

ROMANS 5:15-16

Sunday Morning: October 2, 2005

Text: Romans 5:15-17 But not as the offence, so also *is* the free **gift**. For if through the offence of one [the] many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the **gift** by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto [the] many. 16 And not as *it was* by one that sinned, so *is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification. 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

This portion of scripture is not easy to understand, because it is talking about the offence of one who is Adam and the effect of that sin. When Adam sinned in the garden it effected the whole human race. All of us have sinned. All of us need to be saved. Jesus Christ made it possible for all men to be saved, but in this passages of scripture is talking about a gift and this gift is for "the many". It is talking about the fact "the many" have died. In other words being dead, "the many" died, and therefore it is confusing when you think about what Adam's sin brought upon the human race because all are sinners. In this portion of scriptures it is talking about or reference is being made to "the many." Obviously the many are included in the all who are sinners. All of us are sinners even "the many" in this passage of scriptures are sinners. So this is not an easy passage to comprehend, at least I worked on it and I hope I can make it simple enough to make it easy to grasp what my thoughts are on these verses. I hope they will make sense.

The gift in this passage scripture is for the many. It is contrast to all that have died because of Adam's sin. Talking about the many and the gift to the many.

THE GIFT IS FOR THE MANY

Romans 5:15 But not as the offence, so also *is* the free **gift** [χαρισμα, agelasting life]. For if through the offence of one [the] many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift [δωρεα, agelasting life] **by grace**, *which is by one* man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto [the] many.

"But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift" The words "free gift" is from one Greek word charisma, and the word charisma is associated with life in the coming kingdom age. I will show you that in just a few moments. "For if through the offence of one (that is Adam) the many be dead. Obviously they are and so are all for that matter. What Paul is trying to do is to get us focused upon a different group of people, because he wants to talk to that specific group of people about the gift. This gift is not salvation. This gift is beyond salvation and it is the gift of God for the many that have been called unto his kingdom and glory. Now let us continue.

"Much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded to the many." Again the word many has the definite article before it which is reference to this group of people. And notice that there is another gift in this passage. This gift is a different Greek word, so I am persuaded that they are both equal to the same gift. This just simply a method that God uses to hid truth so that not everybody is exposed to it. It is very important for us to realize that to whom much is given will much be required. I can remember to this day in training union class in a Baptist church in Hixson TN I was teaching people how to study scripture and I was bring out the fact that you hear the truth your are responsible for it. This fellow stood up in the back of the class and said "You mean to say that I am going to be responsible for what you are teaching and what I do with it? I said "you will be." He said, "Don't say another word." And he walked out of the class. There is a certain amount of wisdom in that, because

there are some people that want to know a lot of truth, but what they become is smart sinners. What good is that? If you don't respond to what you hear in obedience. So God is in the business of hiding truth because to whom much is given much will be required. If you received a lot of truth and do not respond to it in obedience you will be beaten with many strips. I do not consider that necessarily literal, but I think it is something that I am not going to like. I have had a spanking at home and I did not like it but I got over it soon. To be beaten with many strips is something that the Lord is going to do and we will not like it and it may last longer than you think. So we are talking about the many as a particular group and this gift for them. The gift comes by grace. We have "grace gift" that is the first gift, by the way there is a definite article before the word 'gift'. It is talking about a particular gift. In Ephesians 4:7 -

THE GIFT IS A PORTION

Ephesians 4:7 But unto every one of **us** is given **grace according** to the **measure** (limited portion) of **the gift** [δωρεα, agelasting life] of [genitive, from] Christ.

This word gift here is the second word gift in Romans 5:15. If this is salvation, then salvation only comes in by measure or by portion? NO. When you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ you are instantly in the family of God and it is not done inch by inch or mile by mile. When it comes to the gift, it is given by portion. Now, if you are on the left hand or the right hand of the Lord in the coming kingdom; do you know what that means to me? You are going to need extra grace to endure. You are going to need the extra power of Christ to make it. A king is going to need to receive a greater portion of grace. If you are one of the kings in the kingdom you will have a greater portion, and you are of grace. more grace than a lord. If your gift is to be a lord in the coming kingdom you won't need as much grace because your trials and testing will not be as great or will be less. Remember when John and his brother James wanted to sit on the right and left hand of the Lord in the kingdom. The Lord said that you do not know what you are asking for. The Lord said to have those positions in the kingdom will require them to drink the cup that I am going to have to drink. That cup includes rejection and physical suffering.

