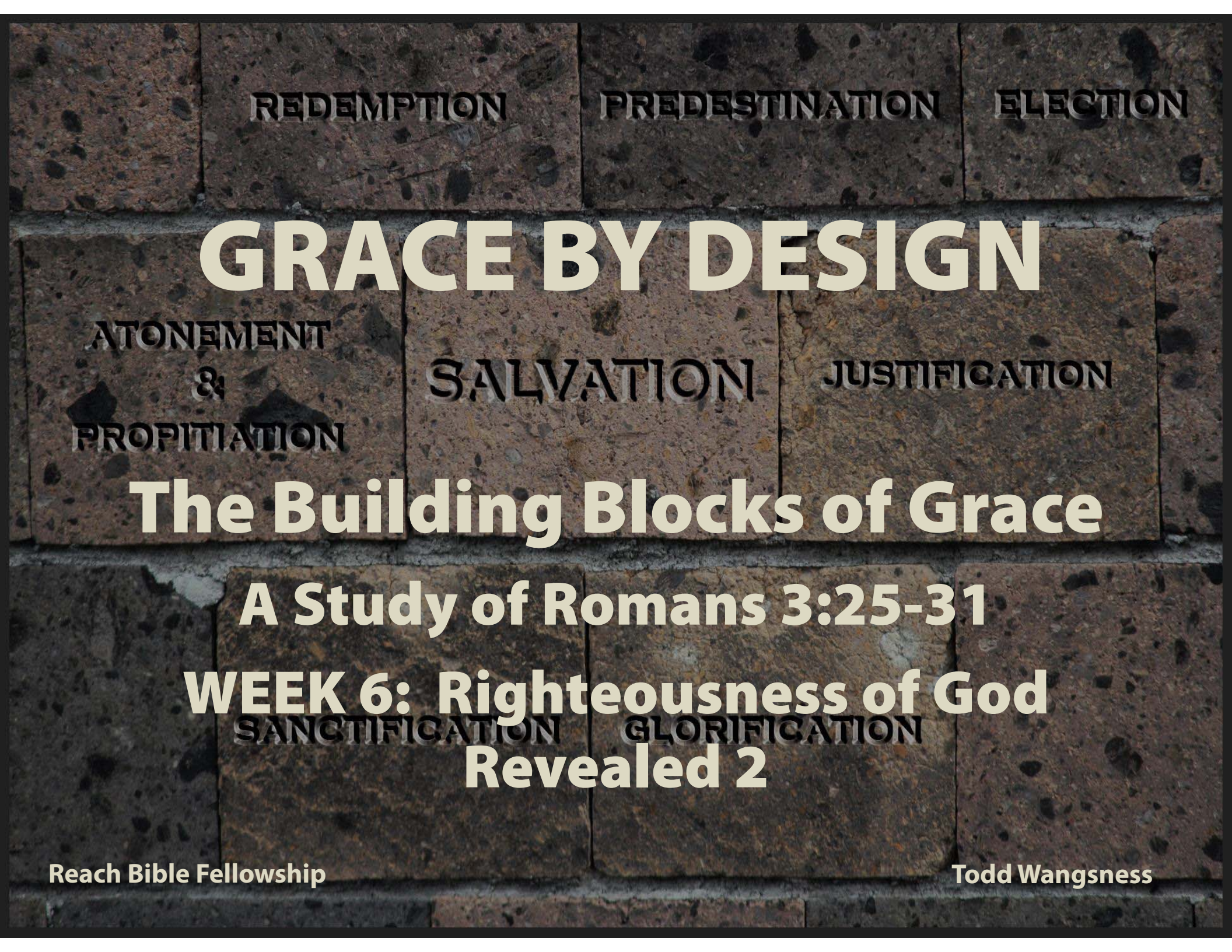


GRACE BY DESIGN

The Building Blocks of Grace

A Study of Romans 3:25-31

WEEK 6: Righteousness of God Revealed 2

Reach Bible Fellowship

Todd Wangsness

Grace By Design: Study Outline

Week 1:	Romans	Overview of Grace and Salvation
Week 2:	Rom 1:1 – 1:17	Introduction to Romans
Week 3:	Rom 1:18 – 2:16	Justification – Ignorance is not an Excuse
Week 4:	Rom 2:17 – 3:20	Justification – Knowledge isn't Good Enough
Week 5:	Rom. 3:21 – 3:24	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 1
Week 6:	**Rom. 3:25 – 3:31**	**Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 2**
Week 7:	Rom. 4:1 – 4:25	Justification – Faith vs the Law
Week 8:	Rom. 5:1 – 5:11	Sanctification – Peace with God 1
Week 9:	Rom. 5:12 – 5:21	Sanctification – Peace with God 2
Week 10:	Rom. 6:1 – 6:14	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 1
Week 11:	Rom. 6:15 – 6:23	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 2
Week 12:	Rom. 7:1 – 7:25	Sanctification – The Law Can't Save (But the Spirit Can!)
Week 13:	Rom. 8:1 – 8:17	Sanctification – Life in the Spirit
Week 14:	Rom. 8:18 – 8:30	Glorification – From Suffering to Glory
Week 15:	Rom. 8:31 – 8:39	Glorification – God's Everlasting Love
Week 16:	Rom. 9:1 – 9:33	Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose
Week 17:	Rom. 10:1 – 10:13	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 1
Week 18:	Rom. 10:14 – 10:21	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 2
Week 19:	Rom. 11:1 – 11:36	The Salvation of the Jewish people
Week 20:	Rom. 12:1 – 12:2	Living the Transformed Life
Week 21:	Rom. 12:3– 12:8	Gifts of the Spirit
Week 22:	Rom. 12:9– 12:21	The Christian Walk
Week 23:	Rom. 13:1 – 13:14	Love Fulfills the Law
Week 24:	Rom. 14:1 – 14:21	Not Judging the Weak in Faith
Week 25:	Rom. 15:1 – 15:25	Bearing One Another's Burdens
Week 26:	Rom. 16:1 – 16:25	Conclusion and closing remarks

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Romans 3

:25 ***whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,***

- ***"propitiation":*** **(Greek *hilastērion*) Literally, "mercy seat", referencing the Ark of the Covenant**
- ***"through faith":*** **Over and over again in this passage, and the whole book of Romans, faith (belief) in Jesus Christ is a requirement! It is the pen by which we accept God's free gift of Grace.**
- **The bible does NOT teach Universalism. There are not many paths to God…only one! Jesus Christ!**
- **No works allowed!**
  - ***Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.***
  - ***Tit 3:5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit***

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"in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed"

- **Old Testament saints had their sins "covered", not forgiven**
  - ***Heb 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.***
  - **Their sins would not (and could not) be forgiven until Jesus paid the price on the cross**
- **Old Testament saints were on the "Credit Card" system**
- **New Testament saints are on the "Debit Card" system**
- **Regardless, OT and NT saints both require(d) belief (faith) in the atoning work of Jesus to be forgiven**
- **Once we are Justified, we no longer need to seek forgiveness**
  - **God forgives ALL our sins; past, present and future <u>at the moment</u> of Justification!**
