

ROMANS 51 – REAL DIVERSITY TOLERANCE

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ROMANS 14:1-12

PROLOGUE: DICHOTOMY OF TWO NIGHT AND DAY

- THEME OF DAY AND NIGHT RUNS FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION BUT WAS ESPECIALLY HIGHLIGHTED BY CHRIST AND LATER BIBLICAL AUTHORS SUCH AS PAUL
- GOD SPECIFICALLY MADE PHYSICAL DAY AND NIGHT AS SIGNS OF ONGOING SPIRITUAL REALITY WHICH EXISTED **BEFORE** PHYSICAL LIGHT WAS CREATED (JG 1:1-6, 14:12)
- CREATION WAS IN DARKNESS AND CHAOS, DARKNESS, BEFORE CHRIST ENTERED CREATION, LIGHT, AND GAVE IT ORDER; I.E., SIN WAS A REALITY **BEFORE** THIS CREATION
- MIRRORING REVELATION OF FLESHLY REBELLION, MAN'S SIN, AND NEED FOR REDEMPTION BY CHRIST
- THUS, THIS CREATION WAS **NEVER** MEANT TO BE PERMANENT; RATHER, IT WAS A PREPARATION FOR THE NEW CREATION TO COME (P 3:10-13; W 2:14, 22-23)

PROLOGUE: DAY OF THE LORD IS CHRIST

- SINCE CHRIST ENTERED THE NIGHT OR DARKNESS, OF THIS CREATION AS LIGHT, WHEREVER HE IS THAT IS DAY
- JOHN'S GOSPEL REVOLVES ABOUT THE CONCEPT THAT JESUS IS LIGHT BEGINNING WITH HIS OPENING HYMN DEPICTING THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD AND CHRIST COMING AS THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD WHICH SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE THE LIGHT (J 1:1-18)
- CHRIST REFERRED TO HIS FIRST COMING AS BEING THE DAY AND THE NIGHT AS COMING WHEN HE LEFT THE WORLD (J 9:4-5)
- THOSE WHO ARE SAVED ARE LEFT BEHIND, HYPOCRITES, AS LITTLE BEACONS OF HIS LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS OF SIN BRINGING HOPE TO THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING (M 5:14-16; 1CO 1:18-19; 2CO 2:14-17)

PROLOGUE: CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE AWAKE

- DURING THE FIRST FRUITS DISPENSATION, THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO OCCUR BEFORE HEARING THE CALL OF GOD; I.E., RAPTURE (1CO 15:51-52)
 - THIS IS WHAT IS MEANT BY COMING AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT, CHRIST COMES TO STEAL HIS OWN FROM THE CLUTCHES OF SATAN (1TH 5:1-7)
 - WE WHO ARE SAVED ARE TO BE AWARE OF THE TIMES AND LIVE AS THOUGH CHRIST WOULD CALL FOR US AT ANY MOMENT (2P 3)
 - THE IMMATURE IN CHRIST WHO DO NOT LEARN DISCERNMENT SLUMBER AS THOUGH THE NIGHT IS INDEFINITE, BELIEVING THEY HAVE TIME TO PREPARE; YET, WHEN HE COMES THERE WILL BE NO TIME, IT WILL ONLY BE **NOW** (MT 25:1-13, HE 5:11-14)

