

Lesson 32

Paul—Rich Through Christ

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Outline

Introductory Story – “Are You Getting What You Deserve?”

Jump-Start Questions

Main Lesson**1. Introduction****2. What is Grace?**

(1 Timothy 14-15; Ephesians 3:2-8)

3. God’s Grace Brings Salvation

(Titus 2:11; Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Ephesians 1:7)

Object Lesson: “A Gift”

4. God’s Grace Teaches Us How to Live(Titus 2:11a,12; Ephesians 4:25,28,31-32; 6:1; 5:18;
1 Corinthians 6:18a,19-20; Philippians 4:13; Galatians 2:20)**5. God’s Grace Prepares Us to Serve**

(2 Corinthians 9:8)

Crossing the Finish Line**Lesson Theme**

The word “grace” means
God’s Riches At Christ’s
Expense.

Visual Aids

Story Clue 32

Visual 32

Supplies

Take Home Sheet 32

Coins (pennies, dimes,
or nickels)Small, wrapped gift
(pencil or candy)

Envelopes

Review Last Week’s Lesson

In our last lesson, we learned about Martha and how she learned a hard lesson. She learned that it is more important to spend time with Jesus and learn about Him than it is to serve. Martha was upset because she was doing so much work to serve the food for Jesus and their guests, while Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening and learning. Martha thought that Mary should be helping her. Jesus rebuked Martha and told her that Mary had chosen the one thing that couldn’t be taken from her.

Martha learned to trust Christ through getting to know Him better. Jesus raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead because He loved him, as well as Mary and Martha, and proved that He was the Messiah. The next time Jesus came to Martha’s house, again, she

served the meal. God wants you to know Him, spend time with Him, and serve Him and others with a glad heart.

Story: Are You Getting What You Deserve?

"Are you ready to find the next one?" asked Tim excitedly.

"Sure!" answered David with a grin as he pulled out the note. "Here's what it says, 'Dear David, Do you wish you could get what you deserve? Saul (who was later called Paul) didn't get what he deserved. He got something MUCH better! Jesus Christ took his punishment (and ours) and gave him (and us) something that is so wonderful that, sometimes, it is hard to understand. It is the difference between what we do and what He has already done. Take away the 'DO,' and see what is left. Paul received (blank). The Bible even calls him the Apostle of (blank). Are you getting what you deserve, or have you received something much better? You'll find it high above you. The secret it holds is probably covered with dust. Look at the treasures of the past to find out about the best gift a person will ever receive. Love, Grandpa.'"

"What's better than getting what we deserve?" asked Tim. "I wish I'd be that lucky, just once!"

"Hey, look!" said David. "There's a bunch of letters on the back. Maybe it's a word search puzzle. Let's see what we can find."

Tim and David searched carefully for words hidden in the letters. "Wow! This one's hard!" complained Tim. "I can't find anything. Maybe it's a different kind of puzzle."

"Wait a second!" exclaimed David. "Didn't the note say to 'take away the DO'?"

"So?" replied Tim.

"What if we cross out all the 'D's and 'O's," suggested David. "That'd be taking away the DO! Let's try it."

"We're right!" yelled David. "The marks are starting to look like letters! See? That's a 'G'!"

"C'mon! This is fun. Let's find the rest," answered Tim enthusiastically. "G-R-A-C-E! It spells 'GRACE,' but where do we find the stamp to put on our treasure map?" asked Tim.

"Well," said David, as he thought for a moment. "The note says it's hidden high above us. Maybe it's hidden in the attic!"

"Let's go!" yelled Tim as they headed up the rickety steps leading to the attic.

"Wow! there's lots of stuff up here," said David as he looked at the boxes and old furniture.

"It said to look at the 'treasures of the past' that are covered with dust. But everything up here is practically an antique, and everything is definitely covered with dust," laughed Tim.

"I've got an idea!" answered David with excitement. "We need to find some photo albums or a scrapbook. That's where you put the treasures of the past."

"You mean an old trunk like this one?" asked Tim.

"Right, but the latch is stuck. There. Got it!" yelled David. "I think we found it. It's under all the pictures, awards, and other stuff. Quick, hand me the treasure map."

