

The title for today's message is; **Nothing in life is free.**

Paul said; **Christ died for the ungodly**

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen

Nothing in life is free. EVER. In Romans chapter 5, Paul tells us of one thing that is entirely free, he says its God's grace.

Now Paul never met the Christian congregations he wrote the letter to, he had only heard of them, and they of him.

Paul had always planned to visit them but things always seemed to come up. So he decided to write a letter instead.

He writes to these Roman Christians a letter that is about the basics of the Christian faith.

Now the book of Romans focuses is on the righteousness of God and on His grace.

Paul hopes that this will lead to an approval of his message and that it will generate support for a mission trip that he plans to make to Spain.

As we start in chapter five, we already see one of the themes of the letter: Its about **grace**.

Paul describes grace here as a free gift. But if life has taught us anything, it's that: nothing is ever free.

We even have a saying that supports this. “There is no such thing as a free lunch.” Free things in our lives often have strings attached.

Free things in our lives can also be pretty cheap, useless, and lame. Really, nothing in life is free!

However, when it comes to God’s grace, Paul debunks these thoughts this morning. He tells us that God’s grace is free!

God’s grace has no strings attached. This is a sharp contrast to our lives.

In our lives, when people give us free things, again there are often strings or conditions attached. Let’s use the example of a free lunch.

When you get a free lunch, it can be for a variety of reasons. It can be done because someone likes or loves you.

Maybe it is because you are nice to them, and that motivates their actions.

Or it can be because someone wants to earn your favor or they want you to do something.

We especially see that when people move and they offer something like pizza for all those who help you.

You can get a free lunch when you make a deal that you will pay for lunch the next time, or to settle a debt. There’s always strings attached.

But here Paul tells us that with God’s grace, that is, His undeserved mercy and kindness, there are no strings attached.

Listen to what Paul says in verse six. He writes: “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”

Weak here describes someone who is powerless, or unable to do anything.

Ungodly describes a person whose lifestyle is dishonorable and is lived in a way that rejects God’s existence.

It’s when we were in this state that Christ died for us. Jesus didn’t do it because of future good works that we would do, or because we had a spark of good in us.

It was not because He owed us something either, or so that we would serve Him and pay Him back.

Paul uses an example to prove his point. He says, “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person-though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die”.

He’s right. In life, we might die for a spouse, significant other, a special friend, or a child.

Paul continued by telling the Christian congregation what type of person Jesus died for, sinners, the evil, fallen, lost, and hostile against Him. He died for people who didn’t deserve anything.

But He did it out of love, and His death in our place shows His love. It shows the depth and greatness of God’s love for us.

It shows His unconditional nature, and that no strings were attached! Christ’s death shows that God’s grace is indeed totally free!

But in life, free things are rarely good, and never last forever. Here Paul announces to the apostles that God's grace is not only free but great.

In verses nine and ten, Paul tells us what God's grace does for us. He says, "Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood.

Much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.

Much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life." God declares us "not guilty" of the sin that we are guilty of doing!

Christ's blood paid the price for our salvation, and His blood gives us not only the hope but also the assurance that we are right with God.

This declaration of being pardoned of our sin means that we will be saved from God's wrath on the Last Day. And we don't have to fear it!

By God's grace, we have been reconciled to Him by the death of His Son. But for us to be reconciled with Him, His precious Son had to die.

Could you be reconciled with a person who cost you your prized possession, or the person you love most in this world?

Could you truly be right with the person who cost you a spouse, child, friend, or parental figure?

Could you truly be okay with them after that, or say to them, "I love you. I'm not mad. I forgive you?" Well God could and He did.

Could you truly be okay with them after that, or say to them, “I love you. I’m not mad. I forgive you?” God could and did.

His reconciliation with us cost Him dearly, but it was worth it to Him. This reconciliation is more than a removal of hostility.

It carries with it a positive relationship and peace. It reveals to us a God Who is personal, caring, and gracious to us because of Jesus.

This reconciliation with Him leads to rejoicing in Him, and how could it not? We are right with the God that we have horribly offended.

We are at peace with Him, and well. Can you think of a free thing that does something better?

Can you think of something free that is more valuable? My friends God’s grace is a great truly free gift that leads to many wonderful things!

Perhaps you might need to buy another product to get something free. Or maybe you need to spend a certain amount to get that free thing.

If you win something on a game show, is it free! No, you have to pay the taxes on what ever you have won.

To show us that God’s gift of grace is free and for all, Paul makes a comparison with Adam, the first man.

He writes, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned”.

He writes, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned”.

The death that he talks about is all encompassing. It is physical, spiritual, and eternal death.

And more than that, Paul says that we have earned this. Why? Because we all have sinned.

There are somethings in life that we cannot blame others for, and this is one of them. Our sin has brought upon us death and damnation.

There are somethings in life that we cannot blame others for, and this is one of them. Our own sin has brought upon us death and damnation.

But God’s forgiveness and grace is given through the waters of our baptism where weak, ungodly infants receive new life and God’s peace.

God’s grace is given through the spoken word that is heard and does what it says. It forgives and restores!

His grace is given through the bread and wine that delivers to us His body and blood that won us our salvation.

Remember it was our own sin that brought upon us death and damnation. And only by God’s grace are saved.

Amen

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.