**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**February 18th 2018. Amazing Grace**

**Discussion notes: Grace for Sin. Romans 5:15-21**

We sing the hymn, but we may not often reflect on how amazing Grace is. The quality of grace should never become over familiar, rather it should continue to surprise us if we have a realistic understanding of how much we need it! And if we have received grace we should become a ‘gracious’ people. (By the way, one of my personal niggles is the way commonly these days people confuse the word gracious with graceful. I try to be gracious but I’m too clumsy to be graceful!).

* What is your definition of grace?
* If we receive *undeserved* grace, what do we deserve? Is that what we actually think and believe about ourselves?
* In this bible passage, what does Paul say that the law is for?
* How does God maintain truth and justice in the universe and yet show us grace?
* What does it look like to be a gracious people?
* How does grace for sin work alongside ‘the law of cause and effect’ and our desire not to be careless and complacent about sin and evil?

Bill Hybells said at a recent conference I attended that Christianity is the only religion that doesn’t practice ‘self-atonement’ but believes in ‘substitutionary atonement’. What does he mean? What does self-atonement look like? Is Romans 5 describing substitutionary atonement?