

ROMANS

CRITICAL GRACE THEORY

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March 31 & April 3, 2022
Week 10: Forgiven Forever! (Romans 4:6-8)

Introduction: Romans 4:6-8 1 John 1:9

What the New Testament says about Total Forgiveness:

Colossians 2:13-14	Ephesians 4:32
Hebrews 10:17-181	John 2:12
2 Corinthians 5:18	Colossians 1:22
Romans 5:11	

Three Tools of Interpretation:

1. Grammatical Tools = Tools that _____
2. Historical Tools = Tools that _____
3. Contextual Tools = Tools that _____

Understanding 1 John 1:9 in Context...

- **1 John 1:1-4** – Confronting heresy #1: Christ not a human
- **1 John 1:5-10** – Confronting heresy #2 – Sin not real / no big deal

The Big Idea:

In Romans 4:6-8, Paul's mention of David's words is critical. We must understand them prophetically, as David is looking forward to the coming Christ 1,000 years before He arrived in the manger.

Confession of sin is a good thing – and is part of walking humbly with God. But it is not a means of additional forgiveness. Your forgiveness happened once-for-all at the cross, not little by little through confession!

Because this is true, we can live as forgiven people in the freedom of our new identity in Christ. Free from the penalty and power of sin over our lives!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. If you grew up in church, how were you led to understand 1 John 1:9 in relation to confessing your sins. Was it essentially like a “spiritual bar of soap” that made you “clean” after you confessed? How is that different from God’s once-for-all forgiveness provided through the cross according to the New Testament?

Ponderings:

2. In the weekend message, the following statement was emphasized: *“Confession is about walking humbly with God, not about getting forgiveness from Him.”*

Depending on your religious background, it may come as a shock to realize that, as a Christian, you don’t have to pray, “please forgive me...” because forgiveness is already irreversibly yours. Discuss the implications of this in your personal daily walk with God...

3. Why is Paul referencing King David’s words from Psalm 32 here in Romans 4? Why is it so important to realize that the saints of the Old Testament could only *long for* the realities that we now have in Christ? How should this influence the way you read and understand the Old Testament?
4. If it’s true that you are totally forgiven of every sin past, present and future, how does this impact your desire to live a life that reflects the character of Jesus Christ in and through you? Discuss...

Promptings:

5. You will have friends who fear that this “radical grace message” will encourage more sin in people’s lives. From what you’ve been learning at Valley, why is this fear unfounded and exactly the opposite of the truth?
6. How has the grace of God set you freer and freer from the domination of sin in your life? How can you help other believers to walk more fully in this freedom? Discuss...