1. Now, usually people think of the Law of Moses as what? ***THE TEN COMMANDMENTS!***
 2. But...actually, the Mosaic Law was composed of three parts.
 3. **ONE**...The Ten Commandments.
 1. The commandments that regulated *moral issues*.
 2. The commandments that had to do with the moral conduct of the people.
 3. They're found in (Exodus 20:1-17)
 4. **THE SECOND** division of the Mosaic Law is the judgments which regulated *Civil Issues*.
 1. They're found in (Exodus 21:1-24:11)
 2. And those laws had to do with the *social conduct* of the people.

5. **THE THIRD** part of the Mosaic Law is the ordinances which regulated religious issues.
 1. They're also called the *Ceremonial Law*.
 2. And they're found in (Exodus 24:12-31:18)
 3. Those laws had to do with the religious obligations of the nation of Israel.
 4. That included things like the holy days...
 - (1) The offerings...
 - (2) And the sacrifices.
6. NOTE: the Law ceased with the close of the Jewish age. (*The Dispensation of Law*)

Because Jesus fulfilled all the Law at the Cross!

7. However...the Ten Commandments or the Moral Law came to the Gentile through the Jew.
 1. Although the Law was not given to the Gentile...
 2. The Law still has an effect wherever it goes!
 3. And the Gentiles were affected when they heard it...
 4. Thinking it applied to them.
2. Now...this is a good spot to ask a "**WHY**" question!
 1. WHY did God give the Law?
 2. That's a very significant question!
 3. There are several reasons for God giving the Law to man.
 4. But...let's make sure we understand that God didn't give the Law as a way for a man to be saved!
 1. How do we know that?
 2. Because that's exactly what Paul writes in Romans 3:20..

"...by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin."

3. In other words...no one is going to be declared righteous in God's sight by keeping the Law!
5. In fact...did you know that God never expected man to keep the Law?

So...why did God give the Law?

3. First...God gave the Law to show what sin is!
 1. The Law establishes God's holy standards of conduct...
 1. And...what the consequences are...
 2. If man doesn't measure up to those standards.
 2. What God wants is for man to understand that he doesn't measure-up *in himself*...
 1. To the standards of the Law...
 2. And therefore...man is forced to admit...*if he's honest*...that he has a sin problem.
4. Another reason God gave the Law really seems strange: **GOD GAVE THE LAW TO PROVOKE MAN TO SIN EVEN MORE!**
 1. Because man has a sinful nature...
 1. The list of "*do's*" and "*don't's*" found in the law...
 2. Actually serves as an *encouragement* to the sin nature...
 3. To violate them, rather than to obey them.

2. **ILL:** *You want to hear gunfire?*
 1. Just go out on some deserted road...
 2. And put up a sign that reads: "**NO SHOOTING!**"
 3. Then...run like crazy, because that thing is going to be full of bullet holes in nothing flat!

DON'T FORGET THE LESSON THAT GOD'S TRYING TO TEACH MAN DOWN THROUGH THE AGES!

MAN CANNOT LOVE GOD...LIVE FOR GOD...AND MEET GOD'S STANDARDS...ON HIS OWN!

3. God wants man to be so overwhelmed with the sin problem...
 1. That he can't deny it's reality...
 2. Nor the fact that it is severely entrenched in his heart!
4. So...by "*provoking*" sin to increase, the Law points man to his need for a Savior.
5. Here's another reason God gave the Law:
 1. He gave the Law to serve as a "*tutor*" which leads man to Christ.
 2. The Law "functions" like a "*tutor*" or a "*schoolmaster*".

Gal 3:24-25

"Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."

