

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 2:4-10

Lesson #10

The Gospel

10/01/2017

“¹you were dead

in your trespasses and sins,

² in which you formerly **walked according to the course of this world**,

according to the prince of the power of the air, of **the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience**.

³ Among them we too all formerly **lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind**,

and were **by nature children of wrath**, even as the rest.”

1

Ephesians 2

“⁴ **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

2

A key observation

The emphasis is on what God has done not on what we must do.

Ephesians 2

“⁴ **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of **His great love** with which **He loved us**, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us** alive together with Christ (by grace you **have been saved**), ⁶ and **raised us up** with Him, and **seated us with** Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the ages to come **He might show** the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For **by grace you have been saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast. ¹⁰ For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which **God prepared beforehand**, that we should walk in them.”

3

**The Christian Gospel
is about**

What God has
DONE **What we must**
not DO!

**It is God's GOOD NEWS
not His “doubling down”
on our keeping the Law.**

4

**Don't confuse the ministries
of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.**

**Tutor
(Mirror)**



The Law

**Surrogate
(Substitute)**



Jesus

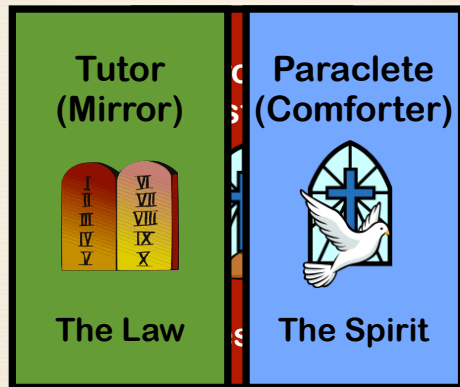
**Paraclete
(Comforter)**



The Spirit

5

Don't confuse the ministries
of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.



6

A key observation

The emphasis is on what God has
done not on what we must do.

- We are saved “by faith” for “good works”, **but there are no exhortations to either in this passage.**
- Exhortations will come later and in a different context but **Paul wants us first to understand:**



Who we are in Christ (1:3-14)

Who Christ is in God's plan (1:15-23)

Who we were outside Christ (2:1-3)

The Gospel (2:4-10)

7

The **Motive** of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

“4 But God, being rich in mercy, **because of His great love** with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (**by grace** you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of **His grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For **by grace** you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift of God**; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

“love” “grace”

8

Two contrasting views of “love & grace”

The Biblical view

Centered on **GOD's**
image in us, making us
true to ourselves

The World's view

Centered on **OUR**
plans, comfort,
standards, and passions

God's purposes over our plans
Eternity over temporality
Character over comfort
Witness over wealth



9

Dog and Cat Theology

A cat says,
“You pet me, you feed me,
you shelter me, you love me,
I must be God.”

A dog says.
“You pet me, you feed me,
you shelter me, you love me,
You must be God.”



DORKS! BRING ME MY COFFEE!



10



Greater love has no one
than this: to lay down
one's life for one's
friends.

John 15:13

Our redemption has to do with our sins
not our plans

11

How can a loving God allow seemingly unnecessary "injustice", and "suffering".

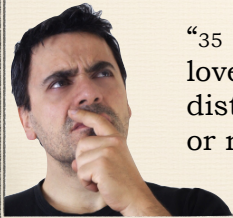
- **expectations, perspective, priorities.**

*"In the end it will be OK.
If it's not OK, it's not the end."*

- **Biblical examples: Jesus, Apostles.**

Romans 8:26-39

"35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"



12

The **Manifestation** of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

"7 in order that in the ages to come He might **show** the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

"show" "good works"

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The **Manifestation** of the Gospel

We bear witness to the Gospel as we live lives of love for those God loves, and hope in Christ not this life.

1 Peter 3:15

"Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense **to everyone who asks you to give an account of the hope that is in you**, yet with gentleness and reverence;"

14

1 Cor. 13:4-7

Love is a response to

patient	kind	not jealous	does not brag	is not arrogant	is not unbecoming	not self seeking	is not provoked	holds no grudges	does not rejoice	rejoices in the truth	bears all things	believes & hopes all things	endures all things
trials	insults	success of others	success of self	power & authority	freedom	competition	confrontation	injustice	failure of others	gossip & slander	losses	discouragement	delayed hopes

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The **Means** of the Gospel

Ephesians 2

"5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together **with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up **with Him**, and seated us **with Him** in the heavenly places, **in Christ Jesus**, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us **in Christ Jesus**. 8 For by grace you have been saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created **in Christ Jesus**"

"in Christ" "though faith"

16

Is faith a gift of God?

Ephesians 2:8

"For by grace you have been saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;"

Neuter

Feminine

**"Grace is God's part, faith ours."
"That" refers to the act of being saved by grace conditioned on our faith."**

A.T. Robertson, Word Pictures in the New Testament, Vol.IV, p.525

John Calvin (**unlike many of his followers**) did not use this text to support his view that faith was a gift from God.

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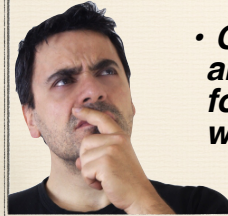
Paraphrase

"Salvation by grace (which is received by faith) is a gift of God. This system of salvation, based on God's imputed righteousness through Christ (not our meritorious works), means that we have nothing to boast about."

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Saved by faith - Judged by works

- Both are clearly taught in the N.T.
- Some believe that true faith will produce the righteousness demanded by God at the final judgment.
 - How much and for how long?
 - Are we selling God's holiness short?
- Others believe that Christians are judged not for salvation but for rewards in heaven by their works.



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1 Corinthians 3

"⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but **each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.** ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."

Moral virtue

Christ's provision
for our need of
holiness

Ministry value

our labor for the
building up of the
Body of Christ

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1 Corinthians 3

"¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man **builds upon the foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall **receive a reward.** ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he shall **suffer loss**; but **he himself shall be saved**, yet so as through fire"

How Christians build on their faith in Christ is the issue.

Is this judgment for reward and loss (not salvation) the result of the believer's works?

21

The **Means** of the Gospel "in Christ" "though faith"

Clarification

- Christ is the covenant blessing promised to Abraham.
- All who are united with Christ (in Christ) share the promised blessings.
- Faith is the way we are united with Christ.

Faith is not a "meritorious work" as Paul reminds us in Rom.3:28.

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The Lesson

The Christian Gospel is a reflection of God's love and grace to all who believe.

Christians are called to show to the world God's love in the way they live.

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