

ROMANS 53 – SPIRIT'S POWER IS YOUR ONLY POWER

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ROMANS 1.5:1-7

PROLOGUE: SATAN – GOD OF DIVISION

- REMEMBER, SATAN, SIN, PRODUCES CHAOS, EXEMPLIFIED IN CREATION
 - THIS IS SEEN IN NATURE AS THE LAW OF ENTROPY MAN'S LABEL, NATURE, CURSED BY SIN, MOVES FROM ORDER TO DISORDER WHEN LEFT UNINTENDED BY MAN (GE 2:1, 19-20; 3:17-19; 4:8-12; RO 8:19-22)
 - THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THESE LATTER DAYS IN THE CHURCHES, SPIRIT BRINGS UNITY OUT OF SIN'S DISUNITY WHILE SATAN, FLESH, ENTICES BELIEVERS, TO REMAIN IN DISUNITY BY CAUSING DIVISIONS, I.E., CORINTHIAN CHURCH (1CO 3:1-15; 12:12-26; 2CO 4:3-7; EP 4:1-7, 13-14)
 - SATAN SEEKS TO REPLACE GOD'S LOVE IN OUR HEARTS BY FEAR OF HIS JUDGMENT THAT LEADS TO JUDGING OF THE BRETHREN VIA DIVISION THEN CHAOS (RO 2:1-11; 5:3-5; 1JO 4:17-19; RE 2-3)
 - AS SIN PRODUCES DISORDER, FAITH IN KNOWLEDGE PRODUCES ORDER AND PEACE (COL 3:12-15)

PROLOGUE: MORALITY – BASIS OF RELIGION

- MORALITY IS THE BASIS OF RELIGION (WORKS-BASED) ENFORCING A FALSE UNIFY THAT DIVIDES ALL WHO OPPOSE, THIS EMPOWERS THE FLESH, AND SIN (COL 2:20-23)
 - JUDAISM FELL INTO THIS TRAP, ADHERENCE TO THE LAW, WHICH REQUIRED THE SEPARATION OF ALL WHO HELD OPPOSING BELIEFS, BY FORCE OR DEATH IF NECESSARY (AC 7:51-60)
 - CHURCH HISTORY ALSO GUILTY OF FORCED MORALITY CAUSED DIVISIONS, DENOMINATIONS, WITH WARS AND JOINING OF GOVERNMENTS TO FORCE ONE'S MORALITY ON OTHERS
 - AMERICAN POLITICS DIVIDED INTO TWO MORALITY-BASED GROUPS RESULTING IN A WAR AND CONTINUAL COMPETITION TO FORCE THE ACCEPTANCE OF ONE RELIGIOUS-POLITICAL GROUP OVER THE OTHER WITH UNCOMPROMISING FERVOR ([THE PROGRESSIVE ISRAELI MOVEMENT WITHIN ISRAEL](#))

PROLOGUE: DEFINITION OF SIN – WITHOUT FAITH

- PAUL GIVES ONE OF THE THREE DEFINITIONS OF SIN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT (1A 4:17, 1A 3:12)
- **WHATEVER IS NOT FROM FAITH IS SIN**
 - THE WEAKER PERSON IN FAITH WHO FOLLOWS YOUR LIBERTY BUT WITHOUT FAITH- BASED KNOWLEDGE CONDEMNS THEMSELVES, THEIR CONSCIOUS TESTIFYING AGAINST THEM: GUILT
 - PAUL MAKES A SIMILAR POINT WHEN HE WRITES THAT THOSE WHO MEASURE THEMSELVES AMONG THEMSELVES, ARE NOT WISE (1CO 13:12)
 - ANY THOUGHT, WORD OR DEED THAT DOES NOT FLOW FROM YOUR FAITH, YOUR MATURATION IN CHRIST, IS SIN; THUS, SINFUL ACTIONS AND BELIEFS CAN VARY AMONG PERSONS IN THE GROUP BASED ON THEIR MATURITY; MY SIN OF UNBELIEF MAY NOT BE YOUR SIN IN THE SAME PRACTICE

