

Zoom Meeting Notes #2

November 30th, 2021

Review before we begin – let me remind us of 2nd Peter 2: 15 – “Rightly dividing the word of truth

2nd Timothy 3:16 Paul said;

All scripture is “God Breathed” and is profitable for us –doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness - Not all scripture is written to me.

And as I said last time - In Paul’s writings we have **doctrine** – Book of Romans – **reproof** 1st and 2nd Corinthians – **corrections** -Galatians thru 2nd Thessalonians and **instruction in righteousness** - 1st Timothy through Philemon

I need to place the scripture within the correct dispensation for my profit –

A few examples – Blessed are the **meek** for they shall inherit the earth – It is true that there is Profit in my being meek at times, but the church has no EARTHLY INHERITANCE –

Israel will have an inheritance, we do not. – Our Inheritance is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted - For us, the Comforter (Holy Spirit) is always present AND we are taught to “REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

There is a time coming for great mourning for the Nation of Israel – but not the Church

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse – test me and prove me – for will pour out on you abundantly more than you can ask or think – Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down etc.

New Testament principle **2 Cor 9:7** - Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a HALIRIOUS GIVER

These are examples I call of placing the cart before the horse - Doing something in order to receive something from God.

Beloved we NEVER do something in order to receive something from Him. He freely gives to us everything and out of that abundance – we joyfully give to others.

NOT TO RECEIVE, BUT BECAUSE WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED EVERYTHING FROM HIM.

I do nothing to get Him to react – He only acts and my part is to react to that act.

We love, because HE FIRST LOVED US

Just a few other important facts:

When God called Paul – Jesus said Paul was a “**chosen vessel**” unto me.

It is spoken of the believer that we are vessels – we have a treasure in and **earthen vessel** - We are **containers** – of the Glory and person of God Himself – we are **Temples** – Temples house its God – as do we

Again beloved – ACTIVITY is not the function of the vessel – Receptivity is the function of the vessel - It receives – it does not create - It is not the function of any works-

I would like to offer for your consideration a radical idea.

When you are reading the bible for yourself, should you come across a scripture that seems to:

- a.. divide you somehow from His love –
- b. cause you to question His goodness towards you
- c. make you wonder if you are living up to His expectations
- d. allowing activity in your life that seems to separate you from His goodness or His love for you
- e. reading a scripture that seems to somehow disqualify you from His blessings or acceptance or
- f. cause you to doubt your relationship with Him because He has had enough of your varied behavior,

You have either misunderstood the meaning of the words, you are reading a portion of scripture that does not relate to you in the Church, You are reading a portion of scripture that is not relevant to the dispensation of the “grace of God” in which we currently live, or is not relevant to the activity of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Quite bold I know, but the truth just the same.

Let’s take just one example from the Gospel of John. I mentioned this on Facebook under the title of Abiding.

Read with me John 15: 1 & following

He “takes away” Well what is your first thought here? Yep, you are lost, He has forsaken you and cast you away from His presence. You no longer belong to Him Not bearing fruit, “out you go” No longer one of His – case from His presence with Now – no Hope.

The truth of this passage is far deeper than that. First He is speaking about a vine. Vines bring forth fruit – wine if you will from the grapes -

He has told us that His Father in Heaven is the vinedresser and He Himself (Jesus) is the true vine.

What comes from the vine? Yep all the necessary ingredients to produce a good fruit. Telling us that it is not us that produce the fruit, but He Himself is producing the fruit.

Much could be said at this point about the fruit, but suffice to say that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, goodness meekness etc. That is **His fruit** – not ours. He is the one producing this fruit. You and I cannot product love – joy – peace etc.

That is why He says that the peace that passes understanding is not originated in my activity. It can only be available through a relationship with Him for He is that peace. He doesn't give it to me as something I can give to you. He is my; peace. Have Jesus – have peace - Same is true of Joy or longsuffering or meekness etc.

Well on you go with it.

This comes into my life because of a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Not to be taken away should I misbehave, but always available from Him as His attribute.

Casting all of your cares on Him – peace comes from Him

Looking back at our example form John 15- 1 the word “takes away” actually means “lifts up” and is referring to a vine dresser (or vineyard owner) growing grapes and what he does when the grape vine come in contact with the ground.

He ties up the vine not allowing it to touch the ground – why? Because the ground is a picture of the world and when the vine touches the things of the world, it takes on the flavor of the world and becomes “bitter” so it is tied up to remain closer to the life of the vine and the sweetness of the vine/

Pruning is also necessary to maintain the sweetness of the vine

Pruning is also for our benefit and happens to every believer.

When you read in **Matthew 25** about the 10 virgins – five were wise, five were foolish for they took no oil for their lamps- we know from scripture that oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit, and He never leaves you, never forsakes you, so you could not be in view here.

When you read in scripture that “if you do not do this, God will not do that” something is amiss. He is always faithful – He is always loving toward you – He is always your savior – Nothing can separate you from that love – Not even yourself.

Read again **Romans 8:37-39**

Let us review a very important word in verse 38 - The word **Persuaded** – according to Strong’s Concordance the word persuaded means :to convince by argument – to assent to authority – to rely with inner certainty- to agree with, to believe and have confidence in = to trust in and rely upon

The word “**separate**” means to place room between and has the idea that there is no empty space between two things.

