



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Genesis 1 – 19 Sermon Series

Supports Session 13: Purged

Sermon Title: “The God of Grace” (Genesis 18:16-33)

Connection to Session 13

Session 13 deals with the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the rescue of Lot and his family in Genesis 19. This message will support this session by providing insight into God’s grace shown through the discussion between Abraham and God in chapter 18.

Introduction/Opening

Traffic court often has a wide variety of defendants. There are the “not-guilty” petitioners, hoping that their circumstances, explanations, or even an excuses would free them from their traffic fine. For others, they are the admittedly guilty party throwing themselves at the mercy of the court and hoping for leniency from the magistrate in the sentence to come with a plea of “guilty” or “no contest.” Yet there is another set of defendants, and these are the unrepentant ones who enter the plea of “not guilty,” too proud to admit their error. They try, as best as they can, to fool the court.

When the guilty but proud defendant is unable to make a good argument, it rarely goes well. The magistrate usually is less merciful on such a person, and many a person entering the courtroom with a prideful countenance exits with much embarrassment . . . and a decision of guilty.

This example serves us when we talk about sin. All people sin, and God, who is holy, deals with this sin in a way that only God can.

Outline

1. Sin is Serious (18:16-21).

- a) In this passage, the focus shifts from Abraham’s heir to the sin problem in Sodom and Gomorrah.
- b) How sin was seen in these cities:
 - i) God heard the immense outcry against the egregious sin.

ii) God would see their wickedness.

2. Judgment is Justified (18:22-23).

- a) God told Abraham what His plans were because of Abraham's response in 18:23.
- b) God always does what is right, and the standard for judgment is Jesus (John 3:19,36).
- c) God is a righteous, holy, and just judge, judging sin and preserving His righteous character in the process (Nah. 1:3).
- d) In fact, Sodom and Gomorrah point to a final judgment.

3. Grace is Extended (18:23-33)

- a) Abraham interceded for the righteous.
 - i) In his discourse with God, Abraham asks God to preserve the city if he can find 50 righteous people. Then, he talks God down to just 10 righteous people.
 - ii) The point: there were no righteous ones.
 - iii) And, again, the Judge is right. He is justified to judge.
- b) Wicked cities exist, but so does a holy God.
- c) Yet amid judgment, comes our praise. God still redeems those who are His. God extends His grace to Lot and his family.
 - i) The holiness of a Sovereign God who extends grace to His faithful people.
- d) This grace comes in the person of Jesus.

Conclusion

This grace is extended to you. We are all sinners, depraved and corrupt. Romans 3:10 says "there is no one righteous, not even one." Because of our sins, God is justified in bringing judgment to us. As Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:4-5, "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!"

We are dead in our sins, awaiting judgment, but made alive in Christ by grace through faith. Come to Him, repent of your sins, and follow the God of grace.

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