PAUL BRINGS ROMANS TO HIS LEVEL

- PAUL USES A POWERFUL LITERARY TECHNIQUE BY IDENTIFYING THE ROMANS WITH HIMSELF
 - THIS IS NOT FLATTERY BUT BASED ON THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE MATERIAL HE HAS PRESENTED IN HIS ROMAN EPISTLE TO THEM; PAUL IS PRACTICING WHAT HE IS NOW TELLING THEM TO DO
 - ENGLISH LOSES MUCH OF THE STRENGTH OF PAUL'S APPEAL TO THE ROMANS, AND TO US
 - ENGLISH TRANSLATES δουρατοί AS STRONG WHEN POWER WOULD BETTER SERVE HIS CONCEPT
 - PAUL APPEALS TO CHRIST'S EXAMPLE AS THE TEMPLATE FOR ALL CHRISTIANS TO FOLLOW
 - THERE IS ANOTHER SOURCE OF POWER WHICH WE SHALL EXPLORE
 - KNOW WHAT MAKES ONE POWERLESS, MORALLY WEAK, WHEN THE BIBLE PROMISES POWER

Ὀφείλομεν – BOUND BY DUTY

- ὀφείλω ophello^o - MEANS TO BE BOUND BY AN OBLIGATION OR DUTY TO SERVE OTHERS
 - YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN BUT WERE BOUGHT OUT OF SIN'S SLAVERY BY CHRIST (1CO 6:19,20)
 - THIS OBLIGATION IS NOT VOLUNTARY BUT IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVITUDE TO CHRIST TYING IT BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF PAUL'S PRACTICAL LIVING OF FAITH DIVISION OF ROMANS (1CO 12:1)
 - PAUL IS APPEALING TO ROMAN CONCEPTS OF DUTY AND HONOR INHERENT IN THEIR CULTURE
 - OBLIGATION OR DUTY CAN ONLY FLOW FROM THOSE WHO HAVE POWER TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE POWER
 - THE DIVISION BETWEEN POWERFUL AND POWERLESS IS THE CONCEPT OF PLEASING ONE'S SELF

PLEASING SELF KEEP ONE POWERLESS

- PAUL, EVER THE MASTER OF UNDERSTATEMENT, SLIPS THIS CONCEPT INTO HIS THESIS GIVING EVERY CHRISTIAN A MEANS OF JUDGING ONE'S POWER IN CHRIST
 - THE FLESH WARS AGAINST THE SPIRIT TRYING TO CONTINUE SATISFYING ITS LUSTS WHICH WORKS AGAINST OUR TRANSLATION INTO HOLY ONES OR SAINTS (RD 8:3-8; EP 2:1-3, 1TH 4:1-12)
 - IDOL THAT BEGAN IN ADAM AND CONTINUES TODAY IS COVETING TO FULFILL LUSTS OF THE FLESH (COL 3:5; 1JO 2:13-17)
 - ONE IS POWERLESS BECAUSE MORAL WEAKNESS IN THE FLESH CONTROLS ONE'S BELIEFS, THOUGHTS, WORDS AND DEEDS
 - COMMANDMENTS, LAWS OR RULES, ONLY STRENGTHEN THE FLESH (RD 7:13-24; COL 3:21-23)

POWER IS BEYOND OURSELVES

- THE MORE POWERFUL ONE SEEKS TO BE THE MORE POWERLESS ONE IS, THIS APPEARS AS A CONTRADICTION BUT THE ISSUE IS NOT PAUL'S STATEMENTS BUT OUR UNDERSTANDING
 - PAUL KNOWS THAT BEING STRONG IN THE FLESH IS SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS AND POWERLESSNESS (2CO 13:1-10)
 - SEEKING TO BE STRONG IN SELF CAUSES DIVISIONS AS THE STRONG GLORIFYING IN THEIR STRENGTH AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WEAK WHICH IS THE FLESHLY WAY (SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST)
 - CHRIST IN HIS FLESHLY BODY DID NOT SIN AND IS OUR EXAMPLE (1PE 2:21)
 - CHRIST DID NOT RELY ON HIS OWN RESOURCES BUT ON THE INDWELLING SPIRIT HE RECEIVED AT BAPTISM AND SCRIPTURE, ALSO EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT (MT 3:13-17)