It can’t happen – period...

Should you come upon a scripture that seems to say differently – the above truth remains. Find out what you are misreading, misunderstanding, or who it is written to you. It is not written to the church.

The body of Christ needs teachers to give us the proper instruction and to help us place the scripture in the proper dispensation.

There will be no further revelation (written word) coming from Him.

Yet, his word must cover the total plan of man to God and God to man from the innocence in the garden, to the instructions on what will transpire during the millennium reign.

Peter said “stir up your pure minds..... ; Paul said “for me to repeat a thing is not a burden for me – profitable for you

So we have covered – the **life of Abraham** (where in he includes the Jews as well as the father of our faith)

We discussed His misdeeds – His lack of faith etc. and how that relates to us today.

We discussed the importance between works of the flesh and works of the Holy Spirit and how they were relevant in Abe’s life

We have **covered Moses** – His calling, his early life – then his usefulness in the hands of God to deliver God’s people from Egypt – crossing the red sea, his trip through the wilderness, the giving of the law from Mt. Sinai, his eventual death and the rising up of Joshua and Caleb to enter the land.

We discussed their crossing of the Jordan River into Canaan – the importance of the spies going into the land of Canaan the first time – their rebellion against God and their punishment- then the need for Moses death for Joshua to enter the land

We discussed Canaan as the “normal Christian life” even though most believers do not live there.

Then we discussed the life and calling of **Saul of Tarsus** – to eventually becoming the **Apostle Paul**

We have been studying the importance of His writings, how His calling was as unique as Moses – given the **blueprint** for the church today and the importance of understanding why his teachings are so very important to the health and well-being of the church today.

As I have stated, there are those who believe that Paul’s writings, though beneficial, we would do better to just study the “red” in scripture as this is the voice of Jesus.

Beloved to remind us again, the New Testament did not begin in Matthew chapter 1 verse 1.

Jesus said in 1st Corinthians 11 that the new covenant (testament – same Greek word) began with the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ

So we have discussed the uniqueness of the calling of) the Apostle Paul - His specific teachings about how the church should function in the world today.

Paul’s teachings always come from a position we now hold with the Lord, and as a result of that position, how we should be reacting accordingly.

There were many problems in the Corinthian Church. They were getting drunk at the Lords Table (communion)

They were going to court to solve problems within the church-

There was sexual immorality within the church –

They were cheating one another,

They were lying to one another.

In addition, they were using their liberty – causing their brothers and sisters to stumble.

Look how Paul handles the problem of “eating foods offered to idols” **1st Cor 8:1** & following.

We live in the church today to edify one another. We are free people, yet we do not use that freedom to stumble a weaker brother.

For your information, He is the weaker of the two. Not you. His faith is weak, not yours. You have liberty, you enjoy freedom, and you are not in bondage to rules to live by, or days of the week to worship, or certain foods or drink in which to partake.

However, for the sake of the ONE BODY of Jesus Christ, you honor the weaker brother by not partaking in his presence. You are not required to “strengthen His faith” by your liberty, but rather for the sake of unity, you withhold your freedom for his sake.

In other words, you do not criticize his weak faith. He stands or falls in the face of the Lord Jesus. As do you.

Rather, you enjoy your liberty, receiving everything with thanksgiving, and allow the weaker brother to have peace in your presence until Jesus gives him /her the same liberty.

Same thing is true of your conversation.

Phil 1:27 - King James says “let your conversation be as becometh the

New King James Version says “let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ”

To simplify this for our thinking – we should understand this passage to mean - Make sure that when you are talking to another believer, that they understand that you need the good news of Jesus Christ as much as they need the good news.

It is one beggar telling another beggar when to find the bread

So we are looking at the writings of the Apostle Paul -

Imperative that we understand His **writings above all else**. He gives the overview of the Church – He gives the method of behavior for the church – He gives the structure for the church – He gives the responsibility of the church to the world-

Without His writings – we would have nothing but confusion. We would be placing scripture as one who puts the cart before the horse.

Now I want to make something very clear. I mentioned our position of receiving – but that does not rule out the activity of doing something,

Activity is the product of receiving, but it is not a substitute for it.

We are thinking, feeling, acting people. However we need to understand that we are not independent selves – i.e. we are joined with the creator and would do well to understand that we have “died” to independent self-thinking.

It helps us understand the concept of being a ‘receptor’ a vessel, a container.

We are not living a life with God as our “helper” in order for us to “pray more” Give more love more etc.

God Himself is now our “all and in all” He is the one who prays, loves, witnesses etc.

Paul put it this way – He is now OUR LIFE - Chew on this for a moment.

The more we understand of the vine branch relationship and Paul’s

He also beloved is the one who reveals the heart of the Father to us. Far to many of us see the Heavenly Father as the one who dealt with the Jews in the wilderness. Do this wrong and ZAP ||| that is it for us.

Jesus said “You ask to see the Father, have I been so long with you and yet you want to see the Father. When you see me, you have seen the Father. Want to know how He feels about the lost – look at the activity of the Son

Want to know how the Father feels about religious Pharisees? Watch how Jesus handled them.

One you go with it.