

## Romans 5:12-21 Grace

### Into the Lesson:

Imagine, as of midnight tonight, we will be required to drive on the left side of the road instead of the right side of the road (surprised they didn't try this during covid).

How hard would it be to "unlearn" a law that has been in existence longer than we have been alive?

Now try to imagine how hard it would be to "unlearn" laws that had been on the books for 2000 years.

Do a read through of Leviticus 23 to get a sense of the extent of the ritual in the way "they did church" in the festivals they lived by.

How hard would it have been for the Nation of Israel, who had been "first in line" regarding the things of God, to suddenly be obliged to share that with people once considered unclean?

Does this perhaps explain the rejection of Jesus by the Jewish hierarchy and the threat they felt to their position in God's kingdom?

### Into the Word:

In Paul's efforts to help them "relearn" God's plan, how difficult would it be for Jewish believers to grasp the concept of being "Saved by Grace through Faith"?

Add to the mix the Roman/Gentile culture that was heaped in immorality and idolatry, how crucial were Paul's words in vv. 12-15?

Of the numerous positive and negative examples of individuals Lane mentioned who have "made a difference", which was most impressive?

Reread Romans 5:12-21 and highlight the words "One" (note both + and -examples) "Reign" and note the significance of the key phrase "Much More".

How hard would "Grace" be for ritual bound Jews? How does this fit with Lane's point that, "Grace is greater than our sacrifices"?

Do Paul's remarks in Romans 7:15-21 give a sense of this being an uphill battle even for an Apostle?

What does I John 3:3-8 have to say about the "practice of sin" and the Interruption of our ability to enjoy the effects of Grace?

How does this fit in with Lane's point that "Grace is much more than Adam's sin"?

How can II Peter 1:3-7 provide a springboard in our understanding of Grace?

### Into Life:

A wise theologian once told me, "If we ever truly came to grips with the concept of Grace, the Church would be unstoppable" (I didn't write down the exact quote because I didn't realize how wise Mike McCann is).

How can an understanding of "Grace" make a substantial difference in the life of the church and us individually?

With the realization that we may be reaching out to people who have been shackled with some difficult baggage, how do we make our gatherings a place where they can know the Grace of God?

For those of us who have been around for a while, how has church changed from what it was like when Lane was regularly wearing a jacket and tie?

Never compromising our message, is it possible more changes are coming?

In Sam's excellent message a few weeks ago, he asked if, "Romans 2:17-3:8 can be read with Christian/church goer/believer in place of Jew?"

Can the same be asked regarding Christians who may be confronted with "new stuff"?

How do we avoid being the "Pharisees of the 21<sup>st</sup> century"?

**"The question then is simple, what will you do with this free gift of Grace?"**