

***THE DANGER OF CHEAP GRACE***

**PSALM 86:1-10 NIV // ROMANS 6:1-11 NLT**

**MONDAY 6/26/23**

PSALM 86:1-10//1-2 Hear me Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. 2 Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you.

ROMANS 6 1-11//1 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? 2 Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

**REFLECTION** I love to preach the message of God's amazing grace. Not only have I experienced the power of God's grace, I have witnessed it again and again. A majority of Christians have a difficult time with God's grace. They believe Christianity is about the do's and don't's in life. Theologians call this pietism, or legalism. Pietists emphasize the spiritual and moral renewal of a person is a complete commitment to Jesus Christ. To have a new life pattern based on the Bible, we must be motivated by the Spirit of Christ. So with this definition: to be a Christian one has to do certain things and not do others things. It is a task a person undertakes to receive God's blessings. The better one performs these tasks the better you are as a Christian. A stark example of this is the Amish lifestyle or Hasidic Jew's. They live by a lot of do's and don'ts. *"Don't shave your beard, don't drive a car or use electricity. Don't wash your car on Sunday. Don't eat meat on Friday."* All these do's and don't's are tasks to please God. You only have to be committed to Jesus Christ. Notice there is nothing said about having a loving relationship with God in Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, Christ's death does nothing for a person with this mindset. But Christ means everything to a Christian. It is God's love toward us which brings us back into a personal relationship with Him. There is always something attractive about love, and being loved. I am attracted to someone who loves me. Naturally, I want to please that person. That is what God's grace has done to me. He showed me how much He loved me in sending His Son to save me. He has created in me a desire to love more than I'm used to, to sin less than I did. That is God's grace in action. A real freedom to enjoy the life He has given me.

**PRAYER** God of grace, lift up my spirit and guard my life, for I need you daily to hold on to me. In Jesus Name Amen.

**TUESDAY 6/27/23**

PSALM 86:1-10//3-4 You are my God; 3 have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long. 4 Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you.

ROMANS 6 1-11//3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

**REFLECTION** One reason people "cheapen grace" is that they do not fully understand what it means to be baptized in the death of Christ. It means we are to die to self and arise in Christ. To "die to self" means we recognize we are an enemy of God. Christ deals with our sin by dying on the Cross. When we accept Christ we are being baptized into His death. This Baptism is the beginning of our faith. When we are baptized in Christ death we are united to the body of Christ. So each day we live, our old sinful nature is dying in us. At the same time the love of God arises in us to new life. We now are partakers of God's grace in Christ. This baptism is not new. Cor.10:1-2: I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, about our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. All of them were guided by a cloud that moved ahead of them, and all of them walked through the sea on dry ground. 2 In the cloud and in the sea, all of them were baptized as followers of Moses. Secondly, we share in Christ's Spirit. 1 Cor. 12: 13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Jesus's death effects every true Christian's life. This baptism cost Jesus His life. Colossians 2:11 When you came to Christ, you were

## TUESDAY 6/27/23 CONTINUED

"circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. Our conscious minds have been awakened to Christ and therefore we no longer aggressively seek the things of the flesh, rather lovingly we seek the fruits of goodness and kindness and forgiveness.

**PRAYER You are my God and heavenly Father. I pray please have mercy on me, Lord. I call on your name all day long. By your grace give me the joy that surpasses my understanding. In Jesus Name Amen.**

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## WEDNESDAY 6/28/23

PSALM 86:1-10/// 5-6 You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. 6 Hear my prayer, Lord; listen to my cry for mercy.

ROMANS 6 1-11//5 Since we have been united with him (Jesus) in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. 6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives.

