

Zoom Meeting Notes - January 4th, 2022

Remember beloved to “rightly divide the word of Truth” means more than just getting the scripture into the right dispensation. That is making sure you understand the difference between the dispensation of law and the dispensation of the grace of God (the church age)

It also involves an understanding between our **walk** and our continual growth in the Lord Jesus Christ and our **Position** before the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Position vs condition - one is settled, the other is our daily walk. Or our salvation if you will.

Before we begin to look at the rest of this message for today – I want to bring up a truthful, but maybe an uncomfortable issue.

Now that you belong to Jesus Christ, are an heir of His and on your way to heaven, I need to opine on something.

I mentioned this briefly in an article I wrote on Facebook recently-The believer needs to see that there is a war going on after he/she gives their life to Christ.

That war is between the flesh of man and the spirit of man. To simplify this as much as possible, it is a war between what is “of God” and what is “of man” What is of God is **born or God, energized by God, fought by God and completed by God**. He starts the action, and is responsible for completing it. When all is said and done, He is the victor, He is the starter and finisher of the battle and takes all of the credit for any victory.

THIS IS IMPORTANT

You and I are the combatant. The war takes place in our minds and hearts. The warfare is not weapons as we would normally view weapons. Rather, they are battles that take place in our minds, emotions, body and soul. These battles are **not** to determine your **final destination**, but rather **your peace tranquility** and rest for your soul.

They are not to determine the final outcome of our position before the Lord,, but dictate our enjoyment of the fullness of the salvation walk we enjoy.

Before you can go to war, you must realize that there is a war. Before we can fight in this war, we must understand that our weapons are our belief system, our trust system, our obedience to His direction etc.

Not bullets, knives and rockets. But understanding, acceptance, right thinking. And believing.

Believing right about yourself, will cause you to walk rightly before the Lord.

Well then, what part does “obedience play?”

Why do we obey?

When I do that which I ought not to do (we will call that sin) and I am deeply sorry for what I have done, and I confess before the lord what I have done, and before the brethren – **is that confession sufficient for me to stop doing it again?**

If truth be known, this confession will bring about utter discouragement.

This is a biggie beloved. I hope we have ears to hear this truth.

Listening to a marvelous preacher, or great teacher (if I am truthful about myself) does not motivate me to become a better preacher or teacher.

Perfect examples do not motivate me toward excellence. Perfect examples have a tendency to destroy my motivation. I say to myself, I will never be like him or her.

That is the problem with teachers that want you and I to be more “**like Jesus**” that sounds like a good program, but truth be known, if I set about to be more like Him, it will bring me to utter ruin.

I can draw upon the same power He drew upon, and allow that same power to move through my body – the end result will be me acting like Jesus – but I do **not study Him** in order to **act like Him**.

Beloved, that is what they **had under the law**. The law was the manifestation of Jesus Christ. The law demonstrated the character of Jesus Christ.

Many believers today are suffering under the same illusion – to be like Christ.

This is the problem that Paul found in the churches of Galatia.

Having begun in the walk of the Spirit, they were now trying to **mature** themselves by turning back to ‘rules to live by’ or the law. **Galatians 3:3**

They were turning back to the law in order to perfect the flesh and become mature.

The law cannot move me to **right behavior** and it **cannot help my sorrowful heart** at what I have done.

2nd Corinthians 5:14 - make note of this in your bible

It further exacerbates the problem. It manifests the problem and condemns me.

I am reminded of **Romans 2: vs 4** (example of the woman in bible study in **Corpus Christi**) again, **2 Peter 3:18** – We grow in the grace and understanding of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Growing in **grace** is our growing in our understanding of our GREAT **need** for Him. Growing in **knowledge** is growing in our understanding of His GREAT **provision** for us.

Now- - - - -

Concerning the issue of obeying God - The desire to obey is **not born** in ourselves. It comes as a result of our understanding of who we are, what we have, and what has happened to us.

It comes from the fact that we **know we are justified in Him**

The **ability** to obey comes from our having the presence of the Holy Spirit within. It is His life within us that gives us the ability to obey.

The actual **desire** to obey God has to do with our understanding of our righteousness we now possess in Christ.

The ability to obey comes from the love of Christ we now have within each of us. This is the salvation walk.

That's why I state that **if you believe right – you will act right.**

Further

What is it that drives us to do right and turn from evil? Often we think that it is the fear of punishment that constrains us or compels us to do right, and to a degree that is true.