Grace is according to the gift. The translation "of Christ" could and I believe would be better translated "from Christ".

THE GRACE GIFT FOR MANY

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but **the gift** [χαρισμα, grace gift] of God is **eternal** [agelasting] **life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here we have the wages of "the sin" is θανατος death. The sin is a definite sin and it is defined as the sin of lawlessness. If you are living a lawless life, your wages, your earnings, a reduction in rank in fact you may even lose your position of honor and glory in the coming kingdom. The wages is death, but the gift, charisma, of God is agelasting life. This is the other Greek word found in Romans 5:15 which is the grace gift for the coming age, the kingdom age. That is the gift that Paul is presenting in Romans 5:15. Paul uses two different Greek words and they both mean the same, agelasting life.

What I have done now in Romans 6:23 is to show you that "the gift", having the definite article before it, and charisma "the grace gift" of God is life for the age. Agelasting life. Remember this that the word "eternal" and "everlasting" comes a Greek word meaning age. It is a noun used as an adjective describing the life. The age life which is life in the coming kingdom age.

Here in John chapter 4 we will see the other gift word that is found in Roman 5:15.

THE GIFT BY GRACE FOR MANY

John 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest **the gift** [δωρεα, agelasting

life] of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee **living water**.

Salvation is not living water. You believe to be saved not drink. Salvation is to be born into the family of God. Water is something we drink, it something ingest, it something we taste. I was just was thinking about water we taste. In the spring of the year, what do you taste or smell in the water? I taste onion. Plants are coming to life in the spring and it runs off into the Mississippi River where we get our water and it comes through the drinking water. Anyway, water is something you ingest, taste, or drink. In Hebrews 6:4 Itp talks about tasting “the gift”.

THE GIFT IS A HEAVENLY GIFT

Hebrews 6:4 For *it is* impossible for **those** (eyes to see) who were once **enlightened**, and have **tasted** (to taste is to eat, not birth from above) of the **heavenly** [the] **gift** [δωρεα, agelasting life], . . .”

The word “enlightened” implies that they have eyes to see. The word word “taste” is to eat and it does not mean to be born from above. New birth comes when be believe on the Lord Jesus. Notice that “the gift” is a heavenly gift. That heavenly gift is the agelasting life. Where do we get the association? We get it out of John 4:14.

THE HEAVENLY GIFT

John 4:14 But whosoever **drinketh** [present active] of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of **water springing** [present tense] up into [leading to] **everlasting** [agelasting] **life** (in the kingdom).

The word drinketh is in the present sense there it is not an event or a sip but an on going process of drinking. What was she to be drinking? The living water of verse 10. What do we need to be drinking? The living water. This living water will become a well that will be springing up, present tense, a continual process of coming up, like some artesian wells, they do not need a pump. The word “into” can be translated “leading to” life for the age. The word “everlasting” comes from the word “iaon” which is translated “age.” I think about being saved and in the family of God as being for ever and those words “for ever” is used in the English from which we apply the English word “eternal.” When it comes to Christ ruling and reigning the scripture is making reference to the millennial kingdom age. So here we see that the “dorea” is what? Agelasting life. I want us to see that there is one gift spelled two different ways in Romans 5:15. One is the grace gift, not free gift, grace gift and the other is the gift by grace. It is the grace of God that allows us to serve Him acceptably with reverence and Godly fear. It is the grace of God that honors his strength and power. If we do not have the grace of God we are serving God in our own strength. You and know what produces, wood, hay, and stubble. That is nothing in the world but good fire wood.

Back to Romans 5:15.... The grace gift is for the many it is not like the transgression which applies to all.