    - **He now views us through the veil of Jesus' blood and sees only perfection!**
  - **We now go to the cross to seek restoration of fellowship**
  - ***Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need***
  - **We now give thanks to the Father and to Jesus for His sacrifice on our behalf**

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Romans 3

:26 ***to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and [also] the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.***

- **Two of God's attributes: His Righteousness and His Love (Mercy)**
  - **He satisfies His Righteousness by transferring the just punishment due us to the head of Jesus Christ**
  - **He satisfies His Love for us, by now being able to justify (reconcile) us to Himself and convey His own righteousness to us through the finished work of Jesus Christ**
  - ***2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***
- **I like to add the word "also" to the sentence. I think God is ok with that.**
- **The word 'also' emphasizes that both attributes are simultaneously satisfied.**
- **Where Justification and Sanctification meet:**
  - ***Heb 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.***
- **We (imperfectly) live the rest of our lives in the process of "Sanctification".**
- **We repeatedly go back to the cross to restore the loss of fellowship we have with God.**

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In regards about seeking forgiveness of sins following justification…

- **This is a debated topic within the church. The following is my opinion on the matter.**
- **Of course we continue to sin following being saved. However, in Heb 10:14, God views us as perfected once we are justified. He views us through the veil of Jesus' perfect sacrifice.**
- ***Col 2:13-14 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.***
  - **The verse above states that he has "forgiven you all trespasses". So – from a judicial perspective – God HAS forgiven us of all our sins (past, present, future) and nailed them to the cross. Experientially, we continue to sin, but – judicially – we have been forgiven once for all time.**
- ***Acts 10:43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.***
  - **The wording here in Acts 10 indicates that the remission is a once for all event. It does not say, "will continue to receive remission".**
- ***I John 2:12a I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.***
  - **Note the past tense verbiage.**

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In regards about seeking forgiveness of sins following justification…(continued)

- I believe the core issue is whether we continue to "practice" sin, which is addressed in the whole of 1 John. If we do, then we fail the test as described in 2 Cor 13:5 where we are to "examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith". We should not be living in such a manner that we see how close to the edge we can get while still calling ourselves Christians.
- Experientially, we do continue to sin against God and we definitely feel estranged from Him until we go back to the cross and confess our sins to Him and have Him cleanse our sullied consciences so that we may again have unfettered fellowship with Him.
- However, judicially (legally), He has already forgiven us and He views us as perfected.

