

Romans 03 – Grace, Faith and Jesus

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Romans 1:5-8

Epilogue

- Previous lesson discussed:
 - Paul assures the Romans the gospel he will explain is not his but belongs to God as written in His Word
 - Old Testament prophecy basis of Paul's theology
 - Isaiah prophesied nearly the entire Gospel including eschatology integral to God's Gospel
 - Christ is the foundational cornerstone of God's Gospel

False Teachers: Low View of Bible

- During the past two centuries liberal theologians have denigrated the Bible, substituting their own beliefs for clear teaching of God's Gospel; teaching others also
 - German Higher (Textual) Criticism - Doubted authors
 - Social Gospel Movement - Dr. Fosdick: redefined good
 - Neo-Orthodoxy - Dr. Karl Barth: Bible contains Word
 - New Perspective on Paul (NPP) - Dr. EP Sanders: Redefined Paul's theology to support faith ecumenicism

Supremacy of God's Word

- Paul clearly wrote that the Gospel is not his but God's
 - Paul did not have a *low* view of Scripture as he quotes from the Old Testament over 100 times in his letters
 - Paul did not *redefine* words to fit his beliefs; his beliefs *changed* to fit God's word (Process begun at salvation)
 - His vision: Rome's Church be built on biblical doctrine to reach the Empire; i.e., New Testament Gospel built on Old Testament foundation Pre- and Post-Law given

Decreed as "Son of God" in Past

- Jesus is God and man; Paul contrasts the two: the Son of God *predated* the Son of David in the flesh (σάρξ)
 - Paul's writing form in Romans can lead to wrong conclusions, especially if one's mind is clouded (Mt 6:22-23)
 - Christ decreed to be God's Son and confirmed by the Spirit of (God's) holiness power in Him (Flesh weak) (1Co 1:27; Ph 2:5-11)
 - Thus, He was God's Son *before* He was David's Son whom the Spirit empowered to works as Gospel signs

There Was Another Witness

- Moses' Law required two or more witnesses (De 19:15, 19:16, 19:17, 19:18, 19:19, 19:20, 19:21, 19:22, 19:23, 19:24, 19:25, 19:26, 19:27, 19:28, 19:29, 19:30, 19:31, 19:32, 19:33, 19:34, 19:35, 19:36, 19:37, 19:38, 19:39, 19:40, 19:41, 19:42, 19:43, 19:44, 19:45, 19:46, 19:47, 19:48, 19:49, 19:50, 19:51, 19:52, 19:53, 19:54, 19:55, 19:56, 19:57, 19:58, 19:59, 19:60, 19:61, 19:62, 19:63, 19:64, 19:65, 19:66, 19:67, 19:68, 19:69, 19:70, 19:71, 19:72, 19:73, 19:74, 19:75, 19:76, 19:77, 19:78, 19:79, 19:80, 19:81, 19:82, 19:83, 19:84, 19:85, 19:86, 19:87, 19:88, 19:89, 19:90, 19:91, 19:92, 19:93, 19:94, 19:95, 19:96, 19:97, 19:98, 19:99, 19:100)
 - The other witness was His resurrection from the dead
- Though resurrection is an accepted concept today, in the ancient world it was considered nonsensical
 - Athenians considered Paul deranged for making such an assertion; Jews struggled with New Covenant body also (Jo 1:1-15; Ac 17:30-33)
 - Resurrection is sign of one's salvation & God's approval

God's Gospel Based on Christ

- Paul's mission statement for Romans: To bring about submission to the faith in His (Jesus Christ's) name; thus, God's Gospel is in fact Jesus' Gospel (Ro 1:16-18)
- Paul clearly states that God's Gospel is based solely on Jesus Christ who was witnessed to be God's Son giving
 - Grace
 - Apostleship to the Twelve to proclaim the Gospel

Paul Identifies with Apostles

- When Paul wrote about receiving grace, he used the plural pronoun *we* identifying himself with the Eleven
 - All the Apostles had the same mission: Take the Gospel into the World (Mt 28:18-20)
 - Paul is performing this mission to the Romans through this letter educating them about God's Gospel
 - His systematic approach will build all believers in the one faith of the one Father based on the one Son (Ep 4:4-7)

Law of Identity – Grace

- We must define our terms as Paul would have understood them: from the Old Testament
- Grace (χρη) – Usually translated as Favor (Ge 6:8, Ex 33:13)
 - The Omnipotent reaching down to the Impotent based solely on His will: Essence of favor and thus, grace
 - The Impotent can do *nothing* to gain favor, pardon, from the Omnipotent; he/she is totally, always undeserving

