

# *Reigning in Life*

## The Present Effect of Super-Abundant Grace

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*"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." ~ Romans 5:17*

**P**aul gloriously revealed in "the abundance of grace" that floods forth from our benevolent God. Remember, *abundant* is defined as "a greater quantity than is wanted."

The natural man (whose identity is still in Adam) does not want super-abundant grace. The Adamic flesh cringes at the very thought of it. Instead he would rather glory in his own self-righteousness, or wallow in his sinfulness. However, those who receive the overflow of abundant grace live in contrast to the descendants of Adam – glorying and basking in Christ-righteousness.

Adam's posterity live under the *reign of death*. Death rules their daily lives. It is not just that they will die one day, it is that death has dominion over their daily existence.

*"... death reigned by one ..."* (Romans 5:17).

*"... sin hath reigned unto death ..."* (Romans 5:21).

*"... who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage"* (Hebrews 2:15).

By sharp contrast, those who have presently received God's grace *already* possess the *reign of life*. This grace is abundant. It is super-abundant.

*“That as sin hath reigned unto death, **even so might grace reign** through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 5:21).*

Solomon describes the state of daily Adamic life “under the sun” (a phrase found 29 times in Ecclesiastes).

*“Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; **all is vanity.**”*

*“What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?” (Ecclesiastes 1:2-3).*

Adamic life is simply vain. It is futile, dry, barren, and unsatisfying. It is utter emptiness and waste.

The next few verses go on to describe the seemingly endless cycle of human existence. I am reminded of the mouse running on the wheel in his cage every time that I read verses four through eight:

*“One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again. All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing” (Ecclesiastes 1:4-8).*

Solomon sums up man’s life and labor, saying that “*all is vanity.*” Consulting Paul, the apostle, however, will get us another view:

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58).*

The contrasting “*all is vanity,*” and “*is not in vain,*” represent the difference between *Adamic life* and *Christ life*. Paul says, “*your labour is not in vain **in the Lord.***” Those of us who have received the “*abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness*” presently possess the *life of Christ* – a vibrant, divine reality – and “*shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.*”

Paul encourages Timothy to take hold of this valuable possession.

*“Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold on eternal life,** whereunto thou art also called ...” (I Timothy 6:12).*

The life of God already belonged to Timothy. All he needed to do was walk in it richly as his daily life. The divine answer to a life of vanity is that “*they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness **shall reign in life** by one, Jesus Christ.*”

This abundance of grace literally opens the *floodgate* of abundance from God. Look at some of the abundant things from God that are shown in the following verses:

*“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may **abound in hope**, through the power of the Holy Ghost”* (Romans 15:13).

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always **abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”* (I Corinthians 15:58).

*“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more **exceeding and eternal weight of glory**”* (II Corinthians 4:17).

*“Wherein He hath **abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence**”* (Ephesians 1:8).

*“And what is the **exceeding greatness of His power** to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power”* (Ephesians 1:19).

*“Now unto Him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly above** all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us”* (Ephesians 3:20).

*“And this I pray, that your **love may abound** yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment”* (Philippians 1:9).

*“Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, **abounding therein** with thanksgiving”* (Colossians 2:7).

*“... According to His mercy ... which He **shed on us abundantly** through Jesus Christ our Saviour”* (Titus 3:5-6).

The present effect of God's super-abundant grace is clear. Those who have “*receive abundance of grace*” shall “*reign in life.*” We have *divine life* now! We do not have to wait for the resurrection to enjoy it. We can presently live under the reign of divine purpose. The reason? Because this divine life in which we reign is the very life of our dear Saviour.

*“... Christ, Who is our life”* (Colossians 3:4).

We, who presently have *His* life, are the only ones who *really* live. We are alive in abundant fullness. Is it any wonder that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ said:

*“... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”* (John 10:10).

To which Paul would add the voice of praise:

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ ... To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.”* (Ephesians 1:3-6).

Do not allow Adamic bondage to reign over your life. Live as whom God has made you to be! Live in the divine fullness of freedom in grace’s reign – the *reign of life* in Christ Jesus!

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