

Zoom Bible Study 9-28-21

Picture for a moment if you will, the Jewish Nation. Here they were chosen by God above all peoples of the earth, seen miracle after miracle performed on their behalf by Almighty God through Moses.

God gave Moses the 10 commandments – the moral laws - the dietary laws- and the spiritual laws they were to live by.

All given, if you will, to a people called out from the rest of the world to be a unique people unto God Himself. They kept these laws in order to remain in favor with Him.

Naturally thirsty in the wilderness, the children of Israel cried out to Moses “We are dying of thirst”

Moses was instructed to “strike” the rock (a picture of Christ) for water to come out for the people to drink after a few days in the wilderness.

40 years later, same scenario only this time Moses was to “speak to the Rock” for water to come forth – He criticized the people, **struck** the rock rather than **speak** to the rock for which God told him he would not be able to enter the land of Canaan.

In a picture He re-crucified Christ – where some folks might believe needed to be done again for their salvation. Bad move and cost him from entering Canaan.

Canaan is not heaven – there will be no giants to conquer in heaven. Canaan represents the land where the believer is free from all laws – spiritual, moral and dietary.

Moses represents everything contrary to this. He represents the “old man” which needs to be crucified in order to walk in newness of life. He represents totally the theory that if **you do this**, God will respond and **do that**. If you will love the Lord thy God with all your

heart, sole and strength, then you will be my people. If you will **abstain** from certain **activity** or **behavior**, then you shall remain my people. If you will eat certain foods and refrain from eating other foods, then I will remain your God.

David saw through this whole program and realized that God was not after “outward activity” but was looking for a change in heart attitude.

So Moses was refused to enter the land. **Joshua chapter 1** says that Moses died and now Joshua was to take the children into the land. In a figure, Joshua represents Jesus. You will

recall that only 2 of the spies that went into the land 40 years earlier were still around. That was Joshua and Caleb. Both of these men said that the land indeed had giants in it, but that these giants would be nourishment for them to live on. Lets go in and take the land.... Joshua and Caleb are now 85 years old. The other folks that refused to give a good report, had to die in the wilderness- they all died in unbelief.

Remember now beloved, the land is referred to as the land of “**rest**” Read about it in **Heb 4: 1& following** Notice that entering His rest is ceasing from any labor on our ;part.

Anyway – Joshua sends spies into the land – they go to Rehabs (the harlot’s) house to check things out. Read **Joshua 2 1&following**

Now we read in **Joshua 3-13 thru 16** – Joshua took them across the Jordan river into Canaan.

Now some 430 years after they took the land, the Jews still practiced all of the rituals taught by Moses. They had the **temple** to cleanse themselves **annually**. They had the moral and diary laws to keep them **healthy**. They had laws to help them get along with one another. All to remain God’s chosen people.

Well along comes this man called Jesus Christ born some 430 years later and **boom** the Jew was “rocked” by His teachings. He performed miracles and claimed He was only able to do them because of His Father inside of Him directing Him.

Bam – the Jews looked at Jesus and said “He claims that Jehovah God is His father” He claims that He and His father are one.

Next thing you know this Jesus starts acting contrary to their laws. He eats food forbidden on the Sabbath, He eats and drinks with sinners. Come on now – who does He think He is.

Jesus is with His disciples and along comes this woman of Canaan (a gentile woman) and cries out O Lord Son of David, my daughter is demon possessed, come and heal her. Jesus ignores her. His disciples say “send her away” - Jesus tells them He was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

She pleads again “Lord help me please” ie. heal her please.

Jesus response “it is not good to take the children’s bread (healing) and give it to dogs. Jesus referred to her as a dog. (is it any wonder Peter refused to go to the house of Cornelius – a Gentile)

The woman's response was brilliant – Yes Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the masters table.

Wow, Jesus said Woman “great” is your faith and from that very hour, her daughter was healed...

To the disciples, something is changing here.....

Along comes this guy Saul of Tarsus

Gal 1-11-23 – Notice it was to reveal His Son **In me – not to me** ----- **2nd Corinthians 12 1-14**

Paul's own testimony **Acts 22-1** & following- Gamaliel now was a great teacher in Israel. Concerning the disciples he said **Acts 5:33** & following

Notice also in verse **1 of Gal 1** it states in “an apostle (not from men nor through man but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead) - **What is Paul referring to?**

Many apostles were set in the church (example Phil 2:25) Epaphroditus – messenger or (apostle) by men and not God Himself. This was not the case with Paul and He so notes.

Then read Chapter **Gal 2- 14** years – God gave Paul a revelation of the gospel of the grace of God to give to the Gentiles – along came the “false brethren” who came in by stealth to spy out our LIBERTY in order to bring us into bondage

Those who seemed to be “something” added nothing to me

Now I want to ask you a question - Why is Paul so **emphatic** about his calling? Why is it so important that God tell us that there is something unique about the writings of Paul?

You do not hear this from Peter. You do not hear it from John or from James. In fact if you will note this **2nd Peter 3:14** & following- Things hard to understand . Why?

Our liberty is made through Jesus Christ. It is only through this relationship that true liberty is possible for anyone –slave or free (**1 cor 7;22**) A person is to remain where they are when called – Liberty available to all – slave or free.

To be free – is to be removed from the bondage of the past. We recognize that we are free from **the penalty of sin**, but if not careful will move quickly into the **bondage of the law (any law)**

We drift so easily from freedom back under some sort of rules to live by - Why?

We don't like the idea of making a mistake. We are afraid that if left to ourselves, we will somehow come up short. After all, what if I don't do it right?

Moses struck the rock the second time, but water still came out....

Today we have a generation of young men unwilling to go out there and live for fear of making a mistake.

