

Some people don't believe they've sinned, and others think they've sinned too much to ever be saved. Once we acknowledge we've sinned, the next step is to realize that God's redemption is free. We can't earn it or work for it. If we could, it wouldn't be free – and wouldn't be by grace.

John Newton wrote in his now-famous song that grace had saved a "wretch" like him. That word is so offensive to our modern sensibilities that many people replace it with another, less negative, term when they sing "Amazing Grace." But Newton knew from his own experience that he was a wretch when God saved him. Indeed, all men are wretches in that they are lost in sin. That is the biblical truth; But Newton knew that truth first-hand. A dictionary definition of "wretch" includes these words: "a miserable person....profoundly unhappy....sunk in vice or degradation....a vile person." John Newton would have said, "That was me, to the letter!"

- I. Prelude to Grace Rom 3:10-20
 - The prelude to grace is an understanding that we need grace, and we only understand that we need grace when we see our own sin.
 - The apostle Paul did not attempt to ignore sin in his life. The older he got, the more realistically he dealt with it. I Cor 15:9, Eph 3:8, I Tim 1:15
- II. Principles of Grace Rom 3:21-25
 - A. Grace – Apart from works vs 21
 1. This is what sets Christianity apart from all the world's religions. Christianity is a religion of divine accomplishment; the rest are religions of human achievement. II Tim 1:9, Titus 3:5
 - B. Grace – Accepted by faith vs 22
 1. Faith is the channel through which the grace of God comes to us
 2. "Faith is believing that Christ is what He is said to be, and that he will do what He has promised to do, and then to expect this of Him." Charles Spurgeon
 - C. Grace – Available to all who believe vs 22-23
 1. You can be a rebid sinner or an occasional sinner – it makes no difference as far as God's grace is concerned. All are lost – there is none righteous.
 - D. Grace – Attained by justification vs 24
 1. Justification means restoring you to the status you had before you sinned, this is what God does through Christ.
 2. He sees us as if we had never sinned (though we have) because Christ took our sins upon himself. He does that by His grace.
 - E. Grace – Awarded freely vs 24
 1. If you had to work for grace, it wouldn't be grace – because grace is free, unmerited favor from God. We have to receive it freely or not at all.
 - F. Grace – Acquired through redemption vs 24

Note: Paul uses the word "redemption" to describe what happens to us when we freely receive the grace of God. Our shackles (of sin) are removed, we are purchased out of the marketplace of sin, and God becomes our new owner. I Cor 6, II Cor 5

G. Grace – Accomplished through propitiation vs 25

Def: “satisfaction” to appease – God has been propitiated by Christ blood.

Ques: Read Rom 3:10-18

- If absolutely no one is good in God’s sight, what was necessary in order for man to get to heaven? Rom 3:24

Read I Tim 1:13-15

- If Paul was the “chief” of sinners, yet was saved, what is he saying to the rest of us?

Happy Studying