CHRIST DID NOT PLEASE HIMSELF

- CHRIST CAME AS A SLAVE, SUFFERED TEMPTATIONS AND TRIALS, TO DIE AS SIN FOR SINNERS WHO WERE NOT DESERVING OF MERCY THOUGH MERCY WAS GIVEN (PS 22:6; PH 2:3-8; HE 2:14-18; 4:14-15)
 - CHRIST WILLINGLY DID THIS OUT OF HIS LOVE FOR US EVEN THOUGH THE REPROACHES OF MAN AGAINST THE FATHER FELL ON HIM ON THE STAUROS (PS 40:1-2; MR 15:34-39)
 - CHRIST'S FEAR WAS NOT HIS SUFFERING FOR THE MORALLY WEAK ONES, US, BUT FEAR OF FAILING THE FATHER LESS SALVATION NOT BE OBTAINED, AND ALL REMAIN LOST (PS 40:8)
 - HIS WAS A ONE-TIME MISSION; IF HE SINNED THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER OPPORTUNITIES
 - HE PURCHASED FOR US MANY OPPORTUNITIES OF FORGIVENESS ONCE SAVED AND FOR US TO EXTEND THESE SAME OPPORTUNITIES TO OTHERS; HALLMARK OF SALVATION (MT 6:12-13; 18:21-23)

BIBLE WRITTEN FOR OUR INSTRUCTION

- **ALL SCRIPTURE IS WRITTEN TO TEACH AND GUIDE US IN UNDERSTANDING; THUS, PAUL QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM HIS BIBLE, OUR OLD TESTAMENT** (2Ti 3:16-17)
- **BIBLE REQUIRES TWO CONDITIONS: NEW NATURE AND HOLY SPIRIT INSTRUCTION** (1Co 3:1-4, 2Co 5:17)
- **PAUL CALLS IT HIS GOSPEL BECAUSE HE RECEIVED IT DIRECTLY FROM CHRIST AS DID THE OTHER APOSTLES; ONLY HIS CAME IN A VISION** (2Co 13:1-4)
- **BIBLICAL LEARNING GIVES US: ENDURANCE (HYPOMENA) AND SUPPORT (PARAKLETOS)**
- **NOT SURPRISINGLY GOD, CHRIST, ALSO GIVES US ENDURANCE AND SUPPORT TO LIVE IN HARMONY POINTING US BACK TO: BODY IMAGERY; LIVING IN HARMONY WITH ALL; AND TO LIMIT ONE'S FREEDOM TO NOT CAUSE OTHERS WITH LESS UNDERSTANDING TO SIN** (Ro 12:8, 9-19, 14)

HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR PARAKLETOS

- **THE TRINITY IS OUR SUPPORT, OUR ADVOCATES, AGAINST SATAN THE ACCUSER, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, WHO RIGHTLY CLAIMS OUR SINFULNESS AND BESMIRCHES GOD'S GOODNESS BY PROVIDING SALVATION TO US AND NOT TO HIM** (Job 1-2; Jo 14:15-17, 16:4-15; He 1:14, 2:3; 2Pe 2:4, 3:25)
- **POWER AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS EITHER UNDER OR OVER EMPHASIZED LEADING TO GRAVE ERRORS OF UNDERSTANDING AND EVEN BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE SPIRIT** (Mt 12:24-32; He 6:4-8)
- **ALSO, POWER OF SATAN IS ALSO UNDER OR OVER EMPHASIZED WITH ERRORS OF DOCTRINAL UNDERSTANDING CAUSING THOSE WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING TO REMAIN POWERLESS** (Ps 14:1-20; Ec 28:17-19)
- **SATAN HAS NO POWER, YET HIS WORDS ENTICE THE FLESH AND CLOUD SINNERS' MINDS** (2Th 2:3-12; 2Ti 3:1-5; 4:3-6)