**REFLECTION** We “cheapen grace” by not accepting how much pain and suffering our sin has caused. Our “old sinful” nature is understood to mean the destructive effect of sin in all of life. As children born into sin because of Adam, we live in a “state of slavery”. However, when we are united to Christ, we are set free from this miserable state. We can say with confidence Christ has set us free from the control of evil. Being united to Christ in His death, and resurrected life, we begin to change our lives. We do not immediately cease from sinning, but we become more and more victorious in these trials. We now are living a life of destiny. We live with the joy of eternal implications. To enter into God’s Kingdom we must first die to self and be awakened spiritually by Christ. The whole world is filled with a “mass of sin”, such as pride, ego, jealousy, lust, self-indulgence, etc. Our death in Christ begins the process of being purged from our flesh and “body of sin”. The “old sinful self” needs therefore to die so that its corruption and wickedness does not continue to impact those we love. Our joy and comfort is knowing Christ has paid the price to set us free. It is because God’s grace we are set free from our old nature.

**PRAYER Hear my prayer, O Lord Jesus and listen to my cry for mercy and forgiveness. You are my all in all, and by your death and resurrection I am forgiven. Praise your name In Jesus Name Amen.**



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## THURSDAY 6/29/23

PSALM 86:1-10/// 7-8 When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.8 Among the gods there is none like you, Lord; no deeds can compare with yours.

ROMANS 6 1-11//7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

**REFLECTION** We “cheapen God’s grace” when we fail to understand the cost to Christ and His suffering for us. What does it mean for Christ to “die”? It is understood to mean Jesus died and delivered us from our torments of sin by setting us free from its power over us. The entire life of Jesus Christ was to sacrifice His life for ours sins. To die for the single purpose of removing the penalty of sin, which is death. The effect of Jesus’ death destroys the curse of human sin. Let us not “cheapen God’s grace” by ignoring Christ’s sacrifice to change our hearts and minds. Let’s face the truth that our sins damage our relationships with others. We need to die in Christ to be set free from the bondage of sin that has us in its grip. When we are released from it, what a tremendous joy we experience. We have true joy because we are declared innocent by the Judge.

**PRAYER Heavenly Father I am sometimes distressed by the activities in this world. I pray today you unburden me from these stresses and set me free to enjoy your love. In Jesus Name Amen.**

## FRIDAY 6/30/23

PPSALM 86:1-10/// 9 All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.

ROMANS 6 1-11//8 And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. 9 We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

**REFLECTION** The truth is we need to be reminded “grace” is not cheap. Christ died a tormenting death. Even though He is divine in nature, He still dies in the flesh. The whole gospel message is about bringing new life out of death. Jesus’s crucifixion and resurrection brings new spiritual life to us now. As Christians we are to live in the image of the resurrected Christ. God promises us a new physical body in the new heaven and on the new earth. Yet some people still continue to abandon Christ. John Calvin say’s “For if we roll again in our own filth” we are still lost in the dark. By denying Christ we “cheapen grace”. We mock Him for willingly surrendering to the power of evil. He willingly submits to human authority causing His death. It is Christ who breathes new life into us. Being freed from the dominion of death ought to make us dance and laugh.

**PRAYER** Gracious God, help our nation continue to be the role model for all nations to see your glory. You, O Lord God, are mighty and just. Help me to glow because of your grace within me. In Jesus Name Amen.

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## SATURDAY 7/1/23

PSALM 86:1-10/// 10 For you are great and do marvelous deeds; you alone are God.

ROMANS 6 1-11//10 When he (Jesus) died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. 11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

**REFLECTION** We “cheapen God’s grace” when we disrespect Jesus who dedicated His life to glorify God. He is the perfect Son born of a virgin mother. People around the world everyday raise up His name and call Him blessed. Have you ever noticed when “Jesus Christ” is spoken in admiration it impacts our consciousness. His name is the mightiest name in the history of the world. When we are first touched by God’s grace our hearts and minds explode with joy. Paul Zahl calls God’s grace a “one way love”. Human love is insufficient because it focuses on the ways of the flesh. But God’s “one way love” is pure and right and it invites us to uncover a new reality. We cheapen this grace by being transfixed on over indulging ourselves. The bountifully and abundantly nature of God’s grace helps us more and more perfectly even when we are engulfed by sin. Christ once died to sin and lives forever to God, even though we now die to self while living, we are now living out our faith because we received the grace of Christ.

**PRAYER** Lord Jesus, you are great and powerful and you have done marvelous things for me. You alone are God. Praise your name now and forever. In Jesus Name Amen.



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