

Forgiving and Transforming Grace

Easter Sunday 2015

Romans 6:1-14

Stuart W. Bryan

I. Good News vs. Good Advice

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is Good _____ not Good Advice.

A. Guilt

B. Powerlessness

II. Forgiving Grace (cf. Col 2:13-14)

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

In baptism, you were united with Christ who died. Christ died to absorb your guilt. He died that you might receive Forgiving Grace. Faith trusts in Christ's sacrifice as the only source of forgiveness with God.

Grace – God's _____ favor

Forgiving Grace –

God forgives our sin, covers our guilt, *not because we have earned or deserved such forgiveness* but because He has chosen to forgive us freely.

III. Transforming Grace

Easter reminds us that the ability to serve God and to obey His law is a _____ given to us by God Himself. It is grace, all grace.

Because Jesus has risen from the dead and broken the power of sin and death, therefore, God gives His Transforming Grace to all those who have received his Forgiving Grace. In other words, *our obedience to God is Good _____ just as much as our forgiveness.*

A. Transforming Grace in the Present (vv. 4, 12-14 cf. 8:1-8)

B. Transforming Grace in the Future (vv. 5-9 cf. 8:11, 18ff)

The promise of _____ *in the future* empowers Spirit-led obedience *in the present*. The resurrection is our hope – and because we shall be raised from the dead, totally transformed into the image of our Savior Jesus, even now we can access that Transforming Grace to live lives that please the Lord.

IV. Application

A. Hope for Change

B. Faith in Christ's Resurrection (cf. Rom 6:11)

The key to accessing God's Transforming Grace is _____. We access God's Transforming Grace by *believing* His promise to transform us by the power of the resurrection.

Transforming grace works when you believe that Jesus gives it to you. The moment you believe in Jesus' grace to change you, you are changing. The more you continue to believe it, the more you will continue to change... Paul is saying that you are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ when you count it to be true; that is, when you believe it. If you want to change and be like Christ...you must believe that in Jesus you have the power to change. When you believe the power is yours, it is yours. Heath Lambert

C. Thankfulness

As we grow in obedience we should be giving thanks to God. Why? Because our obedience is a _____ from God, empowered by Christ's resurrection.

V. Conclusion