

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

ROMANS 38 - KNOWING GOD WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE

DR. LEON L. SANDERS

ROMANS 10:1-13

PROLOGUE: REMNANT OF ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED

- SINCE THE 8TH CENTURY B.C. THE JEWS WERE TOLD THAT ONLY A REMNANT OF THEIR NATION WOULD BE SAVED
 - PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES BELIEVED THAT THEY WOULD BE THE REMNANT AND THE GREATER POPULATION WOULD BE TOO IGNORANT TO UNDERSTAND AND **KEEP** GOD'S LAW (JO 7:32, 45-49)
 - CLASSIC LEGALISM TRAP: CONSIDERING ONE'S SELF THE MEASURE OF ALL RIGHTEOUS RATHER THAN GOD (2CO 10:12)
 - TRUE MEASURE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS CHRIST, GOD WHO CAME IN THE FLESH, BECAME SIN WHO KNEW NO SIN AND PURCHASE RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THOSE WHO HAD NO HOPE
(HAB 2:1-4; RO 1:17; JO 1:1-18; 2CO 5:21)

PROLOGUE: DEVIL STANDS ON THE SAND OF THE SEA

- JOHN SEES THE DRAGON FROM THE GARDEN, SATAN, STANDING ON THE SAND OF THE SEA CALLING THE ANTICHRIST WHO RISES FROM THE SEA (RE 12:17-13:10)
 - SEAS ARE PICTURED AS RAGING AND MUST BE CONTAINED BY GOD LEST THEY BURST THEIR BONDS AND DESTROY THE LAND; METAPHOR FOR DEMONIC SPIRITUAL FORCES (PR 8:22-31; JOB 38:4-11)
 - GOD WIPED MAN FROM THE ANTEDILUVIAN EARTH VIA WATERY CATAclySM; METAPHOR OF MAN'S UNCONTROLLABLE RAGING SIN BRINGING JUST DESTRUCTION (GE 6:7-13; 7:11-23)
 - JUST AS GOD SAVED NOAH AND HIS FAMILY BY GRACE, SO ALSO GOD WILL SAVE THOSE WHOM HE HAS CHOSEN BY GRACE BASED SOLELY ON HIS WILL LEST ALL MANKIND BE AS DESTROYED BY FIRE AS SODOM AND GOMORRAH; METAPHOR FOR LAKE OF FIRE (GE 19; RE 20:7-10)

PROLOGUE: BUILDERS REJECT GOD'S STONE

- BUILDERS OF SATAN'S KINGDOM ON EARTH, WHERE HE WAS EXILED, HAVE REJECTED GOD'S CORNERSTONE, CHRIST (PS 118:22-24; RE 12:7-12)
 - JEWS WERE BUILDING THEIR OWN NATION AND REJECTED THE SALVATION OFFERED BY CHRIST AS IT DID NOT ALLOW THEM TO BECOME MASTERS OVER ALL PEOPLES AS CONTAINED IN THE TALMUD (IS 8:11-15)
 - THEY WERE NOT SEEKING GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH PRODUCES HUMILITY, ABSOLUTE DEPENDENCE ON GOD TO LIVE THE MORAL LAW (MT 5:2-12)
 - THEY WERE SEEKING A KINGDOM HERE ON EARTH BEFITTING OF THEIR SIN RATHER THAN A HEAVENLY KINGDOM AS THEIR FAITHFUL FOREFATHERS (HE 11:13-16)

BROTHERS...