GOD'S VERSUS MAN'S WAYS

- FOLLOWING ILLUSTRATION OF PERSPECTIVE BASED ON A SINGLE SHEET OF WHITE PAPER
 - PAPER ILLUSTRATES GOD'S KNOWLEDGE (FINITE PAPER REQUIRED); OUR FINITE UNDERSTANDING)
 - USE A PENCIL TO PLACE A SINGLE DOT ON THE PAPER REPRESENTING MAN'S TOTAL KNOWLEDGE
 - USING THE ATOMIC THEORY, A SINGLE ATOM WOULD REPRESENT ONE PERSON'S KNOWLEDGE AND A SINGLE MOLECULE OF PAPER WOULD REPRESENT A CULTURE'S KNOWLEDGE
- THIS DEMONSTRATES THE UNKNOWABLENESS OF GOD'S WAYS FROM MAN'S WAYS (IS 55:8-9)
 - LOST DO NOT, CANNOT, UNDERSTAND GOD (JO 1:18-25, 1CO 3:14)
 - BELIEVERS OFTEN CRITICIZE GOD AS THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND HIS WAYS (PS 115:1-7, MT 16:21-23)

LAW OF IDENTITY

- DEFINITION OF TERMS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE LESSON
 - DIVERSITY - CONDITION OF HAVING OR BEING COMPOSED OF DIFFERING ELEMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE INCLUSION OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEOPLE (SUCH AS PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RACES OR CULTURES) IN A GROUP OR ORGANIZATION ([\(DEFINITION OF DIVERSITY\)](#))
 - UNITY - COMBINATION OR ORDERING OF PARTS ... THAT CONSTITUTES A WHOLE OR PROMOTES AN UNDIVIDED TOTAL EFFECT TO ACHIEVE HARMONY (EPAICS 496) ([\(DEFINITION OF UNITY\)](#))
- NOTICE THAT DIVERSITY IMPLIES UNITY AND UNITY IMPLIES DIVERSITY
 - HARMONY BRINGS DIVERSE ELEMENTS TOGETHER ACHIEVING UNITY
 - CHAOS: COMPLETE CONFUSION; DIVERSE ELEMENTS REFUSING HARMONY ([\(DEFINITION OF CHAOS\)](#))

SATAN IS CHAOS

- SATAN, AND THUS SIN, ARE HARBINGERS OF CHAOS WHILE PREACHING UNITY VIA DIVERSITY
 - THIS CREATION'S BEGINNING ILLUSTRATED THE CHAOS OF SIN ALREADY PRESENT (GE 1:2-5)
 - SATAN NOT ONLY IS THE FATHER OF LIES AND MURDER, HIS WAYS ARE VIOLENT (2E 26:15-18; JO 8:44)
 - VISIBLE CREATION FROM THE INVISIBLE BASED ON GOD'S WORD (HE 11:3)
 - ALL WHO ARE SINNERS, EVERYONE INCLUDING SATAN, TOTALLY REJECT GOD AND HIS TRUTH; THUS, THEIR PERSPECTIVE OF REALITY IS LIMITED TO THE EMPIRICAL, PRONE TO ERROR (RO 1:18-20)
 - SATAN SEEKS TO ACHIEVE AN UNNATURAL UNITY BASED ON GOVERNMENTAL FORCE THAT ONLY BENEFITS HIMSELF, AND THOSE HE USES (2E 6:1-8; 4E 48:10; 2TH 2:8-12)
 - FALSE TEACHERS SPREAD HIS LIE OF UNITY VIA DIVERSITY EVEN INTO CHURCHES (2PE 2:1-19; 2PE 10-12, 16)

SIN HATES DIVERSITY

- SIN HATES UNITY OF DIVERSITY BUT LOVES TO FORCE A FALSE UNITY VIA SUPPRESSION
 - WHEN GOD INTRODUCED DIVERSITY IN PERSPECTIVE, TRUE CHANGE BASED ON LANGUAGE, EACH GROUP SEPARATED ITSELF FROM THE OTHERS; SIN HATES DIVERSITY (GE 11:1-9)
 - BALAAM TAUGHT BALAK TO USE DIVERSITY TO FORCE A UNITY BASED ON HATING GOD AND LOVING IDOLATRY; COVETOUSNESS ELEVATING SELF OVER OTHERS (CO 3:5; HE 3:14)
 - CAIN KILLED ABEL BECAUSE HIS UNRIGHTEOUSNESS WAS EXPOSED BY HIS BROTHER'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AS DECLARED BY GOD (GE 4:3-8; 1CO 3:8-12)
 - WE ARE TO BE DIFFERENT AND THUS ARE TO DEMONSTRATE LOVE FOR EACH OTHER (RO 12:9, 16-18)
 - CHRISTIAN DISUNITY GROWS FROM SIN AND IMMATURITY REMAINING IN ONE'S SIN (1CO 3:1-2)

