

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 12:20-26

Lesson #43

The Gentile's hope

05/29/2016

What you should learn from this lesson

1. **Gentile participation in the Jewish Gospel**
2. **The Word and Way of the Cross**
3. **Five ways in which Christians must bear "a cross"**

- One of the ways Jesus was controversial had to do with the way he related **to Gentiles**.
- He not only had close contact with them but also included them in the blessings of the Gospel.

What is the scope of the Gospel?

John 3:16

"For God so loved **the world**. . . **that whosoever** . . ."

Matthew 28:19

"Go therefore and make disciples of **all the nations**."

1 Corinthians 12:13

"for by one Spirit we **were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks**, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

1

John 12

"²⁰ Now there were certain Greeks among those who were going up to worship at the feast; ²¹ these therefore came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, "Sir, **we wish to see Jesus**." ²² Philip came and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip came, and they told Jesus."

- Note that Greeks (not Jews) seeking Jesus (the Jewish Messiah) would have been shocking.
- "Wishing to see Jesus" = wanting to connect with him in some way so as to understand him.
- The fact that these Greeks wished to "see Jesus" sets the stage for Jesus' response that follows in the rest of this chapter.

2

"²³ And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

- Jesus responds by suggesting that if they want to see Jesus as he is significant to Gentiles they will have the best view from the foot of the cross.

John 12:32

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

- The fruit of Jesus' ministry to the world (the Gentiles) is only through his Cross.

3

Galatians 3:28

"There is **neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

1 Corinthians 1

"²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness. ²⁴ but to those who are the called, **both Jews and Greeks**, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

4

Isaiah 49:6

"He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that **My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.**"

- The Jewish Study Bible says "The identity of 'My Servant' has caused much debate." (Isaiah, Israel, or Messiah)
- The point is that the Gentiles would be blessed along with Israel in the end times through their association with the Jewish faith as proselytes.

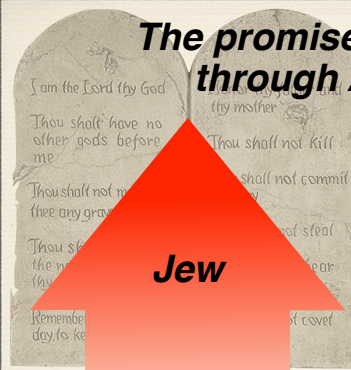
Ephesians 3

"4 . . . when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was **not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed** to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; 6 to be specific, that **the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.**"

- The significance of Paul's revelation is that the Gentiles were joint heirs with the Jews without **FIRST BECOMING JEWS.**

5

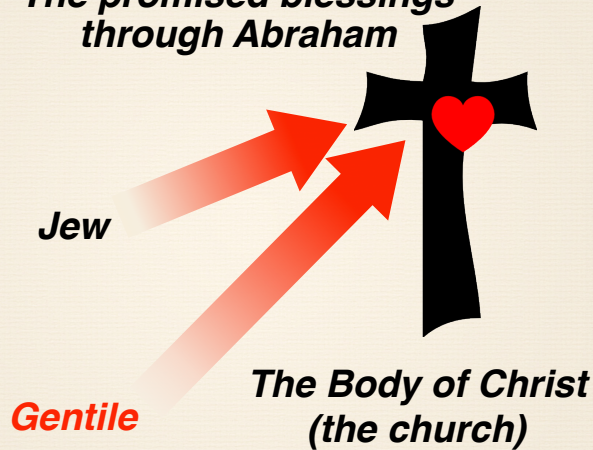
**The promised blessings
through Abraham**



**The Body of Christ
(the church)**

6

**The promised blessings
through Abraham**



7

"25 He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal. 26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."

- Jesus then suggests that all who wish to have eternal life will (not have to go under the Law and become converts to Judaism) but they do have to bear their cross in dying to themselves in this world and follow Jesus in faith.
- The cross is not only our atonement for sin it is our way of life.
- The use of the word "hate" has to do with one's attachment to this life and world.

8

John 14:6

"I am the way."

"No one comes to the Father but through me"

The Word of the Cross
our message of
the Gospel

Acts 24:14

"But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers,"

The Way of the Cross
our living out
the Gospel

9

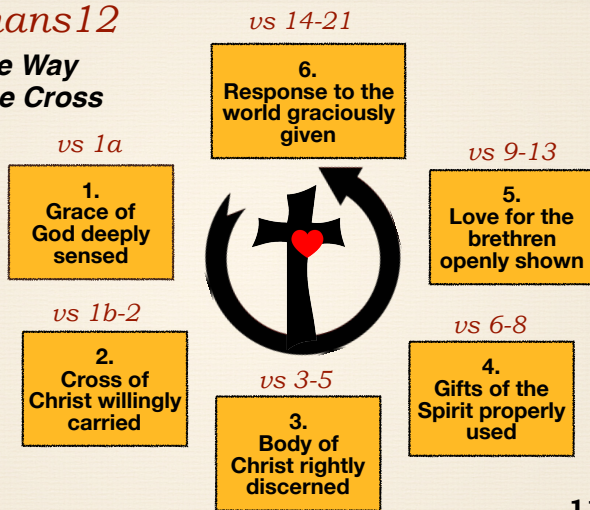
Romans 12

"1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

10

Romans 12

The Way of the Cross



11

“All in”

“Fold”

“Limp in”

\$2.5 billion exchanged hands in 2005

12

The WAY of the Cross - Living Sacrifice

1. I take my **baptism** seriously. I died with Christ to the flesh, sin, and this world. - I strive to follow the **“WAY”** of Christ.
2. My hope and joy are not **centered** in this life or world.
3. I am very much alive, engaged, and passionate about life but as one who is an **alien** to this world's core values.
4. I offer my life (gifts, resources, time) to Christ, **serving** those that he loves.
5. I **respond** to personal injustice and hardship with grace as one who is not living for self or by this world's values.

13

A positive example

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.”

A negative example

1 Corinthians 1:7, 3:3

“you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the relation of our Lord Jesus Christ”

“are you not walking like mere men?.”

14

False Positives of living “by the Way”:

- vocational ministry
- mission field
- wealth or poverty, celibacy,
- dramatic gifts / experiences
- fanaticism, obsession
- moral discipline
- a certain personality type
- certain spiritual gifts

15

What can I do to walk in the WAY?

1. Get yourself out of the way.

- Take your baptism seriously
- Invest in Kingdom riches
- View hardship as an opportunity
- Watch your tongue
- Grow antenna not horns
- Speak with your actions

2. Meditate on Romans 12

- Read it every day for a month
- Pray over and through it so as to install it in your soul.

16