

Word to study today - Gospel - "Good news" - Romans 1:15

Zoom study 10-5-21

Before we return to Paul, I want to clear up something that came up last week.

When Moses struck the rock the 2nd time – Numbers 20:10 - in essence he was "crucifying Jesus again for themselves and putting Him to an open shame"

When Moses struck the rock the second time He smote Christ. Read **Hebrews 9:28**, then **Romans 6-10** and then **1st Peter 3:18**- Jesus suffered once for sins – period

For this reason, Moses could view the land but could not enter the land.

Now before we proceed, I want you to know that there is a group of believers in the church today that believe you can sin your way out of your position with the Lord. It is known as the Armenian position.

This opposes the position of the Calvinists of which I am one.

Further – they believe that you must repent and receive Jesus Christ again in order to go to heaven when you die.

(In my view – crucifying Christ afresh, putting Him to open shame)

One of their favorite verses to support their position is Hebrew 6 commentary.

Let me review with you some things that the Children of Israel knew- 1st they were once enlightened next they had tasted of the heavenly gift (Jesus the manna from heaven) next they had been partakers of the Holy Spirit – for it was He that was the cloud over them during the day and the pillar of fire by night – they had tasted the good word of God having eaten the grapes figs and pomegranates brought back from the land – yet they were not allowed to go into the land because they saw "giants in the land and were afraid.

Verse 6 of Hebrews 6 says "if they fall away" to renew them again to repentance....
"since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God and put *Him* to an open shame"

Notice something wrong with their argument. It is impossible to renew them to Justification – no to their position with the Lord – no to their relationship with the Lord – no –impossible for them to **repent**.

Read with me now- **Numbers 14: 39** & following - they tried to repent – Moses said "don't go, the Lord is not with you" sure enough, they were defeated by the Amalekites

Now several times the children of Israel cried out to God – wish we were back in Egypt (the world) at least we had water and food etc.

If God was ever to allow them to go back to Egypt (their position in the world before Jesus Christ) He would have allowed them to go back to Egypt. He did not ----- Read **Exodus 14 11-12**

So the Arminian position is debunked – here and in other places which we will study at a later date. The children could not get in to Canaan and they could not get out of their relationship with the Lord back into Egypt.

Further these folks tell you that if you sin – you fall from Grace....

Well, what is the opposite of Grace? Correct it is works - Beloved, we cannot fall from grace – grace is grace period and you are stuck with it...

OK – on you go with the message of the Apostle Paul

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My desire again is to reiterate the importance of the calling of the Apostle Paul. As noted last week, He wrote 14 of the books of the New Testament (Hebrews?)

He was at Stevens stoning and received his garments

He had the experience on the road to Damascus — heard a voice from heaven – why are you persecuting me (Jesus said)

He was blinded – told to go to Ananias house –where he prayed and Paul received again his sight

God told Him he was to go and preach to the Gentiles

He was caught up into the 3rd heaven (in or out of body experience he knew not) where he was given 1st Cor 3 the pattern for the church

He claimed in that he was the wise master builder (architect) of the church

For 14 years he sought no other apostles learning from Jesus Himself –

He claims that his Apostleship was from Jesus Himself, not appointed by man

No man had added to his knowledge – it came from Jesus Himself – they added nothing to his ministry

Refers to “my gospel” in Romans 16:25 and Romans 2:16

No other Apostle made any claim like Paul had – in fact Peter said in **2 Peter 3:15&16**

So as with **Moses in the Old Testament** – you have the **Apostle Paul** in the New

Once again – you have heard me say the Book of Galatians written to the Gentile, and the Book of Hebrews written to the Jews.

P.S. religious people are *complicated folks*

– it took Paul 13 chapters to explain to the Hebrews what was going on and only 6 chapters to the Galatians.

In the book of Hebrews Paul was telling them to forsake their past history and embrace their new relationship with Christ. Christ is better than the angels, Moses, the law the prophets, the rituals etc. and in Galatians the Hebrew believers were trying to get these gentiles to accept their moral, spiritual, and ceremonial laws

Remember that this is what Jesus meant when He was speaking about “New wine in old wine skins” or put a piece of “unshrunk cloth on an old garment” **Matt 9:16&17**

According to **Col 2:11** there is now, no difference between a slave and a free man for they both are free in Christ. No difference between the circumcised and the uncircumcised barbarian or Scythian – all are free now under Christ.

That was also the caution in the Old Testament about sewing diverse seeds in the same field – field = the believer, seeds like wheat (grace) and oats (law) in the same field/**Deut: 22:9**

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
iw 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.

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 amuck 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 or angels, Moses, the law etc. I.e.; 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 tract 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 every one 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**. Every one 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 – i.e. 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”

i.e. 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. I.e. 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 Sinai must become “bad news” before we are able to hear “good news” The law was 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”