VARYING DEGREES OF MATURITY

- PAUL ADDRESSES THE VERY REAL DISCORD THAT ARISES FROM VARYING DEGREES OF MATURITY IN CHRIST THAT CAN DISRUPT THE LOCAL CHURCH
 - PEOPLE ARE DIVERSE IN BACKGROUND, TALENT AND UNDERSTANDING THAT AFFECT THEIR MATURATION IN THE SCRIPTURE
 - PEOPLE ARE SAVED IN DIFFERENT STATES AND AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN THEIR LIVES AND IN RELATION TO EACH OTHER
 - SOME ARE MORE MOTIVATED TO LEARN THE SCRIPTURES THAN OTHERS (HE 3:11-14)
 - THUS THE CHURCH WILL ALWAYS HAVE THOSE WHO ARE CONSIDERED WEAK IN THE FAITH (ΑΙΣΘΗΝΕΙΣ ΑΣΘΗΝΕΙΣ)

MATURE IN FAITH HAVE GREATER RESPONSIBILITY

- THOSE WHO HAVE MATURED IN THE FAITH ARE CALLED TO GREATER TOLERANCE
 - NO ONE KNOWS THE SCRIPTURE BETTER THAN CHRIST; YET, WHEN HE CAME, HE REMAINED HUMBLE RATHER THAN CRITICAL OF THOSE WHO WERE WEAKER IN THE FAITH; I.E., EVERYONE ELSE
 - THEY MATURE ARE NOT TO ENGAGE IN DISPUTATIONS OF OPINIONS; NONE OF US HAVE COMPLETE OR CLEAR UNDERSTANDING; ALL OF US ARE IN A STATE OF LEARNING (1CO 13:12)
 - PAUL USES TWO EXAMPLES THAT HIGHLIGHTED THE DIFFERENCES IN THE EARLY CHURCHES: JEWS VERSUS GENTILES
 - IN PAUL'S EXAMPLES THE JEWS ARE THE ONES CONSIDERED WEAK IN FAITH IN THAT THEY STILL CLING TO JEWISH CUSTOMS AND TRIED TO FORCE GENTILES TO DO THE SAME (AC 15:1-21)

FOOD SHOULD NOT BE THE ISSUE

- CHRIST SHOWED PETER THAT JEWISH FOOD CUSTOMS, CLEAN VS UNCLEAN, WERE DEFUNCT (AC 10)
 - PURPOSE OF THE FOOD CUSTOMS WERE TO SET THE JEWISH PEOPLE APART FROM THE GENTILES TO PRESERVE THE PEOPLE AND THE TRUTH OF GOD ENTRUSTED THEM (GA 1:4-21)
 - CEREMONIAL CUSTOMS ALSO OBSERVED NEW MOON WHICH BEGAN EVERY MONTH WHILE GENTILES DID NOT OBSERVE THIS RITUAL WITH ITS CUSTOMARY SACRIFICES (PS 28:11-18)
 - THESE DIFFERENCES CAUSED GREAT CONSTERNATION IN THE EARLY CHURCH AND EVEN PETER WAS CHASTENED BY PAUL FOR HIS JEWISH OBSERVANCES THAT CAUSED DIVISION BETWEEN JEW AND GENTILE IN THE CHURCH (AC 6:1-7; GA 2:11-18)

