

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 101

*God's Overflowing Grace
Conquers the Reign of Sin
Part 1 - the Course of this World*



2017

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31)* "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." *(John 3:16)* "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



LESSON

In our last lesson we learned a lot about God's grace and our fathers' roles in showing us grace when we sinned. Remember Grace is God's favor and blessing toward completely underserving human beings...all human beings.

You see, kids, as human beings, we are all sinners and that is why we need God's GRACE and Jesus' salvation. God tells us this in His Bible in [Rom 3:23](#) "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

This means that when we and ALL mankind were born physically we **received a natural nature to sin from Adam** because he sinned first and got that nature when he fell out of God's grace and was separated spiritually from God. He was dead to God because the result of sin is death. [Rom 6:23](#) "For the wages (result) of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." So since we all came from Adam and as a consequence of Adam's sin we were all spiritually separated from God and dead to Him at physical birth and can do nothing in ourselves to solve that problem. We needed God's grace.

God provided that GRACE in Jesus and Jesus' cross met all of the charges against us and all human beings by God and God's throne in a completely righteous or perfect way. [Romans 5:21](#). "...so that, as **sin reigned in death**, even so **grace would reign** through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."



Another way of saying this is that to begin to really appreciate how wonderful and overflowing the reign or

rule of grace really is, you first need to come to terms with what the reign or rule of sin was really all about. It's going to take a few lessons to learn all about these important Truths in God's Word. So let's start by really examining what "sin reigned in death" means in [Romans 5](#) and then we'll look at what it means by the reign of sin in the "course of this world". Then after that we will see where all this finally leads us: **the overflowing reign of grace.**



Then we will explain and examine what grace is. Remember that in Romans, Paul compares and contrasts what happened to us in Adam and then what happens to us in Christ. We are going to look very closely at all that, okay? You have to understand this so you can appreciate God's grace.

Where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more. To really get this, we must start with what it means to be under the **reign of sin.**

[Rom 5:20-21](#) "The Law (Old Testament Mosaic Law and especially the Ten Commandments) came in so that sin would increase (so we can see that we are sinners); but where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, (21) so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."



No one really has an honest thankfulness of how amazing God's grace is until they clearly see what sin has done to and for them and the rest of the human race.

To experience the enormity of God's grace for us you have to go down as  well as up. 

In other words, you have to see what we have been delivered from (slavery to sin), as well as what we are delivered to (salvation in Jesus).

Too many believers stop short in both directions, and as a result have a not so clear picture of and a not so good experience of the greatness of their salvation in Jesus. If they are honest and admit how sinful they are they

appreciate what Jesus did for them a lot more. This is very clear in the parable in [Luke Chapter 7](#).



The woman who washed the feet of the Lord had a sense of her sin that was much greater than what Simon the Pharisee had of his sins. [Luke 7:37-48](#) "When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the (Simon) Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, (38) and as she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. (39) When the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, He would know who is touching Him and what kind of woman she is...that she is a sinner.' (40)

Jesus answered him, 'Simon, I have something to tell you.' 'Tell me, teacher,' he said. (41) 'Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. (42) Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?' (43) Simon replied, 'I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled.' 'You have judged correctly,' Jesus said. (44) Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. (45) You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. (46) You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. (47) Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven...for she loved much (she was very thankful). But he who has been forgiven little loves little.' (48) Then Jesus said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'"

Pharisees who all (there were two exceptions in the Bible) are very self-important and self-righteous can't sing about the overflowing grace of God because they refuse to see how sin has reigned in their life. Sin ruled over them all the time. They were not humble and they were denying that they were sinners.



So you see all of mankind with the exception of Jesus is under the reign of sin because of Adam's original sin. Ever since then all mankind are born under the power of sin. We are not born free. That is a fairy tale.



We are born as **slaves...slaves to sin**. Sin reigned over us all.

John 8:34-36 "Jesus answered them, 'truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the **slave of sin**. (35) The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. (36) So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Rom 6:17-18 "But thanks be to God that though you **were slaves of sin**, you became obedient from the heart

(believed in Jesus for salvation) to that form of teaching to which you were committed, (18) and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."

The Bible does not hold back when it describes the increase of sin and the reign of sin in death. Eph 2:1 "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins..." Sin totally controls and dominates the unbeliever and the unbelieving world in every way. Let's look at the next verses in Eph 2:2-3.

"...in which **you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air**, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience (unbelievers). (3) Among them **we too all formerly lived in the desires of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest**. "Walking" in verse two refers to the way you live your life...your lifestyle. It includes the direction of your life and the way people see you.

It shows up in our thinking, the decisions we make, how we change, and the condition of our hearts towards others. It is seen in our attitude, our priorities, our role models, our goals, our wants, what we have our mind set on, and what we get excited over.

It's our behavior, what we spend time on, how your body is used, where you go, who our friends are, what we do, what we say, and how we treat people...and on and on.

We all...this is every man and woman in Adam...we all walked according to the COURSE OF THIS WORLD as unbelievers. And most people in this world still do.

What is the "course of this world" in verse two? "Course" in Eph 2:2 is the Greek noun that means "an age, a period of time," and is marked in the New Testament usage by spiritual or moral characteristics. It is sometimes translated "world".

The following are details concerning the world in this respect in the Bible: its cares, Matt 13:22; its sons, Luke 16:8; 20:34; its rulers, 1 Cor 2:6,8; its wisdom, 1 Cor 1:20; 2:6; 3:18; its fashion, Rom 12:2; its character, Gal 1:4; and its God, 2 Cor 4:4. Please take the time and read each of these passages in the Bible to help you understand the "world".

The "course of this world" can be said to be "Keeping up with the times" and following all the latest fads and trends even though most of them if not all go against everything God stands for. It is doing things because everybody else is doing it. Doing it because it's popular.

What is the "course of this world", the age of this world, the character of the age? 1 Peter 4:3 tells us, "For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a **course of wrong desires, drunkenness, partying, drinking parties and horrible idolatries (worshipping false gods).**"

The "course of this world" is arrogance, corruption, deception, blindness to the Truth of God's Word, destruction, judgment, and death.



Also in 1 John 2:15-17 it tells us, "Do not love **the world** or the **things** in the world. If anyone loves the world (more than God the Father & Jesus), the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For **all** that is in the world, the **desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world. (17) **The world is**

passing away, and also its desires; but the one who does the will of God (believes in Jesus for salvation) lives forever.”

Remember again in Eph 2:2, in which “**...you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air,** of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience (as unbelievers). (3) Among them **we too all once lived in the desires of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.**”

So now that you know what the course of this world is pretty much about, in our next lesson we will look at the “prince of the power of the air in Eph 2:2. So until next time...continue in God’s Word and Will.

Close in prayer.

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Lighthouse Bible Church
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