

Text: Zechariah 5:1-4

Title: Don't take grace for granted.

Thesis: Zechariah 5:1-4 teaches that those who take God's grace take for granted, as evidenced by living in continual willful sin, will not escape the curse of God.

Intro: No one likes to be taken for granted.

- I. Zechariah's Sixth Vision.
 - A. The vision: A flying scroll 30 feet wide by 15 feet high. (This is the same size as the porch of the Temple from which the Law was read and the Holy Place inside the Tabernacle).
 - B. The angel's interpretation:
 1. This is the curse of the Law going throughout the land of Israel.
 2. Those breaking the 8th commandment are cut off according to one side and those breaking the 3rd commandment are cut off according to the other side. (This is probably a figure of speech representing the 2 tables of the Law of God in their entirety.)
 - C. The word of the Lord:
 1. The Lord Himself will send this curse into the households of lawbreakers.
 2. The curse will dwell in the house until it is totally destroyed. (The destruction is the same as that mandated for a home in which dwells leprosy.)
 - D. The point: If people in Israel take God's grace for granted by living in continual willful sin, the curse of God will rest on them.
- II. The doctrine stated and confirmed.
 - A. Statement: those who take God's grace take for granted, as evidenced by living in continual willful sin, will not escape the curse of God.
 - B. Confirmation:
 1. HEB 2:1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. [2] For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, [3] how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, [4] God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?
 2. HEB 6:4 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, [5] and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, [6] if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame. [7] For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; [8] but if it bears thorns and briars, *it is* rejected and near to being cursed, whose end *is* to be burned.

3. HEB 10:26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, [27] but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. [28] Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on *the testimony of* two or three witnesses. [29] Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? [30] For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The LORD will judge His people.' [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
4. 2 PE 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. [21] For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. [22] But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

III. The doctrine applied.

- A. If you take God's grace take for granted, as evidenced by living in continual willful sin, you will not escape the curse of God.
- B. Being forgiven in Christ go and sin no more. (JN 8:11b...And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.)
- C. When you do sin confess it and turn from it. (1 JN 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.)

Conclusion: Zechariah 5:1-4 teaches that those who take God's grace take for granted, as evidenced by living in continual willful sin, will not escape the curse of God. You must not take God's grace for granted. You must not think that because God promises you forgiveness in Christ you have a license to sin freely. Being saved by grace you ought not to go play in sin again but to live a holy life before your gracious Lord. Live not to sin but to the praise of God's glorious grace.