

“How to Enjoy the Bible”

Week #5, January 3 , 2016 “Justification: A TRUTH We Simply Cannot Live Without!”

Review

- **Regarding Inspiration & Interpretation of God’s word**
- **Regarding a proper study of the word of truth**
- **Coverdale’s list of questions regarding the taking of God’s Word literally unless there is a very good reason not to do so**
- **The scriptures we have considered so far in applying Coverdale’s Principles have included:**
 - **What is written? Of whom, to whom, using what words, at what time, etc.**
 - **Literal and contextual interpretation is key then, not some kind of allegorical or so-called “spiritualizing” of the text as has been so common over the years.**

Why are these principles of study important? Your thoughts?

My thoughts:

- **The Lord is communicating through his word TRUTH**
- **Therefore the word must be interpreted carefully and literally.**
 - **God’s goals are:**
 - **To draw the lost to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ**
 - **To bring knowledge and understanding to believers**
- **God is NOT trying to communicate FEELINGS!!!!**
- **SO, IN CONCLUSION OF THIS POINT THIS MORNING, WHEN WE APPROACH THE WORD OF GOD AND STUDY IT SERIOUSLY, WE MUST NOT APPROACH IT ...**

We have looked at these scriptures to illustrate this great principle of interpreting, understanding, and ENJOYING the Bible:

- ***Luke 18 - the rich young ruler seek***
- ***Num. 15 - a man violates the Sabbath Law***
- ***Lev. 24 - a man takes the name of the Lord in vain***

And, contrasting, with these OT verses, we then looked at:

- ***Rom. 3:28 - no works of law were involved in our justification:*** “a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

And then, perhaps even more hard hitting, at least to people like myself when the Lord was opening my eyes to these truths so many years ago now, four more scriptures:

- ***Rom. 6:14 - law enables sin to dominate us:*** “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace”
- ***Gal. 2:16 - faith, not works of law, brings justification:*** “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”
- ***Gal. 3:10 - no justification by law before God:*** “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”

- **Gal. 5:4 - legal works short-circuit grace!!:** “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.” By the way, this does not mean we can “lose our salvation”. No. Never.

So we have been forced to conclude from these verses, [AND TAKING THEM QUITE LITERALLY, I MIGHT ADD] that there is a very great contrast in God’s mind between law and grace and that if we mix them together we get into trouble. We must not mix law and grace together and must take the scripture literally. - REPEAT

So why would I say as I did last time that JUSTIFICATION is a word that we simply cannot live without? AND HOW CAN I SAY IT AGAIN AND AGAIN AND THEN ADD AS I DID TODAY IN THE TITLE OF THIS REFLECTION IN GOD’S PRECIOUS AND HOLY WORD, THE SAME (and THEN ADD ADDITIONALLY AS I WILL NOW, THAT THIS WORD HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY ALMIGHTLY GOD to communicate TRUTH therefore THAT WE SIMPLY CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT?)

How can one word AND one truth be that important?

- Mercy under Moses law was a common reality for otherwise all would have been judged as law breakers and would have experienced the capital punishment defined by the Law.
- The sacrificial system was given as God’s way for sins to be “covered” temporarily so that a limited access to God might be still possible within the terms of the Mosaic dispensational system (recall the statement in Ex. 20!)
- Now, under Law Grace was surely found in addition to mercy, but was not given under the terms of the law - the law demanded obedience!
- So grace was found under the law but was not “in” the law.

- AND MOST IMPORTANTLY FOR US TODAY, JUSTIFICATION IS A FREE GIFT GIVEN THROUGH FAITH AND THROUGH FAITH ALONE --- THIS IS NOT LAW PLUS WORKS OR WORKS PLUS LAW, BUT FAITH ALONE.
- THAT IS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS IS! OUR ENTIRE SALVATION RESTS SQUARELY UPON IT!
- SO, FINALLY, HOW CAN WE BE SO SURE OF THIS [IN THE LIGHT OF MANY O.T. SCRIPTURES REGARDING THE NECESSITY OF WORKS], WELL, BECAUSE GOD HAS REVEALED IT THROUGH THE APOSTLE OF THE GENTILES, PAUL!

NEXT WEEK, WE WILL FINISH OUR POINT HERE REGARDING THE GREAT BLESSING OF JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH. BUT TODAY, WE WILL MOVE, IF THE LORD ALLOWS, INTO CHAPTER EIGHT OF THE ROMANS:

NOW THERE ARE SEVEN KEY ROMANS SCRIPTURES (WHICH I AM SAVING UNTIL NEXT WEEK'S MEETING) ALL LEADING TO VERSE 33 of Chapter Eight:

OUR THEME VERSE:

[READ] Rom 8:33 "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? [It is] God that justifieth."

