



***Death by Drowning***

Genesis 6:9-7:24

Pastor John Sloan

**Introduction:** “Be a good person (like Noah) and you’ll avoid a flood of bad consequences.” How many sermons or Sunday school lessons have ended with this pun-laden admonition? After all, isn’t that what the story of Noah is about? Not exactly. Certainly there’s some truth to the above maxim. But the account of the great world flood is really a story about desperation and deliverance. Helplessness and rescue. In short, it’s a story about grace.

**01.**

**02.**

**03.**

**IN THE BEGINNING ... GRACE**  
[A Study through the First Half of Genesis]



1. Read Gen. 6:11-12 & Romans 3:9-18. What do these passages say about mankind's nature and desires apart from Christ?
2. What is the danger in downplaying our sinful condition before we were saved? Why do we tend to soft-pedal the story of our soul's rescue from sin and death?
3. What does God's willingness to destroy (almost) every living thing (see 7:21-23) show us about His character?
4. What does God's preservation of Noah and his family reveal?
5. Why is the order of vv. 8-9 of Gen. 6 so important? What does this succession of statements about Noah say about God's acceptance? What does it say about the fuel for obedience?

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1. **01. God hates sin and judges it rightly.**
2. "I used to think of the flood as pure judgment. And then I discovered that: even as God judges the world for human sin and violence, in his grace he continues his kingdom on earth by making a new start with Noah, his family, and selected animals." - Sidney Greidanus
3. "Noah, too, was corrupt. Therefore, he too deserved to be buried by the waters. But Noah found favor before God. It doesn't say that he found merit in his own nature, but he finds grace in the Lord his God." - Johannes Brenz
4. "So Joseph found favor in [Potiphar's] sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had." Gen. 39:4
5. **02. God seeks out helpless people for His glory and purposes and lavishes upon them His undeserved favor (or grace).**
6. "Grace always comes as a contradiction." - Tullian Tchividjian
7. "Noah found grace before God ... From where or on what basis? He didn't find favor before God because he pursued righteousness and integrity. Rather, because he was accepted by God, he was on that account given the Holy Spirit so that he might walk in righteousness." - Johannes Brenz
8. **03. God's one-way love for us (i.e., his grace) gives way to faith and motivates our joyful obedience.**

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