"It's a picture of a gift, and beside it, it says, 'GRACE'!" Tim called excitedly. "We were right. But how does it fit?"

"Well," began David. "Saul was killing all the followers of Christ, but then he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. God showed His grace by saving him and making him the apostle of the grace of God."

"So Paul really deserved to die for killing all those who believed in Jesus?" asked Tim.

"Yes, he did. And the Bible says we all deserve death because of our sin," replied David. "But Jesus Christ died for our sins, paying our debt. He was buried and rose again. When a person believes Him, he or she is saved by His grace. That really is something better! I'm sure glad God isn't going to give me what I really deserve!" said David quietly.

"Me, too!" answered Tim.

Solving the Clue

Tim and David learned that there is no "DO" in God's grace when they solved the puzzle for this lesson. The work for God's grace has already been **done** by Christ. Now there are six clues, "killed," "prison," "love," "apostle," "serve," and "grace." Do you know who is the mystery person?



Bible Lesson

Jump-Start Questions

1. Do you have anything in common with a bag lady?
2. What makes you rich or poor?
3. Define the word “Grace.”
4. What secret did God reveal to the Apostle Paul?
5. Where are you looking for riches?

Let's ask God to help us find the answers in His Word to these important questions. (Pray)

LESSON

1) Introduction

Recently, the newspaper printed a heartbreaking story! The by-line read “Rich Woman Dies a Pauper’s Death.” It seems this woman was well known in the downtown area of a large city. Well known **not** in a good way, but in a bad way. This woman was a bag lady. Day after day, she roamed the streets, pushing her possessions in a rusted-out grocery cart. Filthy, uncombed, wrapped in a worn-out coat, she spent her days begging for food. Early one morning, a passerby found her dead, huddled in a cardboard box, clutching her stuff. Yet, that’s not the end of the story! When police sorted through her belongings, they found a bankbook and were shocked! Forty years earlier, this woman’s father had left her a large sum of money in a local bank. **She** had thousands of dollars—enough to buy a home, clothing, and food. However she chose to live on the streets, often trudging by the exact bank where her money was deposited. This woman lived a miserable life and died a pauper’s death because she failed to claim **the riches** her father had given her!

Truth is, a lot of people (maybe even some in this class) are like this bag lady! They don’t live on the streets, but they’re paupers just the same, **spiritual** paupers. They’re pushing a cart full of junk—looking good while feeling “yucky” on the inside; lying to others and themselves that grades and popularity are enough; feeling angry because no one cares they’re sad, lonely, and confused. They’re afraid—afraid life’s a bad joke, and there’s nothing to hope for. They haven’t a clue about **the riches** our Heavenly Father

has deposited in their accounts, just waiting to be claimed! Not because they deserve them, but because of God’s **amazing** Grace.



2) What is Grace?

Grace is God showing favor—unearned favor, undeserved favor—**through Christ** to people who deserve His wrath.

The Apostle Paul knew much about grace! At one time, he was God’s worst enemy. He **thought** the Lord Jesus was an imposter. Like a raging bull, he tormented, even killed believers in Christ. This violent man (1 Timothy 1:13) deserved nothing but God’s wrath (Ephesians 2:3). Instead, God poured out His grace **through Christ**, saved Paul from his sin, and transformed him into a servant of Christ. How could a just God do this to such a sinful man? The answer is found in the two words: **through Christ**. Christ died for Paul’s sins and bore the wrath that Paul deserved. The Lord Jesus turned away God’s wrath from Paul by bearing it Himself on Paul’s behalf. Listen to Paul’s own testimony:



1 Timothy 1:14-15 – “And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”

But this was just the beginning! God had plans for Paul that involved a secret—one hidden since **before** the foundation of the world (Romans 16:25). What was this secret? It was all about the **riches of grace** God has stored away **in Christ**, waiting for us to claim. For centuries no one knew about these riches. But then God “revealed His bank book” to the Apostle Paul. He was amazed! **All** we are and have and hope to be—even in eternity—is due to God’s marvelous grace **through Christ** (Ephesians 2:7)!