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Romans 3

:27-28 ***Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.***

- **Paul introduces a new "Law", the "Law of Faith", which is the basis of the New Covenant**
- **This new Law supercedes the earlier Law of Moses**
  - ***Heb 8:13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.***
- **This new Law of Faith is the mechanism God provides to us to live (and enjoy) the righteousness and perfection of Jesus Christ that covers us like a robe**
  - ***Gal 3:24-25 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.***
  - **More to come on this topic in Romans 7**
- **We are "justified" by faith "apart" (outside of) the Law (of Moses) and its many (613) requirements**
- **Through FAITH, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit gives us POWER over sin and our sin nature we inherited from Adam!**

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God's Covenants…

- **Covenants include both Facts and Promises**
  - **Facts:** **Terms in the covenant that are already in our possession**
  - **Promises:** **Terms that are to be provided**

- **A covenant becomes a matter of His righteousness**

- **We don't actually need Him to covenant with us**

- **BUT - since He cannot lie, if He promises…it's as good as done!**

- **But He covenants with us to increase our confidence (faith) that He will deliver what He has promised!**

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- **God has placed Himself under covenant to save us from His wrath!**
- **He's now bound by His Righteousness to:**
  - **Forgive our sins through the blood of Jesus Christ (no more guilt!)**
  - **Impute to us the righteousness of Jesus Christ! (a sanctified life!)**
- **God's Facts vs. God's Promises …**
  - **God's Facts are already in our possession. We no longer need to pray for them!**
  - **We just need to believe (accept through Faith) they are true!**
- **Here are a few FACTS that have already been given to us in the New Covenant**

  - ***Heb 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."***

  - ***2Pet 1:3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue***

  - ***Eph 2:5-6 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,***

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- *Heb 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
  - **"lay aside" is an act of the will**

- **Where does our Will come from?**
  - *Phil 2:12 work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure*

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God has given us POWER OVER SIN!

- **Our Old Man (sin nature) has been rendered impotent**
  - ***Rom 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.***
  - **"Done away with" (Greek *katargeō*)**
    - » **to render idle, unemployed, inactivate, inoperative**
    - » **to cause a person or thing to have no further efficiency**
    - » **to deprive of force, influence, power**
    - » **to cause to cease, put an end to, do away with, annul, abolish**
    - » **to cease, to pass away, be done away**
    - » **to be severed from, separated from, discharged from, loosed from any one**
    - » **to terminate all intercourse with one**
  - ***Rom 6:14 … sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.***
    - » **A promise and an expectation**
- **Our challenge is to CHOOSE on a minute-by-minute basis to follow God**

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- **The loader below can lift 400 tons of ore!**
- **There is NO way – in our own strength – we can lift that heavy load!**
- **However, if we crawl up into the cab and flip a tiny lever, its powerful 4,023 horsepower MTU 20V4000 C23 engine supplies the power to lift it with ease!**
- **Likewise, we cannot in our own strength battle the temptation to sin**
- **But the Holy Spirit within us can "do all things through Christ who strengthens me!**
- **But – WE MUST CHOOSE TO FLIP THAT LEVER!**



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Romans 3

:29-31 ***Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.***

- ***"there is one God who will justify … by faith"***
  - **We are to now live an "exchanged life", not merely a "changed life"!**
  - **Jesus did not come back to "make bad men good" or "good men better"! He came back to resurrect the [spiritually] dead to life!**
  - **James 2:14-26 talks about our faith vs our works**
  - **Our faith and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is now our motivation to do good works**
  - **Our "works" are an outward manifestation of the inner reality of the Holy Spirit in us**

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- **Recap of what we've studied in the last two sessions … the DEEPER MAGIC!**

- ***1 Cor 1:30 But OF HIM you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption***
- ***2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

- **God has never forgiven a single sin!**
- **Through Jesus' substitutionary atonement (propitiation), He transferred the guilt (and shame) of our sins to the head of Jesus Christ.**
- **Through our identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, God judicially grants us Jesus' own Righteousness.**

- ***2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.***

- ***Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.***

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Questions to Ponder…

- *"propitiation by His blood"*
  - **"Propitiation" means "mercy seat" where Paul is describing Jesus as the seat of the Ark of the Covenant.**
  - **What are some typologies we can draw from the OT temple and its contents?**
    - *1 The 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
    - *1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*
      - **Reference graphic on next page**
  - **Do we need to "keep" the 10 Commandments? Are they binding upon us as NT saints? Ref Eph 2:15**
  - **Is there a scriptural basis for separating the 10 Commandments from the rest of the Law?**
- **Is there a difference between being "in Christ" and Christ being "in us"?**

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Contrasting the Old Testament Temple to the New Covenant Temple