- JUST AS PAUL HAD IDENTIFIED WITH JEWS, HE NOW IDENTIFIES WITH {ROMAN} CHRISTIANS BUT WITH A CLOSER WORD OF AFFILIATION
 - JEWS HE IDENTIFIED AS HIS KINSMEN: RELATIONSHIP BUT NO LONGER CLOSE; BROTHERS IN THE FLESH BUT SEPARATED BY THE SPIRIT {THEIR SPIRITUAL FATHER REMAINS SATAN} (JO 8:44; RO 9:1-3)
 - CHRISTIANS ARE HIS BROTHERS (AND SISTERS): A MUCH CLOSER AFFILIATION BECAUSE ALL ARE BOUND TOGETHER VIA THE SPIRIT IN CHRIST'S BODY (RO 12:4-5)
- THOUGH THE JEWS ALWAYS SOUGHT TO KILL HIM AFTER HIS CONVERSION, PAUL HELD NO ANIMOSITY; HE WANTED THEM TO SEE THE *LIGHT* AS HE HAD {SALVATION} (AC 9:1-3; 14:19)

ZEAL WITHOUT TRUTH IS DEATH

- JEWS HAD A ZEAL FOR GOD, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEIR RETURN FROM THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY; HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT FOR GOD OF THE BIBLE BUT FOR THEIR IDEA OF GOD
 - PRIESTS CHEAPENED THE METAPHOR OF CHRIST BY OFFERING DEFILED { לֶאֱלֹ; GA'AL } SACRIFICES; THIS SIGNIFIED THAT GOD WAS SINFUL AND UNFIT TO JUDGE THE SIN OF OTHERS (MAL 1:6-10)
 - PRIESTS WERE TO TEACH THE PEOPLE GOD'S TRUTH BUT THEY ABDICATED THIS RESPONSIBILITY; THEIR TEACHINGS AND EXAMPLES EXCUSED SIN MAKING A WORKS-RELIGION (MAL 2:7-9)
 - THUS, JUDAH {GENERAL POPULATION} DELIGHTED IN CALLING EVIL GOOD AND GOOD EVIL; THEIR EXCUSE, THERE IS NO JUSTICE WITH GOD—PRAGMATISTIC EXPEDIENCY: PATH OF *LEAST RESISTANCE* AND THE *ENDS JUSTIFIES THE MEANS* (MAL 2:17; 3:13-15)

ZEAL FOR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

- MALACHI WROTE NEARLY 500 YEARS BEFORE THAT THE RETURNED JEWS WERE DENIGRATING GOD RATHER THAN WORSHIPING HIM WITH THEIR POINTLESS CEREMONIES
 - THE INTER-TESTAMENT YEARS ONLY HARDENED THEIR HEARTS AGAINST GOD AND TOWARD POLITICAL-MILITARY EXPEDIENCY UNTIL THEY WERE GOVERNED BY AN EDMITE AND ROME (MAL 1:2-4)
 - RATHER THAN HAVE MERCY ON THOSE WITHOUT GOD, THEY SNEERED AT THEM CONSIDERING THEM AS ANIMALS (JO 7:45-49)
 - THEY USED THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD TO *PROVE* THEIR SUPERIORITY OVER OTHERS RATHER THAN LEARN OF THE TRUE CHARACTER OF GOD AND SHARE HIS MERCY WITH THE WORLD

(EX 34:5-10; IS 53:1-4, 10-11; 56)

THEY HID FROM GOD'S TRUTH

- CHRIST STATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT GOD'S TRUTH WAS HIDDEN FROM THEM (IS 57:3-13; RO 9:16-18)
 - AFTER THE 72 DISCIPLES RETURNED FROM THEIR MISSIONARY SWEEP AND REJOICED IN THEIR MIRACLES, CHRIST INFORMED THEM TO REJOICE OVER THEIR SALVATION; THEN HE PRAYED THAT TRUTH WAS HIDDEN FROM THE WISE BUT REVEALED TO *LITTLE CHILDREN IN UNDERSTANDING* (LK 10:17-24)
 - JESUS WEPT OVER JERUSALEM AS METAPHORICALLY SHE REJECTED CHRIST WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN HER PEACE; BUT NOW THE TRUTH WAS HIDDEN FROM HER BECAUSE OF HER SIN (LK 19:41-44)
 - JEWS WERE SEEKING THE GOD OF THEIR MAKING, ANOTHER FORM OF IDOLATRY WHICH IS COMMON TODAY (COL 3:5)

