

3rd Yr. Ambassadors

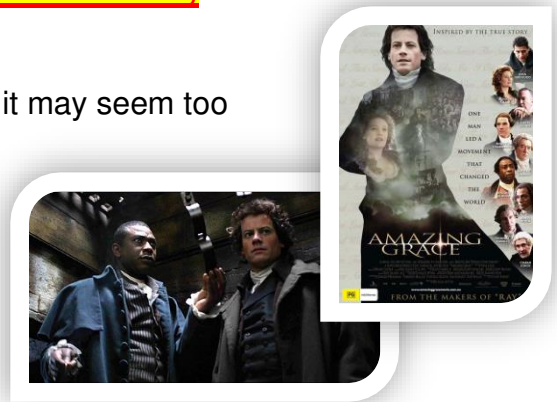
Lesson 33



Amazing Grace

Read: Galatians 1; Chap. 3:1-9; Ephesians 1:1-14; 2:1-10; 4:1-6

Have you seen the movie Amazing Grace? For your age it may seem too boring or historical, but it was significant in the history of man, especially Africans who were enslaved and being enslaved. The movie shows the history of the campaign against the slave trade in the British Empire, led by William Wilberforce, who was responsible for steering anti-slave trade legislation through the British parliament.



"Amazing Grace" is also a well-known Christian hymn that is still sung in many churches and still being recorded by many artists. It was originally written by Englishman John Newton and

81 Amazing Grace.
John Newton. *Metrical. C.M.* Arr. by R. O. Howell.

1. A - mazing grace! how sweet the sound, That saves a wretch like me! I
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved; How
3. Thro' many dan-gers, with and without, I have a - void - y come; 'Tis
4. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We're
once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.
pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
no less days to sing God's praise Than when we first be - gan. A - MEN.

published in 1779. John was a sailor who since the age of eleven had lived a life at sea. As he grew, he had a reputation for profanity, coarseness, drunkenness and slave-trading. One day, in the midst of a huge storm that looked like it would destroy them all, he remembered what his mother had taught him about the Bible and asked Jesus to forgive his many sins and save him. Only God's amazing grace could and would take a rude, profane, slave-trading sailor and transform him into a child of God. Newton never ceased to stand in awe of God's work in his life and the song grew from that deep appreciation of God's grace.

Our focus on this lesson is about how amazing **Grace** really is so it will be important that you read the Scriptures above. Come on now, we are hoping to prepare you for Champions and Women of Destiny and then Higher Ground – so get reading!

A Little Background

In the Old Testament, God gave His people many rules to help them live right. But as hard as the people tried, no one could fully obey the law God gave them. The people could never

become righteous before God because they failed at keeping the commands of God's law. Then Jesus came on the scene, and He kept all of God's laws perfectly. That's why He died for the sins of all of humanity. "That's everybody!" Trusting Jesus as Savior is the only way to become righteous in God's eyes. This good news and gift is found in the letter Paul, the Apostle, wrote to the Christians in Galatians. In Ephesians, he told more about the *close relationship* Christ has with all who believe in Him.

Protecting the True Message

In the Churches at Galatia, some Jews (called Judaizers) believed that Christians should observe Old Testament rites, especially circumcision. *This was a practice that Jews did to all newborn males which included cutting the foreskin off of their genital as a sign of being one of God's chosen people.* These Jews thought Paul was not an Apostle and that he had left this part out of his message about the Gospel. In other words, if you were not circumcised in this way you were not one of God's people.

However, Paul proved to the Galatians that he was a true Apostle. He told them how God had called him and revealed to him what he was to preach (Galatians 1:11-18). Paul also pointed out that other Apostles had accepted him as an Apostle (Galatians 2:7-10).

So, what is the Message?

Paul told the Galatians they were foolish for letting the Judaizers mislead them. (Side-note: *Would you be called foolish for allowing people to mislead you?*)

They had been saved by trusting in Christ, and His Spirit lived in them. It was useless to go back to doing works of the law again to earn salvation since no one could keep God's laws



perfectly. Paul emphasized that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God and that it is evident that justified people live by faith in Christ (Galatians 3:11). *Justified means declared by God as not guilty but righteous on the basis of the death of Jesus Christ as a payment for sin.* The Apostle Paul said Abraham believed God, and his faith was counted for righteousness (Galatians 3:6). Similarly, God counts every person righteous who believes in Jesus as Savior.

Paul also taught that God has freed people from the burden of trying to keep the law. Instead, Christians are free to serve Christ and each other, letting His Spirit create His Fruit in their lives. Read Galatians 5:22-23 for an understanding of the fruit he is talking about.

A New Way of Thinking

Paul now writes to the Christians living in the city of Ephesus to help them understand more of God's purpose in saving them and to make known God's plans for His church. Paul explained that it is through the Church that God shows rulers and powers in heavenly places His wisdom

(Ephesians 3:10-11). Before He created the world, God chose **believers to be holy and without blame before Him in love** (Ephesians 1:4).