SPIRIT IS TRUE POWER

- **TO APPRECIATE THE TRUE POWER OF THE SPIRIT, WITHOUT EXAGGERATING HIS CHARISMA WE MUST EXPLORE THE SCRIPTURES**
- **SPIRIT NOT ONLY PRESENT AT BARA CREATION (OUT OF NOTHING); IT WAS BROODING, HOVERING WAITING FOR...CHRIST, THE LIGHT TO APPEAR** (Joh 1:2-5; Jo 1:1-5, 9-10; He 1:3)
- **THE SPIRIT, BEING INVISIBLE TO EMPIRICAL OR MATERIAL CREATION, UNDERLIES ALL THAT IS OBSERVABLE ALONG WITH THE FATHER WHO IS ALSO SPIRIT** (Joh 4:24; He 11:3)
- **THIS POWER IS WHAT HOLDS THIS CREATION TOGETHER AND WHEN THIS CREATION IS NO LONGER NEEDED THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT WILL NO LONGER RESTRAIN MATTER WHICH WILL RELEASE TREMENDOUS PENT UP ENERGIES; MELT WITH PERVENT HEAT** (2Pe 3:10)

SPIRIT BRINGS ABOUT GOD'S PLAN

- SPIRIT BRINGS GOD'S PLAN TO FRUITION DESPITE THE PUNY EFFORTS OF SATAN, AND DEMONS, TO DERAIL IT AND ESCAPE THEIR COMING JUDGMENT (20:20-10)
- FATHER EXPLAINED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IT WAS THE SPIRIT WHO EMPOWERS HIS PLAN (22:41-4)
- IT IS THE SPIRIT WHO BRINGS THE GOSPEL WITH POWER TO BRING TO SALVATION TO THOSE WHOM GOD HAS CALLED; HE GUARANTEES OUR SALVATION DESPITE OUR SINS (27:1:3-14, 1:20 1:4-10)
- WITHOUT THE SPIRIT NO ONE COULD UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURES, IT IS THE FALSE TEACHERS, WITHOUT THE SPIRIT, WHO DEVELOP PRIVATE INTERPRETATIONS LEADING THE WEAK AND LOST ASTRAY (2PE 1:16-21, 2:1-3, 2PE 14-19)

POWER BELONGS TO HOLY SPIRIT

- WHEN PAUL DESCRIBES HIMSELF AND THOSE ROMANS WHO HAVE BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND HIS GOSPEL AS POWERFUL ONES
 - THEY ARE NOT POWERFUL IN THEIR OWN SELVES, THIS IS THE SOURCE OF GREATEST POWERLESSNESS
- ONE IS CONSIDERED POWERFUL UNDER TWO CONDITIONS
 - ONE IS WEAK IN THE FLESH
 - INDWELLING SPIRIT'S CHARISMA WORKING THROUGH ONE WITHOUT BEING HINDERED
- GOD'S SPIRIT WILL NOT ALWAYS STRIVE AGAINST MAN'S FLESH OR SPIRIT; ACCOUNTABILITY (20: 6-14)

SPIRIT IS POWER AND MORE

- THROUGH THE SPIRIT ONE RECEIVES CHARISMA/POWER IN THESE FORMS (24: 5:17-24, 25: 1:4-7)
 - LOVE – JOY – PEACE
 - PATIENCE – KINDNESS – GOODNESS
 - FAITHFULNESS – GENTLENESS – SELF-CONTROL
- IN THE FLESH ONE DEVELOPS POWERLESSNESS IN THESE FORMS ATTEMPTING TO BE STRONG
 - SEXUAL IMMORALITY – IMPURITY – SENSUALITY – DRUNKENNESS – ORGIES – ENVY – DIVISIONS
 - IDOLATRY – SORCERY (φαρμακεία) – ENMITY – STRIFE – JEALOUSY – ANGER – RIVALRIES
- HARMONY CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED IN THE SPIRIT