ALL ARE SLAVES TO CHRIST

- PAUL'S BASIS FOR UNITY THOUGH DIVERSIFIED IS THAT ALL BELIEVERS ARE SLAVES TO CHRIST (RO 6:17-18)
 - WHEN DIVERSITY DIVIDES IT IS BECAUSE SOME CONSIDER THEMSELVES ABOVE OTHERS BASED ON SOME SELF-DEvised CRITERIA
 - ALL BELIEVERS ARE SLAVES TO CHRIST AND THUS EQUAL IN STANDING, THOUGH NOT EQUAL IN MATURITY; THIS IS THE BASIS FOR THE CONCEPT THAT THERE IS NEITHER JEW NOR GENTILE (GA 3:27-28)
 - EVERYONE IS SET IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF CHRIST; THUS, NONE ARE ABOVE OTHERS WHICH NEGATES HAUGHTINESS, WHICH IS SIN (RO 1:3)
 - IT IS CHRIST'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DIRECT EACH MEMBER OF THE BODY, NOT THE CELLS; I.E., US

ISSUE IS WHY, NOT SO MUCH WHAT

- PAUL IS DESCRIBING AN IMPORTANT ASPECT THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED INTO ONE OF THE THREE DEFINITIONS OF SIN LATER IN THIS CHAPTER
 - WHY DOES ONE FOLLOW A CERTAIN COURSE OF ACTION OR SYSTEM OF BELIEFS?
 - ONE WHO GENUINELY BELIEVES HE IS FOLLOWING GOD BY OBSERVING CERTAIN CUSTOMS IS HONORING GOD
 - ONE WHO GENUINELY BELIEVES HE DOES NOT HAVE TO OBSERVE CERTAIN CUSTOMS IS ALSO HONORING GOD
 - NONE OF US SEES CLEARLY; IT IS THE HONORING OF GOD, CONSISTENT WITH THE SCRIPTURES, THAT DETERMINES OUR DEVOTION TO HIM. (1CO 13:12)

SLAVE LIVES OR DIES FOR THE MASTER

- EACH BELIEVER LIVES AND DIES FOR THE LORD WHO SET THE EXAMPLE BY DYING AND THEN LIVING AGAIN MAKING HIM JUDGE OF BOTH THE LIVING, SAVED, AND THE DEAD, LOST
 - NO BELIEVER MUST GIVE AN ACCOUNT TO ANOTHER AS ALL ARE SLAVES AS ARE THE ANGELS (HE 1:13-14, RE 22:8-9)
 - EVERYONE WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIS, HER, OWN LIFE TO CHRIST AT THE BEMA; HE WILL JUDGE WHAT WAS DONE FOR HIM AND WHAT WAS DONE FOR SELF. (1CO 3:8-11)
 - IF WHAT YOU DID WAS FOR HIM, IT WILL BE AS GOLD AND JEWELS; REWARD
 - IF WHAT YOU DID WAS FOR YOU, IT WILL BE AS WORTHLESS STUBBLE TO BE BURNED IN HIS WRATH; COUNTED AS LOSS (HE 10:26-27)

PAUL NOT NEGATING DISCERNMENT

- PAUL'S STAND AGAINST JUDGING OTHERS IS CONSISTENT WITH CHRIST'S TEACHING (MT 7:1-2)
 - JUDGING IS PASSING SENTENCE ON ANOTHER'S RIGHTNESS OR WRONGNESS; WE DO NOT KNOW ANOTHER'S HEART; ONE BARELY KNOWS ONE'S OWN HEART (JE 1:6-7, JE 17:9)
 - ONLY GOD KNOWS EACH PERSON'S HEART AND CAN JUDGE RIGHTLY (ISA 16:7, PS 44:21, 139; JD 2:23-28)
 - WE ARE REQUIRED TO PRACTICE DISCERNMENT; KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL; REJECTING THE EVIL AND PRACTICING THE GOOD BASED ON SCRIPTURE (2SA 6:1-5, HE 5:11-14)
 - BELIEVERS ARE TO REMOVE THOSE WHO PRACTICE EVIL FROM THEIR MIDST AND RECEIVE THEM BACK AGAIN WHEN THEY REPENT AND RETURN (MT 18:15-17, 1CO 5:1-5, 2CO 2:5-11)
 - TOLERANCE OF SIN AT THE EXPENSE OF UNITY IS DIVISIVE; THIS IS NOT DIVERSITY BUT CHAOS