3. Now...don't think of the "tutor" here as a "teacher".
 1. It is that...
 2. But the word means much more than just *teacher*.
4. This word, "*tutor*" can be translated a couple of ways...
 1. "*A child conductor*"
 2. "*A disciplinarian*"
5. In Roman and Greek households, the "*tutor*" was not a "teacher"...he was the guardian of young children.
6. Usually...they were well educated slaves who would teach obedience and self-discipline.
7. And that would often be done as they accompanied the child to school each day.
8. **ILL:** My experience in South Korea.
 1. Those men were much like the "tutors" in Paul's day in that they were disciplinarians.
 2. Because the "tutor" was also called something else: "**The Rod Bearer**".
9. "*The Rod Bearer*" carried a rod in his hand and if the kid got out of line...he gave him a ***whack!***
10. So...by using the word "*tutor*", the Holy Spirit is telling us...
 1. That one of the functions of the Law...
 2. Was to ***whack man*** when he got out of line.
6. But...the time came when the "tutor" would be required to take that child to school...
 1. And to turn him over to the teacher and leave him there...
 1. And at that point, the "*tutor*" or the Law...
 2. Served no further purpose in the life of the child.

2. In like manner...the Law was a preparation for the nation of Israel...until the coming of the promised "*Seed*", Jesus Christ.
 3. What we have here in Galatians 3:24-25 is a *word-picture* to help us understand why the Law was given.
 4. What does the Law do every time a man steps out of line and doesn't measure up to its standards?
 5. It "*whacks*" him upside the head!
 1. It brings guilt and reveals his true self...
 2. And that he is incapable of meeting God's standards.
7. **THEREFORE...**the Law served to lead him to the knowledge **of** and his need **for** the Savior...Jesus Christ!
1. That's the purpose of the Law!
 2. And once a man puts his faith in Jesus Christ...
 1. The Law had served its purpose...
 2. And now had no further purpose in a man's life...
 3. Because...the "*tutor*" had served its purpose and the "*tutor*" is out of job as far as that individual's concerned.
 3. And this is where GRACE comes into the life of every person who puts their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior.
 4. Because the Bible says in Romans 5:20...

"And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more..."

8. **GOD GAVE MAN THE LAW TO SHOW HIM THAT HE COULDN'T KEEP IT!**
 1. And then...when man acknowledges that he can't keep it...
 1. And that his heart is hopelessly wicked...
 2. And that he cannot serve God in himself and be what God wants him to be...
 3. And that he cannot save himself...

THEN...MAN HAS LEARNED "**THE LESSON!**"

2. Then...God comes along...in the fullness of time and says...
 3. "*Okay...I'll implement my plan to save you from your sin...at no cost to you. It's free.*"
 4. "*It will cost me something, but there's nothing you can do to earn it. It's free.*"
 5. "***YOU'RE LEARNING THE LESSON!***"
 6. And that's where LAW ends and GRACE begins.
 7. And that's also why we have such a hard time believing God would do such a thing!
 8. Because man instinctively thinks: "*There must be SOMETHING I have to do!*"
3. Now...how can we understand what GRACE is all about?
1. All of God's dealings with man at the present time are based on "***Grace.***"
 1. The word "***Grace***" is found over 160 times in the Bible.

2. Remember the first time it was used?
"Noah found favor (grace) in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8)
3. The word "Grace" is found 128 times in the N.T.
4. GOD is called *"The God of all grace"* in I Pet. 5:10.
 1. JESUS is described as being *"full of grace."* in Jn. 1:14.
 2. And the HOLY SPIRIT is called *"the Spirit of grace"* in Hebrews 10:29.
5. So...**"Grace"** is characteristic of the whole Trinity.
6. In the O.T., the word means *"to bend or stoop in kindness to an inferior."*
7. The N.T. word means *"unmerited favor, goodwill, lovingkindness"*.

