

## **“How to Enjoy the Bible, Week # 10”**

### **“The Gospel is the Good News about God's Grace and the Power of God for Salvation”**

#### **Review**

- ***All Scripture is God-breathed, given perfectly without errors, and interpretations are therefore not to be “private”. Additionally, we should literally interpret the Word unless there are very good reasons not to (as indicated by the Scripture itself).***
  
- ***We then saw that Paul considered Abraham as our example of faith. The issue for the apostle was what “justifying faith” was all about. He noted from Gen. 15:6 that justifying faith was not “merely” Abraham believing in God as we so often hear. Rather, Abraham believed God -- he believed what God had promised to him. He believed that he would have this “son of the promise”, he was justified (or declared righteous), and he then became the father of many nations just as had been promised (Gen. 15:5-6).***
  - ***In this he took God quite literally and saw almighty God work miracles to accomplish what had been promised to him. Isn't it so comforting to know that we can take God at his word when that word is written to us for our faith and obedience?***
  
  - ***Let us re-read that key verse regarding Abraham:***
    - ***Rom 4:16*** Therefore [it is] of faith, that [it might be] by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also

which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

- ***Based on this Scripture, the apostle Paul concluded (in chapter 4 of Romans) that NO PERSONAL WORKS of righteousness were involved in Abraham's justification, none at all! So he (and we!) may be therefore "sure" or "secure" in our salvation. This is most critical for us to grasp, for our very salvation itself depends upon it.***
- ***If we do not conclude as Paul did, then we are effectively minimizing Paul's entire message and ministry. Is that clear?***

### **[COMMENTS?]**

- ***Finally, last time, we considered what it means to not only have or possess this truth but to love this truth. We went on to look at other places where Paul writes of this truth that is so important for us to know well -- and to love, of course, so that our joy might be indeed full.***
- ***We saw there that the apostle Paul dedicated his life to this message of grace. He even conflicted with the Twelve Apostles when needed so that as he wrote in Galatians, the purity of the gospel might endure.***
- ***Several key verses were examined in 2 Thessalonians chapter two:***
  - ***We saw there that Satan's realm is the world system and that his dominion is and always will be based on lies. Satan's domain, this world where Satan is the prince, is the domain where Satan's lies RULE!***

■ **2 Thess. 2:7-10**

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work ...

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.

- ***We also saw in the next verses how believing the lie(s) leads to condemnation 2:8-12, while believing the truth, 2:13, leads to salvation and sanctification (holiness):***

- 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:

- ***So, it is not believing, not faith, that brings salvation, BUT BELIEF OF THE TRUTH and in this case, Paul is referring to his gospel clearly, the gospel of the grace of God, which he tirelessly preached and this leads directly to our topic for today:***

***Our outline today: All, in reference to Paul's Gospel:***

- 1. Its priority is determined***
- 2. Its content is defined***
- 3. Its uniqueness is declared***

***1. Paul's Gospel -- It's Priority is Determined [How important?]***

***[READ ] Acts 20:24*** But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with

joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

- ***So the propagation of this truth was so important to Paul that he dedicated his life to it.***
- ***Why was it so important that he would be willing to give up everything for it, even his position as the leading Pharisee of his day?***
  - ***This scripture says it so well that we must keep it in mind always: Rom. 1:16*** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: ***for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth***; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

### ***[YOUR COMMENTS?]***

- ***Well, we may then ask, was Paul effective in his ministry?***
- ***Is he still effective today? How? What is the dynamic of this? In other words, how is God working today through Paul's ministry?***

## ***II. Paul's Gospel -- Its Content is Defined [What is its content?]***

- ***1 Cor. 15:1-9***

### ***[READ ] 1 Cor. 15:1-4***

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

--

**[READ ] 1 Cor. 15:5-9**

5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

- ***The “WHOLE GOSPEL TRUTH” here concerns the literal physical death, the burial, and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

- ***But there is more!***

- 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;
- 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.
- 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
- 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:
- ***There is the emphasis on these things: personal faith.***

- ***And then, so critically, there is the reference to the substitutionary atonement: “Christ died for our sins”***
  - ***And, finally, there is the ascension into heaven’s glory.***
- ***A fair and good question is always, have we believed this gospel? Or perhaps it was another of a different sort?***

***[COMMENTS?]***

***III. Paul’s Gospel -- Its Uniqueness is Declared [How is it different?]***

***[READ ] 2 Tim. 2:8-10***

8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, [even] unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

- ***If Paul needs to keep asserting this in his letters, then there must have been many false teachers about at that time. Do you think it is any different today? What are these false teachers saying? Your thoughts?***

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

- ***We must take to heart this good news concerning Jesus Christ. That is the “word of promise” given by God to us.***
- ***In this “so great salvation” we can surely always rest, whatever the circumstances.***
- ***And do we rejoice in this blessed truth of the gospel of God’s grace for sinners as we should?***
- ***Is Paul’s own life a motivator for us in this regard? Do we even know the details of that life? If not, let us read and know what stands written for our learning and admintion and encouragement.***
- ***We should be increasing in our love of this word of truth as we walk with the Lord and thereby increasing in our enjoyment of his word of truth, rightly divided, OUR FULL ENJOYMENT OF THE BIBLE DEPENDS UPON IT! Amen and amen!***

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