GRACE GIFT FOR THE MANY, NOT ALL

Romans 5:15 But the **free gift** [χαρισμα, grace gift, agelasting life] (for the many) is not like the transgression (all are sinners). . . . [NASB]

I used the NASB to show how they translated the first part of this verse. It should help you to see the contrast between the “free gift” or better “grace gift” is not like the transgression of Adam. The transgression of Adam fell on all mankind. In contrast “the gift” is for the many. That is the contrast between the scope of Adam’s transgression and Christ’s grace gift. Adam’s sin effected everybody in the human race. The gift is only going to effect the many that are called

unto His kingdom and glory. By the way, the Lord has the privilege of doing this. People call this exclusivism. In other words, God is not treating all of his children the same. Obviously when you read the New Testament you find that this is absolutely the fact, the truth. Jesus Christ took his apostles to the mount of transfiguration he did not take them all. He took Peter, James, and John. He did not treat all of his apostles the same even though they had the same office. Some apostles had privileges that others did not have. That is the way it will be in his family. The first-born rule and reign or those who have the firstborn inheritance. They are going to rule and reign in the family. That means that they have exclusive right the other children do not have. Here is the thing that we need to be warned about, is that we can disqualify ourselves from being ahead of the family. We can disqualify ourselves by living in sin and practicing lawlessness. We can disqualify ourselves from ruling and reigning in Christ coming kingdom and hearing a "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." You do not lose your salvation, that can never change. You believe on the Lord Jesus Christ you will be saved. You had better be faithful and obedient to the Lord whether you have been called or not, because the just, the obedient, will receive a double portion outside the land flowing with milk and honey. That is not all bad. That is a double portion, but not in the most preferable position or place in the kingdom.

BY ONE MAN ALL HAVE SINNED

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as **by one man sin entered into the world**, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that **all have sinned**: (including the many)

This verse affirms the fact that all of mankind are sinners in need of a savior. All are dead and need life by means of being born from above.

The following verse are offered to confirm the state of the human race.

ALL ARE DEAD

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 . . . that if **one died for all**, then were **all dead**: *15 And that he died for all*, (including the many) that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves

The word "all" includes "the many." Those who become saved and are given life should not live unto themselves but unto the Lord. Whether you have been called or not, if you are saved you are to live for the Lord. He saved you for a purpose and that purpose is to live for and to honor Him. In Acts chapter 2 we find another reference to the gift, dorea.

THE GIFT AND PROMISE ARE ONE

Acts 2:38-39 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission** [$\alpha\theta\epsilon\sigma\iota\varsigma$, deliverance] of sins, and ye shall receive **the gift** [$\delta\omega\rho\epsilon\alpha$, age-lasting life] **of** [genitive, from] the **Holy Ghost**. **39 For** [conjunction] **the promise** (the gift) is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even as many as the Lord our God shall call*.

The word remission means deliverance. This message that Peter was preaching in Acts 2 had to do with the kingdom. Repentance, baptism, and remission is what John the Baptist preached. Jesus also preached repent and be baptized. That is what the 70 preached, repent and be baptized and you will be delivered from the power of sin in your life. Sin won't have the power over you, and you "shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." There are those who teach if you will repent and be baptized you will get the Holy Spirit. If you are saved before you baptized you already have the Holy Spirit indwelling in you. When you are born from above you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. I am not looking to receive the Holy Spirit, therefore the gift should be associated with the receiving of the Holy Spirit. It is the gift "from" and not "of" the Holy Spirit. I

put [genitive, from] this in the verse so you can see that the word “of” can be translated “from” and I believe gives the better since as to what Peter is presenting. Why do I say that? I did not put this in the notes, but let me give you this input. I believe it is in John 16 that we see that it is the Holy Spirit that teaches this truth. You are not going to get this if the Holy Spirit is not teaching it. He is going to show us things that belong to the Lord, and that is things to come. It is the Holy Spirit that is teaching us about this gift.

“For” a conjunction. This conjunction connects verse 38 with verse 39. For “the promise.” There is a definite article before the word promise. The word promise is singular in number, so this promise is a particular promise. This is very important promise. It is the promise. This promise is not offered to everybody. It is offer to “you” referred to a “brethren” in verse 37 and “unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off (gentiles), *even* as **many** as the Lord our God shall **call**.” This promise is for the called and not all are called, but many are called, Matthew 22.14. This promise is has to do with the gift found in verse 38.

Look in 1 John 2:25 for the definition of the promise.

THE PROMISE

1 John 2:25 And this is **the promise** that he hath promised us, *even eternal* [agelasting] **life**.

Do you know what the promise is? It is to rule and reign with Christ in His coming kingdom. What is required? Repentance. Baptism is not associated with the act, but with dying to self. When you repent you are changing your attitude to what you want to do which is part of the process of dying to self. We repent of our will to live out God’s will in our lives. Baptism is a burial and you do not bury live people. Baptism is a burial of those who have died to self.