2. Someone has said that *"Grace is God showing nothing but love and mercy when we deserved nothing but wrath and judgment."*
 1. That means that God shows men favor which they don't deserve.
 2. Now...to put it simply, but concisely, Grace is **"UNMERITED FAVOR"**.
 3. It is undeserved on the part of the one who receives it.
 4. **"Grace"** is **unearned** and **unearnable**... because the Bible teaches that it is the free gift of God.
3. Now...you may have heard the term *"Cheap Grace"*.
 1. That's the idea that you can be saved and have no responsibility to God.
 1. *"You can be saved and take advantage of God's Grace."*
 2. It's the idea of holding God's Grace in some kind of **cheap** esteem.
 2. Well...the truth is that Grace is not cheap!
 3. It's very expensive!
 4. The only way we can say that Grace is not costly...
 1. Is if the particular benefit costs the donor very little..
 2. Or nothing at all.
 5. I could bestow unmerited favor on someone, without any cost whatsoever to me.
 6. But that's not the case with *God's Grace*.
 7. **God's Grace cost our Lord Jesus His life!!**
4. Now...we need to think for a minute why it is that *"Grace"* is so difficult for us to understand.
 1. Here's what the Bible says about God's Grace in Eph. 2:8-9...

Eph 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

2. Now...why is that so difficult to understand?
3. Well...from the cradle to the grave, we've been taught this monumental truth: **"THERE AIN'T NO FREE LUNCH!"**
4. From the very beginning of our lives, we've been told...
 1. *"Do this and you'll be rewarded..."*
 2. *"Fail to do this and you'll be punished."*
5. That type of a value system permeates all of life and most religions.

6. So...we have a natural tendency to believe Smith-Barney is right...and that we are saved...
"THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY... WE EARN IT!"
7. We live in a society that is "performance-oriented".
 1. To get good grades in school, we have to perform well in our schoolwork.
 2. To get ahead on the job, depends on how well we perform at work.
8. If we want to get ahead...we have to **WORK** at it!
5. Now remember...until a man places his faith in Jesus Christ...he's still a member of the family of the First Adam.
 1. And he is still dominated by that sinful nature which he inherited from his first parents.
 2. And his sinful nature keeps telling him that there must be SOMETHING he can do to earn his salvation.
 3. There must be something good in him...something noble and right which will please God.
 4. **That's why the cults are so attractive to people**
 5. They offer a "human" solution to the sin problem.
 1. And the "solution" is that you earn your salvation...
 2. The "solution" offered is to work...so you'll deserve something.
 3. *"Do more good things than bad things and in the end, God will be fair with you."*
 4. *"You've done so much that you deserve something as a result!"*
 6. And because of the deception of the enemy...
 1. And the control of the sinful human nature...
 2. People struggle with the concept of free Grace!
 7. But remember..."The most important question on every issue is: **What Does God Say?""**

And...just exactly what does God say?

Eph 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

Titus 3:5

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit..."

Rom 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Rom 4:4-5

"Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness..."

8. Now...what do these verses tell us?
 1. They tell us this...
 2. If a man receives salvation in exchange for his "works"...
 3. Then **salvation** is just another word for "wages earned".

6. To begin with...the Bible teaches that the **SOURCE** of God's Grace is *GOD'S LOVE*.

John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."

WHY?

Romans 3:24

"...being justified as a gift (without a cause) by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus"

1. Then...the Bible teaches that the **CHANNEL** of God's Grace is *JESUS CHRIST*.

John 1:17

"For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ."

2. And finally...the Bible teaches that the **INSTRUMENT** of Grace is *FAITH*.

Eph 2:8

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God..."

4. Now...we've looked at a few things the Bible teaches about Law and Grace.
 1. Let me mention one more very important matter.
 1. YOU CAN'T MIX THEM!
 2. Now...that doesn't mean that the Church hasn't tried to mix Law & Grace and isn't still trying!
 3. Over the years, there have been three basic errors concerning the right relationship between Law & Grace.
 2. First...ANTINOMIANISM.
 1. One definition of the word is...
"The denial of all rule over the lives of believers; the affirmation that men are not required to live holy lives because they are saved by God's free grace."
 2. Now...that's partially true: BECAUSE THERE ARE NO "RULES" BY WHICH A CHRISTIAN IS TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.
 3. None of us can "live" the Christian life.
 4. Only Christ can do that.
 5. But as we "submit" our lives to the Holy Spirit...Christ lives His life through the believer!
 3. But...that can be taken to the extreme.
 1. We see that expressed by people who say that a Christian never has to confess his/her sins.
 1. Very popular teaching today.
 2. But not dealing honestly with I Jn. 1:9.