Ephesians 3:2-8 – “If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is

given me to you-ward...which in other ages was not made known....Whereof I was made a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me...Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Let's open our Bibles and discover some of the riches of God's grace given to us!

3) God's Grace Brings Salvation



Titus 2:11 – "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"

This is wonderful news! God's grace **brings salvation**, and it's available for everyone! God knew there was nothing **we** could do to earn salvation. Why? Because we've messed up!



Romans 3:23 – "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

We're full of unrighteousness—things like envy, murder, deceit; things like being proud, boastful, and disobedient to parents (Romans 1:29). We **all** stand **guilty** before God (Romans 3:19).

God's Word declares **guilty** sinners earn a wage for sinning—not \$15 an hour! No, the wages of sin isn't paid out in cash. It's paid out in **death** (Romans 6:23)! What is death? Death is **separation** from God. First, we earn **spiritual death**. We've lived disobedient lives, doing what **we** wanted to do, when **we** wanted to do it, **separated** from God, "**dead** in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). But there's more! We earn **physical death**. Our bodies are dying. Do you wear glasses? Have cavities? Need braces? Your body is dying. When physical death is complete, the body goes to the grave; the soul (the real you) goes into eternity. The lost sinner enters eternity, **separated** from God. There's still more: We earn **eternal death**. There's coming a day, when both body and soul of each lost sinner will be **separated** from God in the Lake of Fire to suffer God's **wrath** for all eternity (Revelation 20:14-15). Sin pays a dreadful wage!

But God's **grace** has appeared—God has poured out His undeserved favor **through Christ** on sinful, guilty people. God sent His sinless Son, the Lord Jesus, to die for **our** sins. On Calvary's Cross, the Lord Jesus suffered **spiritual death**. He was **separated** from the Father for the sin **we've** done. On Calvary's cross the Lord Jesus suffered **physical death** for the sin **we've** done. On Calvary's cross, the Lord Jesus turned away God's wrath from us by bearing it Himself on **our** behalf. We are saved from **wrath through Him** (Romans 5:9). That's GRACE: **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.



2 Corinthians 8:9 – "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich."

The Lord Jesus was rich *before* He came to Earth as a helpless baby. **Before** He was born in a cattle stall, wrapped in discarded clothes, and laid in a feed box. **Before** He was surrounded by manure smells, dusty straw, spiderwebs, and the snort of a camel; **before** He hung naked on a cross—beaten, bruised, and bleeding—He became poor and paid sin's wages so that we might know Him and the riches of sins forgiven!



Ephesians 1:7 – "In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."

Are you like the bag lady, oblivious to what your heavenly Father has done for you? Or do you believe He sent Christ to die for **your** sin so you can know Him and the riches of sins forgiven?

4) God's Grace Teaches Us How to Live

Some think when God saves us from the **penalty** of sin, His work of Grace is done. Not so! Now, the grace of God **through Christ** teaches believers to say "NO" to a sinful life and to say "YES" to a God-honoring life.



Titus 2:11a,12 – "For the grace of God... teaching us that denying ungodliness and

worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”

God’s **grace** teaches us to say “NO” to lying and “YES” to telling truth.



Ephesians 4:25 – “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor.”

God’s **grace** teaches us to say “NO” to stealing and “YES” to working/saving money so we can share with those in need.



Ephesians 4:28 – “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the things which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”

God’s **grace** teaches us to say “NO” to getting mad or getting even when people hurt us, and “YES” to showing kindness and forgiveness, even as God **through Christ** has forgiven us.



Ephesians 4:31-32 – “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

God’s **grace** teaches us to say “NO” to the sick culture that strips us of purity and morality, and “YES” to realizing our body is a sacred place for God.



1 Corinthians 6:18a-20 – “Flee fornication... What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

God’s **grace** teaches you to say “NO” to disobedience, and “YES” to doing what your parents tell you to do.



Ephesians 6:1 – “Children obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”

God’s **grace** teaches us to say “NO” to alcohol or drugs that our friends, even family, may use, and “YES” to being controlled by God’s Spirit.