[DO NOT READ NOW TO SAVE TIME]

Rom 3:20 "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law [is] the knowledge of sin."

Rom 3:24 “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”

Rom 3:26 “To declare, [I say], at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

Rom 3:28 “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

Rom 4:5 “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

Rom 5:9 “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

Rom 8:33 “Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? [It is] God that justifieth.”

Let's look into Romans chapter eight now for the benefits and the blessings that are to be derived through this JUSTIFICATION.

Rom 8:28-39

[READ] 8:28-30

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

[READ] 8:31-33

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God [be] for us, who [can be] against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? [It is] God that justifieth.

[READ] 8:34-36

34 Who [is] he that condemneth? [It is] Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

[READ] 8:37-39

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THIS IS A TRULY GREAT REVELATION OF ALMIGHTY GOD TO MAN THAT WE OTHERWISE MIGHT NOT KNOW SO WELL OR EVEN, AT ALL. WHAT IS GOD SAYING HERE (IN A NUTSHELL)?

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

1. Verse 28: Our salvation BRINGS BLESSING much greater than we can know.

- a. Take note of the “all things”. This really is the word “all”!
- b. This is about what God is doing, not what we are doing.
- c. DO WE REALLY BELIEVE THIS CLEAR WORD OF GOD?

2. Verses 29-30: All of our salvation, from beginning to end, is summarized in these few words of the apostle.

- a. These verses add such a wonderful context to verse 28.
- b. This tells us all about God’s overall plan of redemption, under grace, for each of us who are saved.
- c. And, this revelation is most critical for our understanding, that God’s plan of redemption included even us individual sinners whom God loved as other scriptures indicate, from even before the foundation of the world.
- d. As a result of this he has worked out, is now working out, and will still in the future work out his love towards us. WHAT A PROMISE THAT IS!!

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God [be] for us, who [can be] against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? [It is] God that justifieth.

3. Verses 31: We know the implied answer already. NOTHING can truly be against us since God is surely greater than any created being or thing (even Satan)!

- A. My my, “if God be for us!” A divine proclamation.
- B. This is in the light of the previous verses. Do not miss the meaning here.

4. Verse 32: So the measure of God’s free gift to us is the value to him of his Son.

- a. “freely given”: to grant as a favor or freely
- b. “with him”: together with him; this is one of Paul’s favorite words and he often uses it in this same way (See Eph. 2:4 and following verses, for example)

5. Verse 33: Since we have already been justified (declared righteous in Christ Jesus), no charge against us may legitimately be brought by anyone!

- a. Most in this section is in the past tense including the justification in verse 30.
- b. When one has been declared righteous (perfectly, that is) by Almighty God, then no charge can possibly stand.

34 Who [is] he that condemneth? [It is] Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

6. Verse 34: No judgment against us may be brought since Christ is our judge -- BUT he is interceding for us. Amen.

- a. His intercession covers us even against Satan’s charges.

7. Verses 35-36: Even God's gift of love towards us is secure and surely eternal, whatever happens here in this life!

- a. By implication, NOTHING can interfere with this love.
- b. The proof has already been given here. Do you know where?

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

8. Verses 37-39: All the bases have been covered. We are secure in our Lord Jesus Christ, for now and for all eternity. Amen.

- a. This is present tense but the context makes it clear that it will be true for eternity!
- b. The promise in verses 38 & 39 is secured to us by Christ's love, verses 35-37.
- c. Verse 37 is in reference to the past tense of Christ's completed work for us!! All depends of that being once and for all, of course. WHATEVER OCCURS, WE ARE SAFE IN HIM!

CONCLUSION

Now we see the enjoyment blossoming as an artesian well as we believe what is written here. It is so glorious according to all the riches of God's abundant grace. Let these spiritual facts speak for themselves!

THIS IS TRUE BOTH BY INTERPRETATION CONCERNING US AND BY APPLICATION, AS WELL!

Taking God at his word is such a blessed experience indeed.

***[PLEASE TAKE THESE VERSES AWAY WITH YOU THIS MORNING
AND MAY YOUR (AND MY) LIFE BE TRANSFORMED BY THEM:***

Rom 8:33 “Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? [It is] God that justifieth.”

***WHAT A BLESSED POSITION WE HAVE IN CHRIST JESUS AND ALL
BECAUSE OF HIS SHED BLOOD AND THE JUSTIFICATION THAT HAS
COME TO US THROUGH HIS RESURRECTION AND MIGHT PLAN FOR
US UNDER GRACE.***

Amen.