This promise of agelasting life is offered to those who want to be delivered from the power of sin in their lives. We need to die to self as well as the sin that would control us.

Gentiles had this gift offered to them in Acts 10.

OPEN TO GENTILES

Acts 10:43-45 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever **believeth** [present active] in him shall receive **remission** [αθεσις, deliverance] of sins. **44** While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. (Peter and those with him also) **45** And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out **the gift** [δωρεα, agelasting life] **of** [genitive, from] the Holy Ghost.

Part of dying to self is believing in the present tense. This is not in the aorist tense which would mean the common salvation, this is in the presence tense. Those believing in the present tense are going to received “remission”, which is deliverance, from sin.

I want to share this next thought with you about being delivered from sin. We are not delivered from just one time. It will dog you for the rest of your life, but it does not have to be in charge. You sin, I sin, you know what? You confess, I confess and we are cleansed. Deliverance is not an event but a process. It is on going, one sin even to the next sin event. Sin confess, sin confess, and if you don’t know that you have sinned, read the Bible and it will provide fellowship with the Lord and that will provide cleaning through his blood.

Continuing in verse 45 we see that the gift, dorea, is poured out, which would be by portion, on the Gentiles. This gift that was poured out on the Gentiles was from the Holy Spirit. Salvation is not poured out. The evidence was not for Cornelius or those who were with him, Cornelius was

rejoicing in what he was hearing. He was now going to be included in the blessings that was at one time only offered to the nation of Israel. Gentiles had been excluded from the message of the kingdom, but not any more.

When the Gentiles begin to speak in tongues, it was for whom? It was for Peter and the other Jews that were with Peter. There was a time when Peter and other Jews thought that only Jews could have this blessing and they were not to go to Gentiles with this message. God used the speaking in tongues to convince those of the circumcision that God was opening this blessing to the Gentiles also. Look in Matthew 10:5-6

AT ONE TIME, ONLY ISRAEL

Matthew 10:5-6 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles**, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 6
But go rather to the lost **sheep** of the house of **Israel**.

Gentiles were excluded as far as the kingdom was concerned. Here in Acts chapter 10, about 15 years after Paul had been preaching to Gentiles, Peter was finally convinced. Can you imagine an Apostle struggling for about 15 years with what Paul preaching the kingdom message to Gentiles. Peter had a problem with it and the Lord helped him with it. The reason the Lord helped Peter get that truth because the Lord gave Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Peter used the keys to the kingdom here in Acts 10 to open to Gentiles the message of the kingdom. Peter did the same thing in Acts 8 to open the door for the Samaritans to received the kingdom message. Now look in Acts 11:18.

GENTILES GRANTED THE PROMISE

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the **Gentiles** granted **repentance** unto **life** (in the kingdom age).

Repentance, changing the way that you live and your attitude toward sin does not get you saved. Repentance will allow us to become just so that we can live by faith and have life in the kingdom age.

Not this next passage is important.

CHRIST RECEIVED THE PROMISE

Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the **right hand** of God **exalted**, and having **received** [aorist] of the Father **the promise** of [genitive, from] the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Jesus received the promise. What was the promise? Life for the kingdom age. Is Jesus Christ going to rule in reign in the coming kingdom. Yes, without a doubt. He will be King of kings and Lord of lords.

The evidence that Jesus received the promise was that the disciples were speaking in languages that would be understood by those in Jerusalem for the Passover.

CHRIST SOUL WENT TO HADES

Acts 2:31 He seeing this before spake of the **resurrection** of Christ, that his **soul** was not left in **hell** [Hades, paradise], neither his flesh did see **corruption** (in the tomb, His spirit went to the Father).

When Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross, his body went into the tomb and his spirit went to be with the Father, and his soul went to Hades or paradise. The place where Lazarus, Abraham, and the rich man were as revealed in Luke 16:19-31. They were in Hades, verse 23. Luke 16:23

And in **hell** [Hades] he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

PARADISE AND HADES ARE ONE

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **To day shalt thou** (his soul) be with me in **paradise**. (spirit to the Father, body in the grave)

When Jesus went to Hades He went to the bosom of Abraham where Lazarus was and later that day the thief that died next to him on the cross.