GOD CALLED JUDAH TO REPENTANCE

- GOD PROMISED THAT HE WOULD SEND A MESSENGER TO CALL JUDAH TO REPENTANCE BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD COMES; THE *NEAR VIEW* WAS FULFILLED IN JOHN THE BAPTIST

(MAL 3:1-2; 4:5; MK 9:11-13)

- JOHN CALLED PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE BAPTISM BEFORE THE COMING OF GOD {MESSIAH} (MT 3:1-6)
- MAJORITY OF THE LEARNED AND POWERFUL REJECTED BOTH HIS MESSAGE AND THE MESSAGE OF GOD REVEALED IN JESUS (MT 3:7-12)
- THEIR ZEAL FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW BLINDED THEM TO GOD'S TRUTH OF LIFE
(DE 29:1-4)
- UNGODLY {SINFUL} CANNOT ACCEPT NOR UNDERSTAND ANYTHING OF GOD (RO 1:18; 1CO 2:14)

CHRIST: THE EMBODIMENT OF THE MORAL LAW

- CHRIST WAS THE EXEMPLAR OF THE CHARACTER THAT COULD MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE MORAL LAW; I.E., GOD
 - FLESH SEEKS ITS OWN GOAL, THE GOD OF ITS MAKING: SELF (GE 3:5)
 - FLESH, EVEN FURTHER WEAKENED BY SIN, NEVER HAD POWER TO CHANGE ITS NATURE (RO 5:6-8; 8:3-5)
 - SINFUL FLESH IS VIOLENT TOWARD ALL THINGS OF GOD EVEN TO MURDERING GOD IN THE FLESH WHO CAME TO SAVE SINFUL MAN IN THE FLESH (EZ 28:15-16; RO 5:6-11)
 - JESUS, GOD IN THE FLESH, REVEALED THAT THEIR LAW-KEEPING WAS NOT HIS LAW-KEEPING BUT LAW-BREAKING; THIS MEANT THEY WERE NOT PLEASING GOD BUT BEING CONDEMNED BY GOD
 - THEIR RESPONSE: REPENTANCE? NO! KILL GOD! DEMONSTRATING SATAN WAS THEIR FATHER! (JO 8:44)

PAUL ADDRESSES: JEWS, GENTILES, CHRISTIANS

- WHILE PAUL ADDRESSES WHY THE JEWS DID NOT RECEIVE THE NEW COVENANT, HE ALSO IS WARNING GENTILES {CHRISTIANS} TO AVOID THE SAME ERRORS OF UNBELIEF (HE 2:1-4; 3:7-13)
 - MOSES WRITES THAT THE PERSON WHO DOES THE LAW SHALL LIVE (LE 18:1-5)
 - THIS IS NOT A CALL TO KEEP A SET OF RULES BUT A CALL TO SEEK UNDERSTANDING FROM GOD TO EXPLORE THE FULL RAMIFICATIONS OF EACH STATUTE; CHRIST TAUGHT THEM OF THEIR FAILURE IN SERMON ON THE MOUNT: SEEKING TO KEEP A RULE WITHOUT A CHANGE IN NATURE YIELDS DEATH
(PS 1:1-3; 119:15-16; MT 5:17-48)
 - SEEKING GOD'S UNDERSTANDING BRINGS LIFE AND LAW KEEPING AS A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE

RIGHTEOUSNESS IS NOT HIDDEN FROM YOU

- MOSES WROTE THAT THE GOD'S COMMANDS WERE NEITHER TOO HARD NOR HIDDEN TO PREVENT THE JEWS FROM UNDERSTANDING AND LIVING THEM (DE 30:11-18)
 - PAUL REITERATES THIS AND ADDS THAT IT ALSO REFERS TO SALVATION IN CHRIST; I.E., CHRIST IS NOT HIDDEN IN HEAVEN AND THUS BEYOND THE KEN OF MORTAL PEOPLE
 - NEITHER IS CHRIST REMAINING IN SHEOL, GREEK: ABYSS, LEAVING PEOPLE HOPELESS TO OBTAIN THAT WHICH GOD DEMANDS; I.E., SALVATION THROUGH UNDERSTANDING IN AND OF CHRIST
 - LOST MAN MAINTAINS EVEN TODAY THAT GOD'S WORD IS BEYOND UNDERSTANDING, ESPECIALLY FOR THE MASSES, PLACING IT IN THE PURVIEW OF THE ELITISTS OF SOCIETY; AS THE JEWS DID
 - THIS MEANS GOD'S CALL IS FALSE, OPEN ONLY TO THOSE LUCKY TO HAVE THE MEANS (JO 3:16; RO 9:16)

