

# Accepted by God

January 21, 2018

*We are made right with God **by placing our faith in Jesus Christ**. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. (Romans 3:22, NLT)*

*Yet God, **in his grace**, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. (Romans 3:24, NLT)*

## **The overall objection to Grace.**

*Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? (Romans 3:31, NIV)*

## **Objection to Grace #1:**

Let's hold on to religion, because this grace thing is too new

## **Paul's Response:**

1. God's grace has been around for a long, long time. In fact, God's grace preceded the law!

Abraham believed God long before the law came into existence.

*What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." (Romans 4:3, NIV)*

David spoke about the power of God's grace long ago.

*"Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them." (Romans 4:7–8, NIV)*

## **How does God's grace work in your life?**

*What we read in Scripture is, "Abraham entered into what God was doing for him, and that was the turning point. He trusted God to set him right instead of trying to be right on his own." (Romans 4:3, The Message)*

- a. Enter into what God is doing in your life.
- b. Stop trying to be right on your own.
- c. Trust God to make you right.

## **Objection to Grace #2:**

Let's hold on to the past, because this grace thing might not work.

## **Paul's Response:**

2. God's grace empowers us to believe.

Abraham and Sarah (4:16-20)

It was because of God's promise that they had something to believe in.

*Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. (Romans 4:16, NIV)*

It was because of God's promise that they had something to hold on to.

*When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, "You're going to have a big family, Abraham!" (Romans 4:18, The Message)*

When they held on to God's promise they had the strength to obey God.

*Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, "It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God, sure that God would make good on what he had said. (Romans 4:19–21, The Message)*

## **How does Grace work in your life?**

d. Grace gives you the power and strength to obey God.

*For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly*

*lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, (Titus 2:11–13, NIV)*

**Objection to Grace #3:**

This grace thing is too difficult to understand.

Paul's Response:

3. God's grace restores our friendship with Him.

For since **our friendship with God was restored** by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. (Romans 5:10, NLT)

And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it. (Revelation 2:17, NLT)