ONE VOICE WITH CHRIST

- FEAR FLOWS FROM POWERLESSNESS THAT SEEKS POWER FROM THE FLESH
 - FEAR BEGETS DIVISION TEARING APART WHAT CHRIST HAS JOINED TOGETHER: HIS BODY (1 CO 4:16)
 - FEAR JUDGES OTHERS, CAUSING DIVISION, IN HOPES OF HIDING ONE'S OWN SIN (RO 3:1-11)
 - FEAR QUENCHES OR GRIEVES THE SPIRIT SETTING UP A POSITIVE FEEDBACK LOOP OF FEAR CREATING MORE FEAR (IP 4:30, 1TH 5:19)
- IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE ONE VOICE IN CHRIST ONLY VIA THE SPIRIT'S POWER – HARMONY
 - LOVE, PHILIA, SHARES ONE'S LEARNING WITH OTHERS ENCOURAGING THEM IN FAITH
 - THUS, ALL COME TO UNDERSTAND THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST AND SALVATION TOGETHER (IP 3:14-21, 4A-6, 11-14)

EXAMPLE OF POWERFUL AND POWERLESS ONES

- ABRAM WAS MORE POWERFUL IN THE FAITH THAN HIS NEPHEW LOT, EVEN THOUGH ABRAM WAS STILL WEAK AND NEEDING TO LEARN TO WALK IN FAITH HIMSELF (GE 13:8-18)
 - ABRAM, THOUGH THE PATRIARCH, GAVE LOT THE FIRST CHOICE OF WHICH LAND TO LIVE IN
 - LOT SHOULD HAVE DEFERRED TO ABRAM, HOWEVER, BEING MORALLY WEAK THOUGH STRONG IN THE FLESH, HE CHOSE TO LIVE NEAR SODOM WITH PREDICTABLE RESULTS EVEN TO FATHERING HIS OWN CHILDREN THROUGH HIS DAUGHTERS WHO LEARNED THEIR WAYS IN SODOM (GE 14:30-38)
 - GOD REPEATED HIS BLESSING TO ABRAM PROMISING ALL THE LAND TO HIM AND HIS SEED, CHRIST (GE 12:7-9, 13:14-18, GA 3:13-18)
 - EXAMPLE OF THE SPIRIT AT WORK BEHIND THE SCENES THOUGH REVEALED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Epilogue: Ὀφείλομεν – BOUND BY DUTY

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DISHARMONY FORESHADOWS DEATH

- HISTORY HAS SHOWN THE WISDOM OF PAUL'S TEACHING IN THESE VERSES
 - FALSE TEACHINGS HAVE CREPT INTO CONGREGATIONS CAUSING DENOMINATIONS
 - SO-CALLED TRUE CHURCHES HAVE VIOLENTLY ATTACKED THOSE WHO DISAGREED RATHER THAN SEEK TO USE THE SCRIPTURES TO BRING THEM TO KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH IN HARMONY
 - TODAY, CRIES FOR UNITY ARE NOT CENTERED ON THE SCRIPTURES NOR RELYING ON THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT; THEY ARE CENTERED ON FALSE BELIEFS PROPAGATED BY SATAN INTO THE WORLD
 - THE WORLD, DARKNESS, DEMANDS UNITY BY FORCE EVEN TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THOSE WHO HOLD TO THE SCRIPTURES
 - YOU WILL FOLLOW GOD'S WORD OR THE WORLD'S FEAR: SPIRIT AND BRIDE, BODY, SAYS COME (1JO 2:24; AC 4:18-20; RO 7:17)