Solomon said in **Ecc 8:11** that “because of the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”

The issue at hand is- what is the motivation driving us?

Look at **John 10:7-18**

Jesus speaking of the hireling is doing what he is doing **not for the benefit** of the sheep but in order to receive payment for his activity. While watching over the sheep, as soon as he sees a wolf coming around, he splits for his own benefit.

The shepherd on the other hand is willing to lay down his own life for the benefit of the sheep.

When the Apostle Paul penned these words in 2nd Corinthians he is discussing the powerful motivation that drives the believer into not only doing right, but in sharing this truth to the world.

Even though some folks thought Paul was crazy – out of his mind- yet the driving force behind his sharing was the love that Jesus had for them.

The love of Christ **compelled Paul to share the gospel**. I think both the love that Christ has for his people, as well as the love that Paul had for Christ. Both were at work in Paul and also in us.

We need to ask ourselves – what is it that compels us to walk uprightly and well as share His life and love to others?

Oh to know the riches of His love for His people. Oh for us to get a glimpse of what He has done for us in order to bring us to Himself.

Once in His grasp, once in the knowledge of His love for us – who can escape?

Nothing can separate us from His love. Nothing, even yourself – no creature, nothing created, nothing experienced – in height or depth of any situation is able to separate us from His love. When known by us of this great love, it puts **walls around our behavior.**

If you believe right about yourself, that belief will cause you to act right – which is practical righteousness.

Awake to righteousness and sin not.

Now, just a note about what may be troubling the believer.

Note Please **Romans 7:23**&following

Paul tells us that “**in our members**” that is our physical body – the desire to do wrong is heightened. Our members – our body – had its desires. It doesn't like being hot, cold, hungry, unkept etc. In other words, it wants its own way in things.

The end result of that is that it wars against the spirit of a man.

That is why most advertising is directed toward our members. Telling us to “look pretty – using this product – or feel great using this product – or experience this euphoria by going here or eating this or drinking that or riding in this etc.

All of which are meant to stir up our **members** – often times warring against our spirit.

My inward man wants no part of this program, but is under an assault from my members. There is a part of me that wants to reject this assault, but often I submit to its desires.

I know that that chocolate cookie is not something I need, or that bowl of ice cream is not what I need right now, or that cigarette is unhealthy for my body, but my members override my spirit and boom – there I am eating and drinking those things that I know are not good for me.

There is a solution to this beloved, but it is not our WILL POWER that needs to take center stage. It is our understanding and belief in Him. It is our desire to throw off this activity on to Him. It is to awake to who we are in Him. Those desires are part of the “old Man” and they have gone to the cross. They are no longer in charge of our lives.

Again beloved, we are discussing our walk with the Lord after we have given our lives to Him. It is not our **position** that is in view, it is our **condition**. It is **not our standing** before Him, it is the **present state** of our salvation walk with Him.

Notice verse **25 of Romans 7** – it is not a thing that delivers us from this living hell on earth (ie. my ability to suffer though this thing and clench my teeth to stop this or start that) *it is a person and His name is Jesus Christ.*

Well what if you seem unable to overcome these things? What happens when you meditate on your failures? It brings condemnation and guilt - BOTH OF WHICH HAVE NO PART IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER...

Romans 8: 1 There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to those who are in Christ Jesus – and beloved, that is you

The laws (you set upon yourself to stop this or start that) have been eliminated - Do not **revive** them. They are dead and gone. In their place is a new understanding of who you really are.

Can we throw our failures on to Him? Can we accept what has happened, admit that it has happened and that I had a part in it, but then cry out as Paul put it in Romans 7 **(two times I may add)** Yea, I did it, but it was not me who did it, but rather sin in me that did it and it is no longer me. I have been separated from that thing.

I know that there are folks out there that immediately will cry out “tom that is a license to sin and you are not being a responsible person.

Actually the believer who has experienced His forgiveness and love has no desire to sin for we reject it.

Ok now on to the meeting at hand

Skin in the game

My understanding of this term is that it normally involves a financial transaction of some sort, but I want to expand our understanding a bit further.

Any time I invest anything of my own with the understanding that I have committed everything I can afford toward a specific outcome.

There is nothing more important to me that to see the completion of my endeavor to a successful conclusion. I have invested everything I have to help bring forth my desired results.

Thus – life of the Apostle Paul.

Last time we discussed from **2nd Corinthians 11-23-26** all that he had invested in you and me and all other believers in hopes of our receiving the same outcome that he so disparately desired.