We are told righteous standing before the Lord requires something from us in the way of our behavior.

This is **not possible** beloved- It is not attainable **through human effort**

Paul says in **2nd Corinthians 3-6** that the "letter of the law –kills, but the Spirit gives **life**."

The Holy Spirit has been sent into our hearts in order for the righteous standards of the law will be fulfilled **In us. Not by us.**

If we can see that the righteous standards of the Law are **now** fulfilled in us, whether we are slaves or free – we will have liberty

According to Romans 6, we **were** slaves to sin, but now we are free in liberty because we are **dead to sin** and alive to God

If we can see that the righteous standards given by God to man **have been** achieved through Christ and His death, we can walk in liberty and true freedom.

We must remember that ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for **doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness. 2 Peter 3:16**

Thus Paul's writings cover these 4 distinct categories

Romans addresses –**doctrine**- 1st and 2nd Corinthians offers **reproof** - Galatians through 2nd Thessalonians makes **corrections** – and 1st Timothy through Philemon provide **instruction in righteousness.**

The book of Galatians falls into the category of **correction**

They started well, but ran a muck into obstructions that would threaten their continual growth. Questions like "who hindered you" What has changed in you that you should have your growth stunted? What was Paul trying to correct?

It should be noted here that Galatians is to the gentiles what Hebrews is to the Jew Both books deal with the major problem of legalism – **or religious "self effort"**

Hebrews addresses the problem of being unable to abandon the efforts that only produce “**dead works**” Abandon the past worship of angels, Moses, the law etc; stop acting as Hebrews and start acting as Christian believers.

The book of Galatians was written to rescue them from the trap and snare of **self-righteous effort**.

Originally it was not a problem for they started in great liberty. They were doing **the will of God** through a **changed heart**

Along came these Christians with a Jewish background that were instructing these new believers (gentiles) to take on the Jewish traditions in their legalistic system.

Look at Paul’s response to them in **Gal 5:7** “You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth.

Now I am not a track man – never ran in a race, but Paul is using that as an example here.

Any runner in a track race must stay in the assigned lane given him. If it is a 800 meter race all runners must stay in their assigned lane **until the first turn**. They are then able to change lanes as the race continues.

You Galatians started your race well, but someone has bumped you out of your lane. He is using the “greek games” of which they were familiar as an example.

You are required to stay in your lane or else you become **disqualified**.

Paul is warning them not to become disqualified in running the race. Someone has *bumped you out of your lane*. Someone has caused you to move from “liberty” to move back under “legalism” and you are in **danger of losing the reward** you receive for staying in the race.

Picture in your mind the gladiators or warriors competing in an arena. Paul is likening their walk with Jesus as a member of a battlefield in which the participants are competing in the arena. The winner of that race moves into position to receive his crown which in those days was a “laurel wreath” signifying the victory.

Please look with me at this verse. 2 Cor: 5:10.

judgment seat of Christ here is what is in view. Notice that he/she will receive a reward at this setting. All must appear before this seat - Again Paul using the Greek games to make his point - Bema seat is in view here. That place where everyone of us will receive a reward for what we are doing in this body during this time.

Rewards are based upon what we do **today**. Everyone of us will appear here. We will receive rewards based upon what we are doing today in this body.

Look at **1st Corinthians 3: 9** & following – **very important here**

the Day will declare it – ie. that time we come before Him to discuss what we have done in this body. 2 types of works listed here – Gold, silver, precious stones – or wood hay and straw.

One work is forever of which we receive a reward – the other work because of motive or whatever – is burned up and destroyed by fire. **Not the believer**, but the **work** of the believer.

Remember beloved, the believer has already been judged – His life is now dead with Christ. We are only looking at rewards for work done on earth.

Remember beloved, when Paul refers to the law – he is not just talking about the 10 commandments. He is also including “**ceremonial rituals**” and were trying to impose “**moral law**” along with these ceremonial laws.

All of these laws are bringing the believer into bondage.

I want to look at another important group of verses regarding this issue. **Galatians 16-9**.

Issue here is a “different gospel” One that is different from what Paul was teaching.

Now, there are 2 Greek words that can be translated - “another” - but they have different meanings. One is the Greek word *allos* which means “another of **same** kind-

The second word is the Greek word *heteros* which means “another of a **different** kind”

/verse 6 – the word means “another of a different kind”

ie. not the one that He has taught them – this is a different kind of gospel

The one they are teaching you is of a different kind than I taught you. They are teaching you a gospel – **but not THE Gospel**,

What does the word gospel mean? Good news - they have given you a gospel that sounds like good news, but it is not actually good news you received from Christ.

Why? Because the “gospel” in no way gets me involved..... If that happens, it is no longer good news.

As soon as you suggest – God will if you will or if you do this, God will do that it is no longer good news.

Want an example? Look at John 3: 3-5

What is Nicodemus after? He wanted to receive the “kingdom of God” Further he wanted to know what he needed to **do** in order to receive the kingdom of God.

Jesus answer was “unless one is born of water and (even) the Spirit of God, he cannot enter the kingdom of God- This was not good news to Nicodemus. Ie. there was nothing he could do, he needed to be born into it.

This was not good news, but he needed it to ever receive the actual good news. Self effort must be squashed before good news can be received.

Beloved – when you get right down to it – the bare hub of the wheel - The law given from Mt Siani must become “bad news” before we are able to hear “good news” The law as put into force to get folks to understand that they are lost.

A person must come to realize that he is lost – in order to take himself totally out of the picture. Only when we are totally out of the picture can the beauty of Christ come into the picture.

What we could not do for ourselves, Christ did for us and that beloved becomes “good news”