

Living Stones Church
Sermon Notes – April 5, 2009

**“Grace: Available to All Who Have Sinned,
Available to All Who Believe”**

Romans 3:22 - 23

Key word: ALL. That is one immense three-letter word, for by it we measure the width of God’s Grace and the height of His love. God’s net is as large as the number of people who are willing to fall into its safety. Not one of us is outside the scope of His Grace. There is no distinctions among the world of sinners, no pecking order within the league of Gods elect.

Have you been excusing a sin in your life by calling it another name? Is it an unfortunate trait? A weakness? An unproductive habit? Maybe we justify it by saying we were not properly potty trained. Before we can experience God’s grace, we have to see ourselves as the sinners we really are in God’s sight – as the song says so well, as “wretches”. You know today, that’s not the way society wants us to think of ourselves, but before we can experience abundant grace, we have to understand our total depravity and admit the inability to save ourselves to receive and understand Christ’s total love.

There are indeed degrees of sin. A jaywalker receives a lighter sentence than a murderer. But all of that is according to earthly standards—“nit-picking” by the standards of heaven. Because as a “little leaven leavens the whole lump,” a molecule of sin contaminates a soul, **ALL** are found guilty. And because Grace cleans us from sin just as absolutely, we find ourselves standing at the throne of grace without any ranking and measurements.

ALL are equally pure and clean before God. You will stand with the apostles of Jesus, equally righteous in God’s sight. The Father will look upon each of us and see only the purity of His own Son. Have you accepted this wonderful gift yet? This “AMAZING GRACE THAT SAVED A WRETCH LIKE ME!”

Grace is a gift that cost everything to the giver and nothing to the receiver. It is given to those who don’t deserve it, barely recognize it and hardly appreciate it. That’s why God, and God alone, should receive the glory in our salvation. The Son of God, the man called Jesus did all the work when he willingly died on the cross for our sins.

I wonder, do you know Him today? Have you been a recipient of His Grace? It is available to you today- will you accept it today?