He had;

a. regarding stripes – above measure – from the Jews 5 times he had received 39 lashes HE DIED BELOVED.

b. 3 times he was beaten with rods

c. once he was stoned – **Acts 14: 19** – imagine what Paul was thinking being carried out in that field.

e. 3 times he was shipwrecked

f. once he spent a night and a day afloat at sea – in the deep

I would say he had **“skin in the game”**

His credentials entitled him to bring this message of “grace” only to the church

Remember beloved – **grace is not contrasted with law - grace is the opposite of works.** When you and I work, we expect a reward. We expect something in return for

our efforts. Not so with grace - It is unmerited, unearned favor with God – period Read again **Romans 11 6&following**

No wonder Paul was so adamant about the importance of his message.

No wonder He after going through what he has gone through wanted everyone to know the importance of the Grace of God.

And concerning this life he said:

Paul put it this way in **1st Cor 15-19** - for if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen – and if Christ is not risen your faith is futile and you are still in your sins – and those who have fallen asleep (died) in Christ have perished If in this life we only have hope in Christ (and nothing further awaits us) we are of all men most miserable.

If in this world and what is happening now is all we have, achieving things, doing things acquiring things, experiencing things – then I of all men is most miserable.

It has not even entered into the hearts of man the wonderful things that God has prepared for us.

Just a reminder beloved- healing for your body is a wonderful thing – **but nothing compared to what is coming for us.**

Earthly riches are an exciting thing for us, **but nothing to compare with what is coming.**

So – to those who would pervert the message – Paul did not wish them death. Rather he wished that they were “cut off from the life of Christ” Accursed if you will.

I want to spend just a moment on the **ministry of the Holy Spirit.**

I understand that He is said to be our helper – our comforter – our revealer, but I want to introduce you to a scripture in **John chapter 16 vs 5** & following:

According to verse 6 – the Holy Spirit will: **convict-** **a.** the world of sin **b.** of righteousness and **c.** of judgment

Of sin – because the world does not believe in me

Of righteousness – written to the believer because I go to my Father and you see me no more and,

Of judgment – because the ruler of this world is judged

His ministry is to **convict** the world- **King James uses the word reprove-** which means to rebuke, reprove or admonish in addition to meaning convict.

Of sin: because the **world** does not see the final work of the cross – which is to eradicate the issue of sin – settle the payment and sacrifice for or need on the part of anyone to be held in judgment for their sin-

OK, any questions?

Once again – concerning this issue of sin -

Look with me at **Hebrews 10-26 then 29-31**

After we have received the knowledge of the truth – what is that? The truth is that Jesus is the final sacrifice for sin – there will never be another sacrifice that can or should be offered.

Once He offered Himself as the final sacrifice for sin – He “sat down” at the right hand of God the Father.

The world does not believe in Jesus so in their minds the issue of sin is very much alive even though the payment for their sin has been meted out on Jesus Himself

He rebukes or reproves the **believer of righteousness** – This is the main stumbling block for us. His ministry to us is to convince us of our righteousness. This righteousness is apart from anything the **believer does** – rather it is His work and His alone and if there is one thing needed by the believer today is to settle the fact that before the Lord – you are as righteous as you will ever get.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to admonish the believer and the world that the Devils judgment has come. He is a defeated foe – His reign of terror in the life of the believer is over.

The devil on the other hand is hard at work trying to convince the believer that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convince the believer that he is a sinner.

The devil has been very successful in telling the church that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convince them of their sin. Not so beloved.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convince the world of their sin of unbelief in Jesus Christ. He will also convince the world of the fact that the devil has been judged.

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT TO CONVICT OR CONVINCING THE BELIEVER OF HIS / HER SIN. He rather is admonishing the believer of his righteousness.

He is constantly turning the believer toward His righteousness in Christ Jesus.

The devil is the “accuser of the brethren” not the Holy Spirit.

Further Jesus tells us that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to: vs 13

- a. Guide you into truth
- b. He will not speak of His own
- c. He will speak only what he hears from Jesus
- d. He will take what is of Jesus and reveal it to each one of us.
- e. He will tell us of things to come
- f. Twice Jesus mentions that He will take what is of mine (That is Jesus Himself) and reveal it to us.

I reject the notion that He is there to “help me pray” or help me grow or to become a better person.

He will take what things that are of Jesus and declare them to us.

We are not in the picture here – Jesus Christ is.