Paul wanted them to understand that when they were sinners, they were spiritually dead. *But God made them alive in Christ* (Ephesians 2:5-6) when they believed that Jesus died and rose to save them. He made all believers part of His body, and Christ their Head.

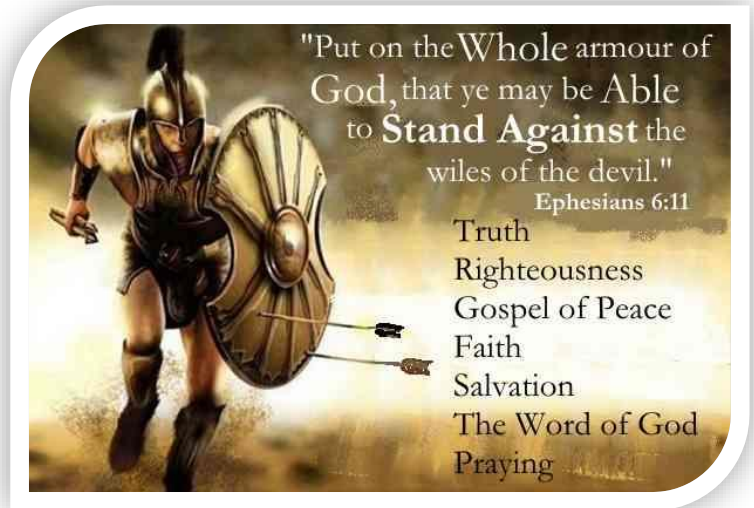
As a sign that believers are in Christ, God seals each one of them (us) with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14), who lives in them (us) until they (we) get to heaven.

A New Way of Living

Paul urged believers to live in a way that is worthy of their new position in Christ, serving each other in love (Ephesians 4:1-6) He described the special abilities (gifts) Christ gave Christians, so every Christian can help others grow up in Him (Ephesians 4:11-12).

To become mature in Christ, Paul said, Christians should imitate Him (Ephesians 5:1). They are to avoid sexual impurity or any kind of impurity or greed and walk as *children of light* (Ephesians 5:8-9). Paul helps them to understand how families should function. Wives should submit to their husbands, and husbands should love their wives the way Christ loves the Church (Ephesians 5:25-27).

Satan works hard against Christians to keep God's people from being holy. He does this well in our families. Knowing this, Paul challenged the Ephesians Christians to *be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might* (Ephesians 6:10). He explained that Christians do not *struggle against human opponents, but against spiritual forces of evil* (Ephesians 6:12). That is why you and I must be equipped with the armor of God, so that we can stand firm against all the attacks of Satan (Ephesians 6:10-18).



God's plan of salvation is amazing! When Jesus died, He paid the penalty of sin for all who would believe in Him. When He rose from the grave, He defeated sin and death. Because Christ conquered the power of sin, Christians are free to live a new life in His power. You are powerful, if you stay in relationship with Jesus Christ. Someday our bodies will be raised like His, and God's plan will be complete.

Why has God been so merciful to us? *So that for all eternity He might show the ongoing riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Jesus Christ* (Ephesians 2:7).



Everyone needs to have a sense of belonging and feel that he or she is connected to something important – family. That is why some young people choose to join gangs or cults to meet this need. However, you don't have to make this mistake. As a Christian, you are in Christ, and you automatically belong to a special family, the Church, whose ultimate purpose is to glorify God (Ephesians 1:5-6).

Memory Verse:

Galatians 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.

Pictorem

Now click here to watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:
<https://youtu.be/jFoGnT8AeOk>

3rd Yr. Ambassadors

Lesson 33 Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/UyMJRe6RYHtWsK7p9>

Complete this assignment and set up a time to meet with an adult mentor who will go over this with you. Mentor, after you have graded this lesson using the Answer Key, please enter the lesson online using the links on our website in order to receive credit. Thanks.

Student Name: _____

1. Fill in the blank. Paul told the Galatians it was foolish to go back to doing works of the law, because no man can be _____ by the law.
2. Fill in the blanks. Paul proved to the Judaizers that he was a true Apostle by telling how God had _____ him and told him what he was to _____.
3. Fill in the blank. Paul taught that God has _____ Christians from trying to do good works to earn their salvation.
4. True/False. Paul 's purpose for writing the Galatians was to help them understand more about Christ's Church.
5. Fill in the blanks. Paul explained that God uses the Church to show _____ and _____ in heavenly places His _____.
6. Fill in the blanks. Before God _____ the world, He _____ Believers to be _____ and without _____ before Him in love (Ephesians 1:4 paraphrase).
7. Fill in the blank. When believers were still dead in their sins, God made them _____ in His Son.

8. Fill in the blanks. Christ gave _____ (gifts) to members of His Church, so they can help each other _____ in Christ.
9. True or False. Someday, God will present the Church to Himself without blemishes or sin.
10. How would you compare the freedom you have in Christ to other religions that teach that salvation is obtained through works?