

Amazing Imputation
(Subtitle-Definitely I Should be Amazed)
Text-Romans 3: 20-24; Titus: 11-12; Ephesians 2: 8-9

QUESTION	MY ANSWER
What does "amazing" mean?	Causing great surprise or wonder, astonishing, startlingly impressive, stunning, staggering, bewildering, surprising
What amazes you?	Nature, science, amusement parks, art, museums, music, friends, movies, feats of strength, sports, technology, spouses/significant others, babies, toddlers, children, funny events
What do you celebrate?	Birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, graduation, new employment, marriage
Why do you celebrate (what you celebrate?)	Tradition, important to remember/commemorate the event, making the situation special, recording something unusual
In what way do you celebrate?	Parties, gifts, cards, flowers, eating meetings, announcements, social gatherings, "me" occasions, new clothes
If others are aware of your celebrations...How do you know they are aware?	Invited to join you, physical invitations delivered, have to listen to you or others repeatedly talking about it, they may ask you to stop talking or reminding them about it, plans to join you/your event
Is it important for others to be aware and why?	They need to know/be reminded about a special event, it may inspire them to be cheerful, it is more enjoyable to gather as a group instead of alone, sharing positive experiences is a positive thing
What do you think of when you hear the phrase "Amazing Grace?"	Old timey church hymn, worship song by Chris Tomlin, something really important about God, God is amazing, I hear it in churches but I don't really know what it means
What is your definition of the word "grace?"	Simple elegance or refinement of movement, courteous goodwill, a short prayer at a meal, state of being considerate or thoughtful, special favor
What is the Sunday school/church definition of grace?	God's Riches At Christ Expense, unmerited favor, a virtue coming from God
What is a "real world" definition of Yahweh's grace?	Genuinely believing that Jesus' lived a perfect life, died a tragic death, was resurrected, lives now and has offered his life as the "settlement cost" to Yahweh God as payment for the consequence of Adam's original decision and disobedience that all human beings owe.
How do you receive Yahweh God's grace?	By genuinely believing, admitting in personal discussion with Jesus or Yahweh God and publically and proudly voicing your decision.
What is the result of receiving Yahweh's grace?	No longer an enemy of Yahweh, saved from Yahweh's punishment, eternal life with Jesus, no longer a slave to displeasing Yahweh, gifts of the Spirit and fruits of the Spirit, transformed by the renewal of your mind, conformed to the likeness of Jesus, a "new" creation
How do you value Yahweh's grace?	I try to be a good person, I try to follow the 10 commandments, I don't judge people, I go to church, I read the Bible, I have Christian friends, I contribute to missions
How would others know you have received Yahweh's grace?	I tell them, I show them, they wouldn't, I don't really know
Do you take Yahweh's grace for granted?	No Yes
Please explain your answer (In what ways do or don't you do this?)	I think each day is special, I follow the Golden Rule, tomorrow is not guaranteed to us "Once saved, always saved", eternal security, I cannot lose what was given as a gift, God's not an "Indian Giver"
If you are amazed at Yahweh's grace, what should it (you) look like?	Current Easter, Christmas and Sunday masses are insufficient examples, church services are not reflective of a party or a celebration for an event of great surprise or wonder, private and personal faith is NEVER encourage by Jesus, the patriarchs or the Scriptures.

DISCOVERY-Let's read the passages- Text-Romans 3: 20-24; Titus 2: 11-12; Ephesians 2: 8-9

Consider these passages and their applications:

Romans 3: 20-For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight...

Paul presents the true purpose of the law and the error of trying to be a good/righteous person. In Yahweh's economy, it is impossible!

The 10 commandments and the other 603 laws do not equal perfection or completeness to Yahweh God. They only serve to set apart the individuals/groups/nations from others without these values or practices. Since they are impossible to obey without error, no one can meet Yahweh's standard of righteousness. No one except Jesus.

Romans 3: 21-But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law...

Paul states that there is a separate method/solution to the impossibility of achieving righteousness. He also states that this solution has been witnessed and predicted by the Old Testament (which is why it is called the EARLIER WITNESS.)

Something/someone who is NOT the law but meets the demand for perfection is Yahweh's creation alone. This solution stands apart from any human involvement, human manipulation, human ownership, human monkey business.

Romans 3: 22-the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe...

Paul names the delivery agent that permits humans access to this "righteousness solution": authentic belief in Jesus, the God-man who lived perfectly, was murdered by humans He created, returned to life and lives now and forever.