Ephesians 5:18 – “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

God doesn’t mince words when He tells us how to behave. There’s a big problem however! **In ourselves**, we have no strength to obey God’s Word. It happens all the time—the minute we decide to say “YES” to God, sin trips us up and we’re doing exactly what we’re not supposed to do! Is there **anyone** who can help us?

Yes! God’s **grace through Christ** has appeared. The Lord Jesus died, was buried, **but he arose from the dead**. The risen Lord has sent the Holy Spirit to indwell us and empower us—so we can walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). We trusted Christ to save us from the **penalty** of sin, **now** we must trust Him to save us from the **power** of sin in our life. At home, at school, everywhere, trust Christ for strength to say “YES” to a God-honoring life! He loves you and wants to help you. There is nothing, nor any person, who can defeat us when our trust is in Him. He is all-powerful and our strength lies in our dependence in Him.



Philippians 4:13 – “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”



Galatians 2:20 – “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”

Are you like the bag lady, living a miserable life? Or have you received the grace of God **through Christ** to save you from the **power** of sin when you are tempted to do or think wrong things? Is God’s Word and Christ’s life shining forth in **your** life today?

5) God's Grace Prepares Us to Serve

God wants only one thing from you: He wants you to **yield** your body to Him. He wants the “right-of-way” in your life (Romans 12:1). Why? Each **believer** is a living part of Christ's Body and has a spiritual function to perform. Paul gives an illustration that helps us understand. Look at your physical body—you have one body composed of many members—ears, eyes, mouth, hands, feet. Each member is equipped to serve your body in a unique way (1 Corinthians 12:12-20). Ears hear, eyes see, and feet walk. God's church—the Body of Christ—is like our physical bodies. There's **One Body**, but many members. God has **given** each member talents and abilities to serve the other members in a unique way (Ephesians 4:7). Because we're **one body**, believers should use their talents and abilities to build each other up. We belong to each other, and we need each other!

You've been saved—not to sit, but to stand and serve the living God by serving one another! Yet, it takes God's grace to serve in an **acceptable** way. It takes God's grace to teach, help (Romans 12:7), and encourage fellow believers. It takes grace to give our money to the Lord and not to complain or brag about it. It takes grace to be a leader and to be cheerful when everyone is grumpy (Romans 12:8).



2 Corinthians 9:8 – “...God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:”

Are you, like the bag lady, not using the riches your Father has given you? Or are you using your God-given talents and abilities to serve **other** members of the Body of Christ?

Crossing the Finish Line

Grace! We don't deserve it! We cannot earn it! We never can repay God for it. Are you a spiritual pauper, or are you rich **through Christ**?

Summary

The Apostle Paul knew much about grace! At one time, he was God's worst enemy. He thought the Lord Jesus was an imposter. Like a raging bull, he tormented—even killed—believers in Christ. God poured out His grace through Christ, saved Paul from his sin, and transformed him into a servant of Christ.

Gospel Presentation

God revealed the riches of His grace to the Apostle Paul. When you trust in the finished work of the Savior—He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again—you have access to all of God's riches. Have you claimed your riches through Christ?

Application

If you are saved, God wants you to serve Him. Do you think you aren't able to serve Him? He has given you special abilities and talents to serve other members of the Body of Christ in a unique and acceptable way. God's grace is sufficient to supply everything we need to serve Him.

Preview Next Week's Lesson

In our next lesson, we'll learn about Barnabas, a man who really lived up to his name. We'll explore his life and learn how he helped Paul and encouraged many.

Let's answer those Jump-Start Questions now.

Verse Review Game

Musical Money

**“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”
(2 Corinthians 8:9)**

Write the verse and reference on the board and review it several times with the class. Erase the board. Pass out nickels, dimes, and pennies to the class, one coin per student. On your command (Go!), have the kids pass their coins around the table until you tell them to stop. Have all the kids with a certain coin stand up and recite the verse. For example, if you select nickels, all the kids holding nickels stand up and recite the verse. Continue until the verse is learned.

