

Recognize Our Spiritual Bankruptcy

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 3:9-12.

B. We are all morally bankrupt before God.

C. When we were saved, which kind of spiritual bankruptcy did we declare? Temporary bankruptcy or permanent bankruptcy?

D. Most of Christians declared temporary bankruptcy- we accepted Christ's justification, but we think that the Christian life is about performance.

E. We often believe that God's blessings are earned on our performance or our behavior. We are legalistic by nature.

F. Grace is God's response to the merit of Christ, not our works. (Romans 5:2)

III. Grace is God's riches at Christ's expense.

A. Christ has earned unlimited access to God's favor.

B. We experience this in our lives through recognizing consistently our own bankruptcy before God.

1. Grace and works are mutually exclusive. (Romans 11:6ff)

2. God's blessing is not dependent on our merit.

3. We struggle with this because we are legalistic by nature. We are not only saved by grace, but we also live by it.

C. Jesus paid for all of our sins completely. God is not permissive with sin, but He made provision for it in Christ. (Romans 1)

Application questions:

1. When Jerry says that we need to live by grace, what does he mean?

2. Do you find it difficult to accept God's grace for your sin now that you "know better"? Why or why not?

3. Some people would disagree with Jerry's statement that grace and works are mutually exclusive. How would you respond to them?
