



ROMANS

CRITICAL GRACE THEORY

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February 24 & 27, 2022
Week 7 – But Now...

Introduction:

Romans 3:21 – “But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.”

“Made known” = to _____ up, to _____ with glory”

Romans 3:22-23 – “This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

God's Rescue Plan (Romans 3:24):

1. We have been declared _____

“...and all are justified...”

2. By means of a _____ gift

“...freely by His grace...”

3. Through a _____ that was paid in full

“...through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

Redeem = “to buy back”

The Big Idea:

Never underestimate the power of BUT NOW living!

I was lost...but now I'm found

I was dead...but now I'm alive

I was a sinner...but now I'm a saint

I was condemned...but now I'm justified

I was a slave...but now I'm redeemed

I was guilty...but now I'm innocent

I was dirty...but now I'm clean

I was owned by sin and Satan...but now I'm owned by Jesus my Savior

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. As you think about all of the “but now’s” that Jesus has brought into your life through the Gospel, share about one or two for which you are most grateful right now... (e.g., I was fearful...but now I’m confident, etc.).

Ponderings:

2. Next weekend we will dive more deeply into what our “justification” means, but based on what you remember from the message or what you know from your own study, what does justification mean and why is it such a critical reality not just for eternity but for our daily lives?
3. At what points in your day-to-day life do you typically struggle with feeling condemned?
 - a. when I’m struggling with sin
 - b. when someone is critical of me
 - c. when I feel like I don’t measure up as a parent, friend, employee, etc.
 - d. when I compare myself to others
 - e. something else?
4. How can you apply the reality of your justification to those specific times when the enemy wants you to feel condemned or accused? Try to be as specific as possible or share an example with the group...
5. We are now turning the corner from the “diagnosis” section of Romans (chapters 1-3) to the “deliverance” section (chapters 4-11). What part of the diagnosis section has been the most helpful so far and what part(s) of the upcoming “deliverance” section are you most excited to grow in and why? Feel free to scan through Romans if necessary as a group...

Promptings:

6. What if you truly began to live with a “but now” lifestyle before God and others? How might you walk in greater freedom from fear? From sin? From people-pleasing? From stress?
7. Ask God to teach you...slowly and methodically through Romans...how to live this life by the power of Christ at work in you.