2. Listen to what Jude says...

Jude 1:4

"For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

4. A second error concerning the relationship between Law & Grace is **SACRAMENTALISM**.
 1. That's the teaching that God's Grace is communicated to the believer through the *sacraments or ordinances* of the Church.
 2. That includes baptism, communion and things that were added over time.
 3. So...obviously, this error contains the idea that *"faith isn't enough"*.
 4. One must observe those things in order to receive God's Grace.
 5. But...that distorts God's Grace, because it's based upon *"works"*.
5. But...the modern-day error that infects the Church very prominently today is what is called **GALATIANISM**, also called **BEHAVIORISM**, also called **LEGALISM**.
 1. This is the modern-day heresy of attempting to mix Law & Grace.
 2. This teaching is that justification is partly by Grace, and partly by Law.
 3. And it was because this heresy had invaded the church in Galatia that Paul wrote the magnificent letter to the Galatians!
 4. In which he said...

Gal 1:6-8

"I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed."

5. The teaching of the Bible is that salvation is a free gift of God...
 1. The Good News of the Gospel is that salvation is **By Grace**...
 2. And Grace alone...**GRACE PLUS NOTHING!!**
5. So...the Law of God was a very good thing.
 1. And man would like to be able to say that he's kept the Big Ten...and some DO say they have.
 1. But...the truth is that we know we haven't and that we can't.
 2. So...the Law doesn't help man to be good, it just shows him that he ISN'T good!
 3. It shows us exactly what God has been attempting to teach man from the very beginning.
 4. *"We don't have hearts that will allow us to please God."*
 5. And...we cannot change ourselves... and we cannot save ourselves.

2. So...we need Grace and that Grace is found in only one place...in the Person of Jesus Christ.

1. And when we come to Him by faith, His Grace is implemented and applied to our lives.
2. I think the following words put it all together...

"Just as I am, without one plea...
But that Thy blood was shed for me...
O' Lamb of God I come, I come."

or

"Nothing in my hand I bring...
Simply to the Cross I cling."

Basic Bible Truths - Lesson #5

"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT LAW AND AMAZING GRACE"

1. Look up each of the following passages and tell what it commands concerning man's diet.

Genesis 1:29 _____

Genesis 9:3 _____

Leviticus 11:3-8 _____

I Timothy 4:3-4 _____

Why do we see seeming discrepancies in God's rules for diet? The answer is that at different times in history God's method of dealing with man has changed and He has dealt with man in different ways. To understand that fact and to recognize the basic divisions of the Bible is essential to our understanding of the Bible. This is called "rightly dividing" and means to accurately handle the Word of God (II Timothy 2:15)

2. On what basis is God dealing with man during this period of the *Seven Testing Periods* which we studied last time? (p. 2) _____
3. During the last dispensation God dealt with man on the basis of Law. What were the three divisions of the Law? 1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____ (p. 3)
4. Why isn't the Law in effect today? (p. 3) _____

5. Can we be saved by obeying the Law? (p. 3) Yes No
What Scripture verse proves you are right? _____
6. God gave the Law to show man what _____ is. (p. 4)
7. God gave the Law to _____ us to sin _____
(p. 4)

8. God gave the Law to serve as a " _____ " which leads man to Christ. (p. 4)
9. God gave man the Law to show him that he _____ ! (p. 6)
10. How would you define GRACE based on pages 6 & 7 of your notes?

11. Why is it so difficult to understand GRACE? (p. 7ff)
12. Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9 (Check when you have done so) _____
13. The SOURCE of God's Grace is _____. The CHANNEL of God's Grace is _____. The INSTRUMENT of God's Grace is _____. (p. 9)
14. What is "*Galatianism*"? _____ (p. 10)

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