

How to Enjoy the Bible, Week # 9 - “Loving the Truth Concerning God’s Unlimited and Free Grace - Part 2”

Review

In a previous meeting here on Sunday morning considered what the Bible says about our proper response to what we already have learned about God’s Word of truth.

- ***We saw that the Bible testifies to it’s own origin and character as God’s word to man, and that therefore it must be interpreted carefully, comparing scripture with scripture and interpreting the word literally if possible. What a difference that makes as so many of us here today can well testify.***

- ***We learned that the teachings of the Bible fall into natural divisions (law and grace, for example) and that regarding the plan of redemption, Paul’s preaching of the gospel of grace is distinctive and of a different character from the various legal systems found in the scriptures, whether that of Moses Law or the law of the Millennial Kingdom.***

- ***Then, several lessons back we considered Abraham’s faith as our example in taking God at his word and how that DOES MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE, FOR NOW AND FOR ETERNITY***
 - ***Abraham believed God -- he believed what God had promised to him:***
 - ***This was far different than simply believing in God, and far more than simply believing in the one true God, Abraham had received a revelation from God,***

actually a specific promise regarding his future offspring. REALLY, HIS FUTURE OFFSPRING, A SON OF PROMISE AND HIS DESCENDENTS

- **Abraham believed the promise God gave him, that contrary to reason and human experience he would have this “son of the promise” and become the father of many nations (Gen. 15:5-6)**

SO, ALL WORK REQUIREMENTS HAD TO BE SET ASIDE, PAUL POINTED OUT HERE, SO, FOR US, AS IT WAS WITH ABRAHAM, NO HUMAN WORKS CAN POSSIBLY BE ADEQUATE IN REFERENCE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL NEED OF EACH SINNER, A NEED FOR JUSTIFICATION, A NEED FOR A RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT GOES FAR BEYOND HUMAN STRIVING OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN OUR SEEKING TO LIVE UP TO GOD’S HIGH AND HOLY STANDARDS.

FOR PAUL HIMSELF, THE HOPELESSNESS OF HIS SINFUL CONDITION WAS, THROUGH FAITH IN THE RESURRECTED LORD JESUS CHRIST, REPLACED BY A HOPE THAT SET HIM FREE, JUST LIKE IT DID FOR FATHER ABRAHAM.

SO, YOU MAY PROPERLY ASK, WHY DID PAUL QUOTE FROM GEN. 15 HERE IN THE ROMANS CHAPTER 4? IT SEEMS SO OUT OF CONTEXT, DOESN’T IT? YOUR THOUGHTS?

We then saw how the Apostle of the Gentiles devoted himself to this truth he had received from the risen and ascended Lord Jesus, and how he dedicated his life to the preaching and teaching of that truth.

WELL, THEN, YOU WILL REMEMBER, WE examined what Paul wrote concerning this LIFE AND ETERNITY TRANSFORMING TRUTH in his letters, and last time we considered SIX SCRIPTURES ON THIS TOPIC

OF HOW WE NEED TO BOTH KNOW AND LOVE THE TRUTH IN THIS AGE OF DARKNESS.

... SIX SCRIPTURES SHOWING THE WAY TO DELIVERANCE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN AND THE BURDENS OF THE LAW.

... SIX SCRIPTURES THAT, IF WE WILL ONLY RECEIVE THEM WITH JOY, WILL BUILD A HEDGE AGAINST THE ENEMY AND WILL GIVE US THE STRENGTH AND FORTITUDE TO STAND FIRM AGAINST EVERY FOE.

Our starting point last time was Rom. 3:4 where we read that God and His Truth MUST NEVER BE SEPARATED --- FOR THEY ARE TRULY INSEPARABLE:

[READ] Rom. 3:4 God forbid: yea, ***let God be true, but every man a liar***, as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

- **God is truth. Our Lord is truth. When God speaks, he speaks the truth, he speaks truthfully. HE CANNOT LIE. HE SIMPLY CANNOT!!**
- **Mankind is just the opposite, apart from the saving grace of God. IN FACT, IT SEEMS THAT HE OFTEN CANNOT TELL THE TRUTH OR ACKNOWLEDGE IT EVEN. EXAMPLE.**
- **So, God does not play the numbers game like men who seek worldly or even Satanic means to draw in the crowds. This means inevitably that they minimize or even distort the truth of God, and they do it for their own perverse reasons, just like Satan did in the Garden of Eden with Eve.**
- **I WELL REMEMBER BEING TOSSED TO AND FRO WITH EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE WHEN I WAS YOUNG IN THE LORD AND EVEN WHEN I WAS NOT SO YOUNG. BUT THE LORD**

DELIVERED ME, PRAISE HIS NAME. YOU MIGHT GIVE A SIMILAR TESTIMONY.

We then saw then last time how the apostle Paul's life was transformed by this truth and how he devoted his life to this revealed truth that had been revealed to him from heaven's glory by the risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ.

We concluded in 2 Thess 2 verse 10, a revelation that when properly interpreted can be seen to reveal the circumstances that will exist in the Great Tribulation Period. Of course the apostle was not merely revealing prophetically what will occur in that time period yet future, but he was making a strong statement about what is actually happening TODAY throughout this period in which we are living.

[YOUR COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?]

Our subject this morning will be Paul's application of that teaching to our current time, to this marvelous Dispensation of the Grace of God. Here in verses 7-13 of 2 Thess. 2, the Apostle contrasts our situation today with that of unbelievers living during the Great Tribulation.