PAUL NOT TEACHING TOLERANCE OF SIN

- TODAY'S TOLERANCE OF DIVERSITY PROMOTES TOLERANCE OF SIN WHICH GOD NEVER DOES
- CHRIST'S LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES SHOWS HIS INTOLERANCE OF SIN
 - PERGAMUM – PROMOTE TEACHING OF TOLERANCE OF SIN AND EMBRACING THOSE WHO BRING DIVISION TO THE CHURCH (RE 2:14-17)
 - THYATIRA – TOLERANCE OF FALSE TEACHERS, THEIR DOCTRINES AND THE SINS THEY GENERATE (RE 2:20)
 - SARDIS – BELIEVERS THAT HAVE SO EMBRACED THE WORLD THAT THEY ARE IN DANGER OF BEING CONSIDERED DEAD TO CHRIST; I.E., WERE NEVER SAVED (RE 3:1-2)
 - LAODICEA – CAN NO LONGER DISCERN GOOD FROM EVIL DUE TO SPIRITUAL BUNDNESS (RE 3:15-17)

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TOLERANCE OF DIVERSITY A LIE

- TODAY'S MANTRA TOLERANCE OF DIVERSITY IS A LIE MASQUERADING AS WISDOM, A REFLEXIVITY DOCTRINE THAT IS FURTHER SUPPORTED BY FERTILE FALLACIES, MORE LIES
 - ADHERENTS JUSTIFY THEIR INTOLERANCE OF DIFFERING VIEWS ON THE BASIS THAT ALL RESISTANCE AGAINST AGREED UPON EVIL IS JUSTIFIABLE
 - TOLERANCE IS ONLY PRACTICED TOWARD SUCH VIEWS AS AGREES WITH THEIR REFLEXIVE GOALS
 - VIOLENCE, CHAOS, IS JUSTIFIABLE TO SHUT DOWN OPPOSING VIEWS, ESPECIALLY BIBLICAL TRUTH
 - SINCE REFLEXIVITY AND SUPPORTING FERTILE FALLACIES ARE LIES, THEY REFLECT SATANIC GOALS
 - SATAN USES LIES AND VIOLENCE TO PROMOTE HIMSELF AS GOD TO IMPOSE A TYRANNY OVER ALL PEOPLE REDUCING THEM TO OBJECT SLAVES FOR HIS PERSONAL USAGE: DEGRADATION

DIVISION REVEALS SIN

- SATAN PROMOTES DIVISION TO DIVIDE THOSE WHO ARE LOST FROM THOSE WHO ARE SAVED
 - ALL WHO HAVE THE NEW NATURE HAVE GOD'S MIND AND ARE **ONE** WITH GOD: UNITY (2E 2:12)
 - EACH PERSON HAS THEIR OWN UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST: DIVERSITY (2E 2:17)
 - TO HATE A BELIEVER IS TO HATE THE GOD WHO INDWELLS AND JUSTIFIES THEM; IT BECOMES A SELF-REVELATION OF ONE'S LOSTNESS OR IMMATUREITY (1:10 34-35, 4:15)
- PURPOSE OF DIVISION IS TO DESTROY THE SAVED AND REMOVE THE MESSAGE OF TRUTH; THIS BEGAN WITH CAIN AND WILL CONTINUE EVEN WHEN CHRIST RULES THE EARTH BECAUSE SIN NEVER CHANGES: ARE A **YOU** CAUSE OF DIVISION? (2E 26:7-10)