FAITH COMES TO YOU

- MOSES AND PAUL WRITES THAT GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS NEAR; I.E., THAT GOD HAS GIVEN HIS WORD TO MAN TO READ, SPEAK AND MEDITATE UPON; EXCEPT, THE SINFUL HEART REJECTS GOD'S TRUTH AND SUBSTITUTES ITS OWN *TRUTH* {LIES} (DE 30:14; RO 1:18-25)
 - MAN DOES NOT HAVE TO STRUGGLE TO SEEK GOD'S WORD, GOD'S WORD COMES TO PEOPLE AS DIVERSE AS SAUL AND PAUL (1SA 10:1-9; AC 9:1-16)
 - MANY, LIKE SAUL, ARE CAUGHT UP IN THE CONCERNS OF THE WORLD PUSHING GOD'S WORD TO THE PERIPHERY OF LIFE (COL 2:8, 16-23; 3:5-11)
 - SOME, LIKE PAUL, MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD FINDING UNDERSTANDING (COL 2:1-7)
 - YET, GOD'S SPIRIT BRINGS THE WORD TO THE HEART AND MOUTH OF ALL SAVED PEOPLE (2TI 3:16-17)

ESSENCE OF ALL SALVATION

- ESSENCE OF SALVATION IS A *CHANGED* HEART WHICH IS REVEALED BY ONE'S WORDS AND ACTIONS; IT IS NOT SIMPLY BASED ON BELIEF AS SATAN-DEMONS BELIEVE AND TREMBLE (JA 2:19)
 - CHANGED HEART IS AN ACT OF GOD ALONE AS OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS DEMONSTRATE
 - SINFUL INDIVIDUALS CANNOT MEANINGFULLY CALL JESUS, LORD; I.E., TRUTHFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HE IS GOD AND SUBMIT TO HIS TRUTH; THEIR WORDS AND ACTIONS BETRAY THEM (1JO 4:1-3)
 - THIS MEANS YOU BELIEVE JESUS CAME IN THE FLESH, DIED ON THE STAUROS FOR SIN, AND RAISED BY THE FATHER; THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF SALVATION
 - BELIEF COUPLED WITH A CHANGED HEART JUSTIFIES THE SINNER BECAUSE CHRIST PAID THE SIN DEBT IMPUTING HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO THE REDEEMED SINNER FOR ETERNITY (GA 3:25-27)

FROM THE HEART TO THE MOUTH

- MOUTH IS NOT AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY BUT A TOOL OF ONE'S NATURE {HEART}, SPEAKING WHAT IT IS GIVEN TO SPEAK
 - CHRIST SAID DEFILING WORDS COME FROM THE {SINFUL} HEART (MT 15:16-19)
 - BY THE SAME TOKEN, THE *NEW NATURE* WILL SPEAK TRUTH AND CONFESS BEFORE OTHERS THE TRUTH THE HEART ALREADY BELIEVES (EP 1:15-23)
 - THE MOUTH CRIES OUT, "ABBA, DADDY," BECAUSE THE HEART IS ALREADY CHANGED (GA 4:6)
 - ONE IS NOT SAVED FOR SAYING SOME WORDS; ONE IS SAVED BECAUSE GOD HAS GIVEN HIM, OR HER, A NEW NATURE WHICH EMBRACES CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD AND SPEAKS THE TRUTH TO OTHERS BECAUSE OF NOT BEING ASHAMED OF CHRIST (RO 1:16; 2CO 5:17; 2TI 1:8-12)