THE FATHER GAVE HIM GLORY

1 Peter 1:21 Who by him do believe [present active] in God, that raised him up from the dead, and **gave him glory**; that your faith and hope might be in God.

In **Acts 2:33** Therefore being by the **right hand** of God **exalted**” we see that Christ is exalted to the right hand of God we can see this in this passage of 1 Peter 1:21. Because God gave Christ glory we too can hope in to share in that glory which will be during the millennial reign of Christ.

THE GIFT IS NOT AS THE FALL

Romans 5:16 And **not as** *it was* by one that **sinned** (all have sinned), *so is the gift* [δωρεα, agelasting life] (for the many): for the **judgment** was by **one** to condemnation (for all died), but the **free gift** [χαρισμα, grace gift, agelasting life] *is* of [εκ, out of] **many offences** [from the verb “to fall away”, Heb 6.6] **unto** [εις, leading to] **justification** (by faith).

There is a contrast between **the gift, the grace gift**, and the consequences of Adam’s sin. Adam’s sin effected all of mankind. The gift by grace is not offered to all but to the many that have been called.

The free gift, grace gift, will be obtained out of many offences. The Greek word εκ is translated “of” and “of” does not show that “the many” deliver themselves through confession and repentance from the offence that is causing them to fall away. We all sin because of Adam’s transgression, but we do not have to continue to live in sin. Confession and repentance will leads to justification, or being unchargeable.

Just sinning a brief time will not cause the many to be disqualified for entrance into the kingdom. I know that the greater the knowledge the shorter the time that God will allow to continue to live in the offence or sin. Moses broke a type by striking the rock the second time and was disqualified form interring into the land flowing with milk and hone.

We can see from 2 Peter 3:9 that the Lord wants us to succeed.

NOT WILLING THAT WE LOSE THE GIFT

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his [the] **promise** (agelasting life, the gift), as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should **perish** (to lose that promise, the gift), but that all should come to **repentance**. (to be not chargeable, justified)

The Lord is not quick on the trigger when it comes to “the promise” to disqualify us from obtaining the promise which is the gift of agelasting life. He is longsuffering to us, Peter and to those to whom he writing. Moses, Aaron, and about 600,000 saved Jews perished in the wilderness. They died literally in the wilderness, but in type “to perish” is to lose the blessed inheritance in the land flowing with milk and honey. To perish is to experience “the death” which means that dominion as a king or a lord in the coming kingdom of our Lord will be lost. There inheritance was outside the land flowing with milk and honey which was a less desirable inheritance. If we

come to repentance we will not be chargeable therefore justified.

THE GIFT, NOT DESCRIBABLE

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks *be* unto God for his **unspeakable** [adjective] [the] **gift** [δωρεα, age-lasting life].

God is to be thanked for the unspeakable gift, with the definite article before it. That gift is the blessing of the promise of age-lasting life in Christ kingdom, his 1,000 year reign. 1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. I have not thought about what it is going to be like and none of you have thought about what is going to be like. It will do no good for us to get together to try to figure out what it is going to be like.

We should become excited about the prospects of experiencing the unspeakable gift of life for the age. We can see the coronation of a king or queen on TV with all of the display of wealth in jewels and royal clothing riding in carriages and guard escorts riding on horses parading of the earthly glory that can be displayed. The pomp and circumstance of royalty to day, regardless of their wealth, glory and power are but paupers in comparison to what it is going to be like in His heavenly kingdom. Streets of gold for starters. WOW!

What are we suppose to be doing now? 1 Peter 4:10:

MINISTER THE GIFT

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received **the gift** [χαρισμα, grace gift, age-lasting life], *even* so **minister** [present active participle] **the same** (the grace gift) one to another, as good **stewards** of the manifold grace of God.

The word “receive” in this verse may imply having obtained the gift, but that the promise of life the kingdom age is future. It is the truth and concepts of “the gift” that we received now is what we are to minister to each other. The ministry is to be on going. This ministry to each other will encourage us to confess un-confessed sins and to repent of sins. We are to be ministers of the word of His grace. Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. The thought “one to another” implies accountability to one another to insure that we will continue to endure and not fall away.