

January 11, 2022

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 than 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 week 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.

As Peter said in 2nd Peter 3: 1 - I want to “stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance”
Paul had gone through:

- a. regarding stripes – above measure – from the Jews 5 times he had received 39 lashes
- 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. - He had died beloved
- 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**

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**- 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.

OK – now that Paul has established His credentials – He feels as do I that he has a right to promote certain positions.

Look once more at Acts 9:16

Galatians Chapter 1 vs 6 & following

There are 2 Greek words that can be translated **another** but they have different meanings.–

They are the word Allos– Which means another of the same kind and

Heteros – which means another of a different kind

In verse 6 it is the word heteros – another of a different kind - He is referring to a gospel of a different kind. NOT THE GOSPEL HE HAD GIVEN TO THEM.-

Gospel again means good news- The heteros gospel may sound like good news, but it is not good news and is not the same good news you received from Jesus.

It cannot be “good news” if for some reason I become involved in the process.

A similar process to the Corinthian church – **2 Cor 11: 4 then 14**

The good news cannot include activity on my part. The moment you get me involved in your good news; it is no longer good news. I.e. God will if you will

The law said – this do and thou shall live - NOT GOOD NEWS, AND NOT THE VOICE OF GRACE.

A message preached the gospel on the basis of law – is not only not Grace – but it is not **good news**.

Remember – The purpose of the law was to get men LOST. It first had to be bad news in order for us to receive good news. Read again **Romans 7 9-13**

Once we understand that Christ did for us what we were unable to do for ourselves, it becomes good news.

Paul paid the price to teach this with His body

Want to stir up a hornets nest with God the Father

Hebrews 10:23 - Now before we read these verses the issue before us is **not**;

The severity of the sin - ie trespass or sin of omission – it is not the frequency of the sin in fact it is not the issue of the sin itself - The issue is how that sin is **cared for**. It issue is how that sin has been paid for. The issue is how that sin and its penalty has been removed totally from the believer

The issue is:: Whether we consider the payment for that sin (that is the blood of Jesus Christ) considered to be a common thing. No better than the blood sacrifice in the Old Testament offered by the believer through the Priest It is an Insult to the spirit of Grace.

In our minds as well as our Heavenly Father – we must make MUCH of the blood of Jesus Christ.

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-.

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.- continually day and night according to **Rev 12:10**

Further Jesus tells us that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to: **John 16 s 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.

Again beloved -

To conclude beloved - Healing In our bodies is important today and a wonderful thing – HOWEVER IT IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT AWAITS US.

Earthly riches are a wonderful thing too beloved, BUT NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT IS COMING.

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