...NOT PUT TO SHAME

- ALL WHO BELIEVE WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME {ΚΑΤΑΙΣΧΥΝΩ ΚΑΤΑΙΣΧΥΝΟ}
 - BETTER TRANSLATION – DISGRACED; I.E., REVEALED AS NOT BEING SAVED AND CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE IN FRONT OF EVERYONE (IS 14:12-20; EZ 28:16-19; MT 7:21-23; RE 20:7-15)
 - GOD TOLD THE JEWS THAT WHEN THEY ACKNOWLEDGE CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR THEN THEY WILL NEVER AGAIN BE PUT TO SHAME (JOEL 2:26-27; ZE 12:10-11; RE 19:1-16)
 - THIS IS PREDICATED ON CHRIST BEING THE THE STONE IN ZION ON WHICH UNBELIEVERS WILL STUMBLE, OFFENDED BY THE TRUTH OF GOD'S GRACE (IS 14:11-15; 28:16; DA 2:34-35; 7:9-14; RO 9:33)
 - THIS FAITH IS BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF BOTH THE PROPHETS {OT} AND APOSTLES {NT} WITH CHRIST BEING THE CORNERSTONE OF GOD'S HOLY TEMPLE: BODY OF CHRIST TO BECOME THE BRIDE OF THE CHRIST (EP 2:19-22; EP 5:22-32; RE 21:1-4)

ONE LORD - ONE SALVATION

- PAUL DRIVES HOME THE TRUTH THAT CHRISTIANITY IS NEITHER A NEW NOR A SEPARATE FAITH FROM JUDAISM; IT WAS GOD'S PLAN SINCE THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT (GE 22:15-18)
 - THERE IS ONLY ONE LORD, ONE SPIRIT, ONE FATHER, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM {SPIRIT} AND ONE BODY; THUS, THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE SALVATION (EP 4:4-6)
 - JUDAISM WAS A PARENTHESIS TO TEACH PEOPLE OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THEIR SINFULNESS BEFORE GOD SENT HOPE IN CHRIST (GA 4:1-7; EP 1:7-10; HE 11:39-40)
 - SINCE CHRIST IS THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S ABRAHAMIC COVENANT, ALL WHO ARE SAVED BY CHRIST ARE ABRAHAM'S SEED AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THAT PROMISE (GA 3:27-29)
 - ANYONE WHO SEEKS DIVISIONS IS NOT OF CHRIST BUT OF THE FLESH (1CO 3:1-4)

PAUL ADDRESSES JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

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- SEEKING GOD'S UNDERSTANDING BRINGS LIFE AND LAW KEEPING IS A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF A NEW HEART (OT) AND NEW NATURE (NT) (1SA 10:9; 1SA 13:14; 2CO 5:17; HE 11:13-16, 39-40)

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WHY DWELL ON THE JEWS?

- WHY IS PAUL SPENDING SO MUCH SPACE DISCUSSING THE MAJOR ERROR OF THE JEWS THAT CAUSED THEM TO MISS SALVATION?
 - AS A WARNING TO US TO AVOID TURNING FAITH IN CHRIST INTO SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS DUE TO SELF-WILLED IGNORANCE OF GOD'S WORD AND BRINGING WORLDLY KNOWLEDGE OF SO-CALLED TRUTHS {LIES} INTO THE CHURCH: LAODICEA (RO 1:16-25; 1CO 3:1-4; COL 2:1-10; HE 5:11-6:3; RE 3:14-22)
 - MANY WHO CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIAN DO NOT HAVE BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE BUT PRACTICE A TYPE OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS BASED ON RULES RATHER THAN MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD; THIS IS THE BASIS OF CHRISTENDOM BUT ALSO KEEPS THE IMMATURE IN CHRIST CONFUSED, BRINGING DIVISIONS INTO THE ONE FAITH-CHURCH TO MAKE MANY DENOMINATION: PERGAMUM (COL 2:16-23; 1TI 4:1-5; RE 2:12-17)