

Sermon Title: Common Grace: God's Fatherly Attitude Toward All Men
Sermon Texts: **Romans 3:9-18**, 20; Mk. 2:17; **Mt. 5:43-48**; Jm. 1:17; Eph. 2:1-10; 2 Pt. 3:9; Jn. 3:16. Texts in **bold** were central texts for the sermon.
Sermon Date: Sunday, February 28, 2021.
Main Idea: God is gracious to every person, Christian or not, giving each many blessings in this life.

Introduction

- Do you know who receives and appreciates grace? The person who knows they need it!
- Romans 3:9-18. Observe and reflect on the Bible's description of who we are apart from Christ and His work in our lives.
- What's the hope? Tip the scales by doing greater good? No, that's not the answer but why? Romans 3:20, "No one is justified in God's sight by keeping the law, since knowledge of sin comes through the law." The law reveals how broken we are not how good we are.
- What's the hope? God's grace or His unmerited favor!
- We need to understand who we are as evidenced in Romans 3:9-18. Why? Because the humble receive grace. Mark 2:17. Jesus came to make the sick healthy. You'll never know and experience the saving grace of God if you believe you are basically good.
- Is God only good or gracious toward the Christian? It is clear from Scripture that God is gracious to every person, Christian or not, giving each many blessings in this life.

[Read Matthew 5:43-48]

God's Grace is Needed for All of Life

- Why begin with Romans 3:9-18? To show that any good we experience is a result of God being gracious toward us and with us.
- We often separate existence into the categories of natural and supernatural. This worldview believes that I need God's grace (the supernatural) for heavenly things like forgiveness or becoming more like Jesus. The natural component to this worldview is that there's good in man, something untouched by sin, and we can use that good for doing good. So, the earthly good I experience is a result of my doing. False separation of existence into natural or supernatural or earthly and heavenly categories.
- The biblical truth is that sin has corrupted every part of our being: our mind, our souls, and our bodies. Sin left nothing untouched or unpolluted. Even our physical world is under the curse and judgment of God. Therefore, we need God's grace to touch every part of existence, every man, woman, and child. Any good we have, do, or experience comes from God's gracious hand as a gift. James 1:17.
- Theologians since the Reformation have distinguished God's grace into two headings: common grace and saving grace. God only has one grace, but it's manifested in two ways.
- Common grace is spoken of in passages such as Matthew 5:43-48. Saving grace is spoken of in passages such as Ephesians 2:1-10.
- Common grace is temporary, saving grace is eternal. Common grace is for all, saving grace is for all those God chose in Christ before the foundation of the world. Common grace can be resisted, saving grace is irresistible.
- An important truth is that however God interacts with us, His posture toward us, His relating with us is always by grace, Christian or not.
- After the Fall, God's way of relating to man was based on grace. Whether you're a Christian or not, you are living by grace alone. The world is full of God's grace toward all men.

Common Grace for Today:

Matthew 5:43-48 with a focus on verse 45.

“He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”

- Israel at the time of Matthew’s writing and Jesus’ teaching, was an agricultural society. Sun and rain were crucial to crops growing and flourishing. It’s how they fed their families and made a living. Jesus cites these two items as common grace gifts or blessings.
- Common grace gifts today: Sun, rain, government, art, science, math, engineering, the conscience, medicine, technology, etc.
- It’s important to note that not every way these blessings are used are right, good, or pleasing to God.

Why Does God Bless All People Including the Wicked and Evil?

1. Common grace glorifies Him.
2. He cares for all His creation, even those who are evil and unrighteous.
3. To Lead us to Repentance. 2 Pt. 3:9 and John 3:16.

How Does God’s Common Grace Apply to The Christian?

Matthew 5:43-48 with a focus on verse 48.

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

- Is this attainable or doable? Isn’t perfection out of our reach? Yes, this is why the Christian also needs God’s saving grace daily. He or she experiences God’s common and saving grace daily.
- “Be perfect” is a call to love as our Heavenly Father.
- Our ethic is often, help those who help themselves. Help the good. Love those who love us. Bad people deserve bad and good people deserve good. Naturally, we love those who love us and hate those who hate us. We are grace based when it comes to our relationship with God but works based when it comes to our relationship with others. But is that the Christian life displayed in Matthew 5:43-48? What is the way of living is Jesus calling His followers to embrace?

How Can We, Like Our Heavenly Father, Love and Show Grace to All?

1. Pray for them.
2. Do good to them.

Why Should I Love and Show Grace to All Even to Those Who Hate Me or Persecute Me?

1. Because this is what Jesus commands in Matthew 5:43-48.
2. The Christian’s desire is to fill the earth with worshippers. Our ethic of love those who love me and hate those who hate me, endears no one to the gospel.
3. Hate, bitterness, contempt, ill-will negatively impacts our overall health. A life of love is a full life.