I. *OUR CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES - DIRE & HOPELESS INDEED APART FROM GOD'S WORD OF TRUTH AND OF GRACE*

[READ] 2 Thess. 2:6-7

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way.

Our current circumstances regarding Satan's lies

- ***“mystery of iniquity” - the sacred secret of the lawlessness [or, lawless one] lit.***
- ***“he who now letteth” - the one withholding***
- ***“taken out of the way” - when? at the rapture of course as verse 1 indicates. This whole section makes sense only in the light of the pre-tribulational rapture of the church which is his body.***

II. REFUSING THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH DURING THE GREAT TRIBULATION PERIOD -- OUR EXAMPLE

[READ] 2 Thess. 2:8-10

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 [Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

The power and the enabler behind the current “world” or “cosmos” - is Satan himself

- ***“that wicked one” - the lawless one***
- ***“the brightness of his coming” - the revelation***
- ***“whose coming is after the working of Satan” -***
- ***“all power and signs and lying wonders” - note the word “all” and note the rest of the sentence well***
- ***“in them that perish” -***
- ***“because they received not the love of the truth” - This is our key subject today; Paul’s warning is very strongly***

worded here by this comparison to the Great Tribulation receivers of the mark

- *“that they might be saved” - rather, they received the mark of the beast*

III. GOD’S RESPONSE TO THEIR REFUSALS -- HIS JUDGMENT WILL FALL ON THOSE REJECTING HIS TRUTH AND LOVING INSTEAD SATAN’S LIES

[READ] 2 Thess. 2:11-12

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

⇒⇒ God’s response to the ones captured by Satan’s lies (during the Great Tribulation)

- *“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion” - this indicates the in the dynamic of unbelief, there is a day, a moment appointed for salvation and when that passes, all hope is lost -- or so it seems.*
- *“that they should believe a lie” - Really, “the lie”, in great contrast to “the truth”, namely the gospel, the good news preached to them.*
- *“That they all might be damned” - “judged”*
- *“who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” - one might ask here regarding them, they did not receive the truth with joy and refused its teaching, and the consequence was that instead they “had pleasure in unrighteousness”. ... again, “the unrighteousness”. What may that have been?*

[COMMENTS?]

IV. RECEIVING THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH -- TODAY, GOD'S BLESSING IS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE TRUTH

[READ] 2 Thess. 2:13: 13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

⇒ ⇒ God's promise to his elect whom he will save and sanctify THROUGH HIS TRUTH (today, under grace)

- **"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you" - Paul now applies this teaching directly to us today**
- **"God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation" - So here the apostle boldly states the doctrine of eternal election, and, in the final part of the verse, explains this dynamic working of God in us ...**
- **"through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth" - So indeed God works through his word of truth. He sets us apart unto it and then the power of the gospel draws us to himself in saving faith. Amen and amen!**

WHAT IS THE POINT OF IT ALL (TO SUMMARZE OUR FELLOWSHIP IN THE WORD TODAY)?

- **Satan's domain, this world where Satan is the prince, is the domain where Satan's lies RULE!**
- **Believing his lies will lead many to damnation during the Great Tribulation period on the earth, a time yet future, when wonders**

and miracles worked out by his power are used to deceive the world.

- ***But his lies are already at work today through signs and wonders worked by him in the name of Christ***
- ***BUT BELOVED, while believing the truth leads to salvation and sanctification (holiness), believing the lie(s), on the other hand, leads to condemnation.***

LET'S CONCLUDE BY CONSIDERING PAUL'S WARNING TO US BELIEVERS TODAY AS WRITTEN TO HIS FELLOW SERVANT TITUS:

[READ] Titus 1:13-14

13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. AMEN Brethren.

Therefore we are exhorted often to receive and to hold fast firmly to the truth of God's unlimited grace. That will keep our hearts and minds focused on Christ Jesus. And this will enable us to enjoy the Lord and to enjoy his precious truth WHICH IS HIS WORD.

- ***The saints do not need stories, they need truth, the truth of God's grace.***
- ***The truth of God's redeeming grace sets free from the world and Satan's power.***
- ***The truths concerning our freedom from the law under grace ALSO gives deliverance from the powers of the flesh***
- ***AND, the love of Paul's revelation of truth for the Body of Christ brings enjoyment of the Scriptures.***

PRAISE THE LORD FOR THE ABUNDANCE OF HIS GRACE.

Amen and amen!

ANY COMMENTS?

Thanks be to God for his greatest gift of all, our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, AND THE WORD OF TRUTH THAT MAKES THIS SO CLEAR TO US ALL.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Amen.

=====

Knowing the grace of God must always BOTH our starting point AND our ending point. It is just that simple.

[READ] Col. 1:6 Which is come unto you, as [it is] in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as [it doth] also in you, since the day ye heard [of it], **and knew the grace of God in truth:**

- **The gospel of the grace of God must be heard in order to be believed.**
- **So believing God regarding the only basis for true salvation (which is what the gospel or good news communicates to us) is also where we gain the full experiential knowledge of the truth of our salvation.**
- **AND WE CAN FULLY EXPECT that since God's truth is so important in the working out of God's plan under grace, the enemy will stand in the way always. He will use every**

means to contradict this message of grace and substitute legalisms, religious practices, and false and deceptive experiences related through stories designed to attract the unsuspecting.

- ***MUCH DISCERNMENT IS NEEDED to avoid being led astray by all of this SPIRITUAL NOISE!***