

# ROMANS

CRITICAL GRACE THEORY

Jeremy White, Lead Pastor  
Valley Church

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Week 9: Foundations of God's Grace

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## Introduction:

Romans 4:1-5

Genesis 12:1-3

God promises Abram a \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_

## Three Foundations of God's Grace:

1. God's grace is \_\_\_\_\_

*I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great...I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse...*

Genesis 15:5-6

2. God's grace is \_\_\_\_\_

...and you *will* be a blessing.

(Literally: "In order that you will be a blessing" – Dr. Walter Kaiser)

3. God's grace is \_\_\_\_\_

...and *all peoples of the earth* will be blessed through you.

(Literally: "so that all peoples on earth..." – Dr. Walter Kaiser)

Not universally *accepted*, but universally *available*.

## The Big Idea:

God's Covenant with Abram (Abraham) is the Old Testament foreshadow of the New Covenant – displaying that righteousness comes through faith alone as a free gift designed to transform our hearts...

## QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

### Personal Life:

1. What does it mean in today's language when we say that a person is trying to "justify themselves?" Give a specific example...

### Ponderings:

2. Some are quick to embrace salvation by grace, but turn to a law-based mentality for just about every other part of dealing with life. How is the fact that Abraham lived 600 years before the Law a foreshadowing of New Covenant life for us? Try to explain it in your own words...
3. Read the story of God confirming His covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15:1-20) and discuss the following...
  - What specific attributes of God are displayed either directly or indirectly in this passage and why is this important?
  - In the weekend message, we discussed the background behind this ancient covenant ceremony of walking between the animal halves together. What message was God sending by passing through the animals *alone* – without Abram to accompany Him?
  - When we understand the imagery in this account of Abraham, what do we learn about God's original desire for relationship with humanity prior to giving the Law of Moses?
4. Thinking back to the observations we made about God's grace displayed in Abram's life, which of the three do you have the most difficulty grasping or believing consistently and why?
  - That God's grace is UNCONDITIONAL (Truly one-way in nature)
  - That God's grace is UNSTOPPABLE (Will accomplish God's purpose)
  - That God's grace is UNIVERSAL (Available to all who receive it)

### Promptings:

5. How does God intend for His grace to influence your marriage? Your singleness? Your dating life? Your parenting? Your workplace? Your finances? Your social life? Give specific examples where possible...
  - Are you willing to let this happen? If so, how???
  - Pray for one another – that God's kindness would lead to further repentance in your life (Romans 2:4) and that His grace would teach you to deny ungodliness and to live soberly and righteously in this present age as we anticipate Christ's return (Titus 2:11-13).