



**M O N D A Y**

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

List your favorite:

Singer: _____	Leading competitor _____	Difference? _____
Clothing: _____	Leading competitor _____	Difference? _____
Computer: _____	Leading competitor _____	Difference? _____
Store: _____	Leading competitor _____	Difference? _____

For one reason or another, each item above is distinct from its competitor. Something sets it apart making it different than the rest. This is also true of God's message of salvation for us today. This week, we will be studying those distinctives and seeing how they apply to us now.

### THE MESSENGERS THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

The Twelve Apostles are the apostles to the nation of Israel.

Read Matthew 10:5. Who were the Twelve Apostles supposed to go to?

#### DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD

Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles

Read Romans 11:13. Paul was the apostle to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Read Acts 9:1-16. Who was Saul (Paul) persecuting?

What two questions did Saul ask Jesus?

Later Saul, then Paul, said that Christ died to save sinners "of whom I am chief." Paul fully realized the extent of his sins. It doesn't get much worse than murdering people for their belief in Christ. And yet, when Saul realized he was wrong, what did he do?

So many times, our inclination, when we are wrong, is to wallow in regret. Paul's inclination was instant action, "Lord, what would you have me to do?"

Because of this God used him in amazing ways. How about you? Perhaps there is something that you have done that makes you feel worthless and disqualified for service and/or ministry. God wants to use you in amazing ways, just speak to Him in prayer.

Write Galatians 2:21 in your own words.

Name something that some people depend upon to get to Heaven other than the salvation offered through Jesus Christ.

### S A T U R D A Y LIMITS

DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD: Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles

Read 1 Timothy 2:6. Who is salvation being offered to in this passage?

That's a whole lot of people, isn't it? And, while you won't be able to reach all, can you reach one? Name one person that you can reach out to.

Tell specifically how you plan on reaching them.

### S U N D A Y GRACE RULES!

"...But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 5:20-21).

Read Romans 5:20-21. What does it mean to "reign"? According to this verse, what reigns? What does it reign through? What does it reign unto? By whom does it reign?

Write a paragraph explaining what it would mean for you to allow grace to reign in your heart and life. Thank God for His wonderful grace! LET'S FACE IT, GRACE RULES!

Read Ephesians 1:7. What does it mean when it says that we have redemption through His blood?

## THURSDAY DIRECTION AND CLARITY OF MESSAGE

**Twelve Apostles' message for the nation of Israel**  
Finish this verse. "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed \_\_\_\_\_ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins" Matthew 26:28, parenthesis added. Who do you think the *many* refer to?

**Paul's Apostleship and message**  
Now, finish this verse: "Who (Christ Jesus) gave himself a *ransom* for \_\_\_\_\_, to be testified in due time" 1 Timothy 2:6, parenthesis and italics added. What does the word ransom mean?

What do people usually get ransomed with?

What did it cost Christ to ransom us?  
Why do you think that He did this?  
Do you believe that He did it for you?

## FRIDAY REQUIREMENTS FOR SALVATION

**The Twelve Apostles' Message**  
Read Mark 1:4, Mark 16:16, and Acts 2:38. What were some of the requirements for salvation listed in these passages?

While faith has always been the main requirement for salvation, other dispensations included ways to express that faith.

**Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles: Salvation Without Works**  
Read Romans 4:5. What is the difference between Romans 4:5 and Mark 1:4?

## TUESDAY THE TIMEFRAME

**THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM: The Twelve Apostles**  
Read Acts 1:6-8 and Acts 2:38. What did the Apostles ask Christ?

What was His answer?

The Kingdom of Heaven will be: A thousand year Kingdom here on earth; Christ ruling over this Kingdom, animals dwelling peacefully with man; sin being almost non-existent; mankind living in a state of incredible health and long lives; a time where swift judgment for sin shall be exercised by Christ.



PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER

## WEDNESDAY

**THE TONE OF MESSAGE**  
**DISPENSATION OF THE GRACE OF GOD: Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles**  
Read Ephesians 3:2. What did God give to Paul to share with us?

The Dispensation of Grace is: The way in which God deals with us now; the truth that we are saved by faith in Christ alone; the reality that God is reaching out to Gentiles and Jews on an equal basis; this period of time in which each believer is permanently and eternally indwelt by the Holy Spirit.  
Write a prayer of thanks to God for allowing us to live in this amazing time.



CLERK: "May I help you?"

CLIENT: "Yes. I'm looking for something that will save me and get me to Heaven."

CLERK: "You've come to the right spot. Now, what we have here is a variety of Middle Eastern religions."

CLIENT: "What do they do?"

CLERK: "Not much of anything, really. They involve worshipping a whole lot of idols."

CLIENT: "Are the idols good and powerful?"

CLERK: "No. They are generally pretty angry and destructive. With these religions, the key is to keep the idols pacified so that they don't mess up your life."

CLIENT: "And, after spending a lifetime doing that, will I go to Heaven?"

CLERK: "It doesn't work that way. If you've kept the idols pacified and lived a good life, you might reach a state of nothingness. That is the ultimate goal of these religions."

CLIENT: "Wow! That sounds like a pretty grim existence. What else do you have?"

CLERK: "Well, here is a good sampling of some of your mainstream cults."

CLIENT: "What do they do?"

CLERK: "With these, it's more what *you* do. There are generally a pretty complex system of ordinances and such that are to be followed."

CLIENT: "And if I follow them, then will I be saved and get to Heaven?"

CLERK: "That's the tricky part. With these, even after you have followed them, there are no guarantees that you will go to Heaven."

CLIENT: "Man, I was hoping for a sure thing...something that will get me to Heaven. I've kinda messed up here on earth, so I'll probably need some help in getting there."

CLERK: "Well, there is always Judaism. Judaism is the world's oldest and most verified religion. It's prooftexts, the Pentateuch, are the most historically and literally accurate in the world. It contains the absolute assurance of Heaven and it promises a Messiah."

CLIENT: "That's amazing. It sounds just like what I'm looking for. Who is their Messiah?"

CLERK: "That's the thing. The people of Israel have been looking for him for thousands of years."

CLIENT: "They've been looking for Him for thousands of years! Are they sure that He hasn't already come and that they just missed Him?"

CLERK: "That is the premise of *this* religion. Well, its not a religion, it's a faith."

CLIENT: "What's the difference?"

CLERK: "With a religion, a person works to get to God. With a faith, God has done the work to get to you. With Christianity, there is one God who is an all knowing, all powerful being. He is perfectly holy in every way. He is so holy, in fact, that man cannot even look at Him. God loves us, however, and wanted us to spend eternity with Him. Because of this, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to the Cross to take the punishment for the things that we've done wrong."

CLIENT: "Wow! That sounds amazing and just like what I'm looking for! It also sounds really expensive. Much more, in fact, than I could afford."

CLERK: "Actually, its priceless. More than anyone can afford. It cost God His own Son's life."

CLIENT: "Let me get this straight. God is offering this to me?"

CLERK: "The Bible says, 'That as many as receive Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God.'"

CLIENT: "Are you telling me that, not only will I be saved, but I'll be called God's Son as well?"

CLERK: "Oh, that's just the beginning! You would not believe the perks that come with this faith. I could go on and on all day!"

CLIENT: "How do I get it?"

CLERK: "By simply placing your faith in Christ, God's Son, to get you to Heaven."

CLIENT: "That's it?"

CLERK: "That's it."

CLIENT: "Thanks man. You're awesome. But I have one question. With a deal like this, why aren't people lining up at the door to receive it?"

CLERK: "That's a question that I ask myself everyday."