Object Lesson

A Gift

Supplies: Small wrapped present (a pencil or candy)

Say, “I have a small gift for one of you today. What do you think you need to do to be the one to get this gift? Some of you may think that since you behave the best in class, you deserve this gift. Well, I like it that you behave in class, but you cannot earn this gift. Some of you may think that you don’t want my gift. If you don’t want my gift, I won’t force you to take it. Some of you may think I’m teasing you, and there is nothing beneath the wrapping paper. If you don’t believe it, you can’t receive the gift. But one of you may say, ‘I believe there is a gift, I want the gift, and I will walk up to the front of the room and take the gift.’ If you do that, **the gift will be yours!**

“It is the same with the gift of salvation from God. He has the gift waiting for you; and all you have to do to get it is **take it**. There are many people today who think that they can do something to earn God’s gift of salvation. There is no work that can be done to earn salvation. All the work was done by Christ on the cross. If you could earn salvation, there would be no point in His death. Some people don’t believe there is a gift, or even a living God. Those who don’t believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ do not have the gift of salvation. All you have to do to have God’s gift of salvation is to trust that God has the gift

for you, that there is nothing you can do to earn it because Jesus did all the work for you, and **take it!** Have you accepted God’s gift of salvation? Just like receiving any gift, it is appropriate to thank God for the gift.”

Review Question Game

God’s Riches

Draw a line on the board for each letter of the phrase, “God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.” Write the alphabet at the bottom of the board. Place a dime or nickel in each of ten envelopes. Divide the class into teams. Alternate asking the review questions between teams. For each correct answer, allow the student to select an envelope and choose a letter to go in the blanks (like Wheel of Fortune). For each correct letter, their team will earn five points if they selected a nickel, or ten points if they selected a dime. Cross out the chosen letter in the alphabet, and continue until the phrase is revealed.

- 1. What does “God’s grace” mean?** (Grace is undeserved favor through Christ. God’s riches at Christ’s expense.)
- 2. True or False: God transformed the Apostle Paul’s life because he was a good person trying to do good things for the Christians.** (False, he was persecuting the Christians.)
- 3. Why do we need God’s grace?** (We are all sinners and cannot please God. Romans 3:23.)
- 4. What is death?** (Separation from God forever.)
- 5. Why do people die?** (Because all people are born with a sin nature, we all earn death. Death is the wage or payment for sin.)
- 6. What is God’s secret, hidden before the world began, that He revealed (showed) to the Apostle Paul?** (Romans 16:25; Ephesians 3. It is God’s riches of grace, planned for every person who believes. Also, it is becoming God’s adopted child and inheriting all God’s blessings.)
- 7. God’s grace teaches us how to live a life that pleases God. Name three characteristics that should be in a God-honoring life.** (a. No lying—tell the truth; b. No

stealing; work hard and save money to help others; c. No getting mad and hurting others—show a forgiving spirit and kindness to all; d. Say “no” to impure thoughts and actions to your body—realize your body is the sacred place where God dwells; e. No disobedience—respect and obey parents, teachers, and the laws of our country, all those in authority.)

8. True or False: In ourselves, we have no strength to obey God’s Word. (True.)

9. Where does one get the power to “do right” and live a life that pleases God? (Power comes from the Holy Spirit living in a believer.)

10. Who did the Lord use as His messenger for telling the mystery, or riches of His grace, to the Jews and the Gentiles? (The Apostle Paul.)

Paul—Rich through Christ

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Just say, “No!”

God’s grace gives us the ability to say, “No” to sin. Unscramble the words below to reveal behaviors that God does not want us to participate in

and gives us victory over. Then put the letters from the numbered blocks in the spaces below to solve the definitions of mercy and grace.

NYILG

15

4

TINSEGLA

7

21

8

1

10

NODIEICDESBE

5

LINVIG EIKL HET WDLOR

23

24

14

11

2

22

18

RDSUG DAN LCOLAHO

17

20

13

9

16

12

NGGIETT AMD RO VENE

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19

MERCY:

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GRACE:

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24

Answers: LYING, STEALING, DISOBEDIENCE, LIVING LIKE THE WORLD, DRUGS AND ALCOHOL, GETTING MAD OR EVEN, MERCY: NOT GETTING WHAT YOU DESERVE, GRACE: GETTING WHAT YOU DON'T DESERVE.