There is no amount of being a good person, niceness, dedication, wealth, level of education, religiosity that is a substitute for authentic belief in Jesus. This is the only "currency" acceptable to Yahweh for access to His "righteousness solution."

Romans 3: 23-for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God...

Paul condemns all mankind stating that we did not, cannot and will not achieve perfection, "getting it right" - PERIOD according to Yahweh's yardstick.

"All" means all and that's all "all" means! Everyone (who has ever lived) is included, including innocent babies and undiscovered people groups in undeveloped, unexplored parts of the world. (See Romans 1: 18-32)

Romans 3: 24-and are justified by His grace as a gift...

Paul declares that Yahweh's "righteousness solution" which cost Jesus His human life can't be bought, earned or acquired at any cost except authentic belief in Jesus and His life, death, resurrection and life eternal.

Paul lays out the understanding that Yahweh effectively cleared mankind's (Adam's punishment) debt [earthly/eternal death, earthly/eternal separation] but without a price, without a cost to mankind. This is atypical because when someone comes to your rescue especially involving debt (financial, property or legal), there is ALWAYS an associated price for us to pay even if it is drastically reduced or discounted. Yahweh does this as a gift with consequences for not accepting the gift or attempting to "pay" for this gift.

Titus 2: 11-For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people...

Paul points out that Yahweh's grace is and has been available for ALL people. Ultimately this grace can result in salvation.

This grace is the reason that good things happen to bad people. That mankind does not (regularly) experience Yahweh's wrath is a positive element of everyday life. Each day is another opportunity to inquire about the source of the WHY which permits individuals to hear the Holy Spirit's call.

Titus 2: 12-training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives...

Paul states that the grace that leads to salvation is the great teacher and restrainer.

If we fully accept the gift and its responsibilities, choosing the things that focus on our pleasure, our individuality, our personal outcome become less important as we focus on the gratitude for our debt being removed and wanting/doing what is best for Jesus (LOVE.) Saying "no" to non-eternal ADL's (activities of daily life) become easier the more we practice what we are taught.

Ephesians 2: 8-For by grace you have been saved through faith...

Paul cites that Yahweh's "righteousness solution" had a cost paid by Jesus and is given without financial or material cost or the ability to earn it. The profession and possession of authentic belief in Jesus qualifies as the receipt of Yahweh's free gift. This gift saves us from Yahweh's wrath and subsequent justice, penalty pronouncement and punishment.

This passage informs us that Yahweh God through Jesus completed all the necessary work to devise, produce and present this most valuable gift of salvation from his wrath and punishment.

Ephesians 2: 9-Not as a result of works, so that no one may boast...

Paul writes that mankind has no active part (development, producing, earning) in this grace/salvation gift. The doing has all been completed by Jesus [It is finished!] Mankind (we are) is simply on the (passive) receiving end of Yahweh's action plan.

Paul effectively destroys all Christian religious arguments/rules/practices that operate according to the letter of Scripture instead of the Spirit of Scripture. (You MUST go to a church building, you MUST be baptized, you MUST give 10% to church, you MUST repeat the Lord's Prayer, you MUST bow your head/close your eyes when praying, you MUST attend confession, you MUST do "good works", you MUST pray for the dead, you MUST go on mission trips, you MUST gather on Sunday, you MUST dress your best, you MUST take communion every week, and on and on...

Some considerations

- Greek=chare, charis
- What is imputation? Imputation=justification/the righteousness of Jesus is transferred to Believers via faith in Him.
- What is propitiation?
- "Good" works without faith=nothing eternal; Faith in Jesus=expectation of Godly works-fruits of the Spirit.
- Wanting what is best for Jesus (loving Jesus)-honoring Him with your life as a grateful servant.
- Everyone should regularly know that you're amazed by who Jesus is and what He has done for you.

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What amazes you?	
What do you celebrate? What is the reason for your celebration? Why do you celebrate (what you celebrate?) In what way do you celebrate?	
Are others aware of your celebrations? How do you know they are aware? Is it important for others to be aware?	
What do you think of when you hear the phrase "Amazing Grace?"	
What is your definition of the word "grace?" What is the Sunday school/church definition of grace? What is a "real world" definition of Yahweh's grace?	
How do you receive Yahweh God's grace?	
What is the result of receiving Yahweh's grace?	
How do you value Yahweh's grace? How would others know you have received Yahweh's grace?	
Do you take Yahweh's grace for granted? In what ways do you do this?	
If you are amazed at Yahweh's grace, what should it (you) look (act) like?	