Law of Identify – Faith

- Faith (πίστις) – Trust, belief
 - Foundational concept is bedrock certainty in God
 - Faith is the **response** to God's self-revelation **when** God awakens us to salvation (Jo 6:37-40, 10:27-29, Ac 9:3-6, 11-19)
 - This cannot come from within a person (Ga 8:9-20)
 - Faith is not a leap into the unknown but solidly based on that which cannot be seen (spiritually sound) (He 11:1)
Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen

Biblical Example of Faith

- God revealed Himself to Moses and, though reluctant, Moses trusted God (Ex 3-4)
 - Later, in the Wilderness, Moses believed he found favor with God and asked God to show him His ways
 - When Moses asked to see God's glory, God told Moses of His mercy and grace (Ex 33:13-19)
 - Notice, God shows grace according to His will, not man's works, obeisance or demonstrations of power (Mt 7:21-23)

Grace Comes Before Faith

- God must reveal Himself and act on a person before that person can respond in faith
 - Paul began his letter as a *slave* to Christ and Christ said He was a slave to the Father (Ro 6:57-65)
 - Thus, maturing faith is increased submission to God (Christ) and less reliance on the flesh (Ph 3:7-11)
 - Faith is the reflection back to the Father of the grace He has already shown us (Sun – Moon [Imperfect]) (1Co 13:12)

Image of the Father

- Those *called* of God in Love become saved, born from above in the image of the Father (2Co 5:17; Ep 1:3-10)
- Just as the Father is spirit and truth, those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit (faith) and truth (Jo 4:23-24)
- Just as Christ was one with the Father and the Father was in the Son so also do believers bear the image of the Father according to Christ's prayer; hence we become holy (saints) sons of God (Jo 17:20-24)

Romans Called to Christ

- Called (κλητός) is indirect object of "loved by God"
- One is called by God based on His love apart from anything of you (Works) (Omnipotent-Impotent)
- Faith is one's response to God's salvation: Reflection
- Faith is based on *knowledge* of God; self-revelation
- Paul wants to give them knowledge for wise faith (Pr 1:20-23)
- Growing in wisdom of God increases Christ-likeness (He 5:11-14)

Paul Closes His Prescript

- Paul *prays* at the closing of his prescript for his readers to experience the Father's and Son's:
 - Grace - Continuing self-revelation from God; maturity
 - Peace (εἰρήνη) - To experience rest in the midst of tribulation (Wrestle) (Not a cessation of hostilities)
 - We are to live at peace with all; the world is hostile toward God's people (Jo 5:18-19; Ro 12:18; 2Co 13:11-12; 1Pe 4:12-14)

Prologue

- Did Paul accomplish his purpose?
 - Identify himself
 - Identify his credentials
 - Identify his purpose, in broad terms
- Paul will go into more detail concerning his purpose for his letter before delving into his theology

What Major Doctrines?

- What major doctrines did Paul introduce as he wrote his prescript?
 - Grace - Omnipotent reaching down to the Impotent
 - Faith - Reflection of the Omnipotent by the changed Impotent due to God's self-revelation (New Creature)
 - Submission - No submission: no faith (Integral union)
 - Peace - God's grace with our changed nature produces inner peace in a hostile world (Hope) (Ro 8:23-25; Ga 5:5)

Paul's Basis for These Terms

- Paul did not define these terms but he did state that the basis for his letter is to communicate God's Gospel out of His Word (Scriptures)
 - Paul will define his terms later in this letter
 - Paul will make extensive use of the Old Testament
 - Paul will teach us how to use the Old Testament, and the Bible, to define the Bible (Hermeneutics)

Circular Reasoning Fallacy

- Do Christians commit the Circular Reasoning Fallacy by using Scripture to define Scripture?
 - Though the Bible is one collection of 66 works, it is written by many authors, though inspired by the same God, over a period of nearly 1500 years
 - Quoting from one author is no different than citing one author in support of one's thesis in the same subject area

Man's Wisdom Falls Short

- Since man is limited to empirical means his knowledge will always be limited
 - Man can define certain observable phenomenon of energy but cannot define the exact nature of any energy
 - People quote from others in the same field to define knowledge of a discipline and build a hypothesis
 - Circular reasoning: Assuming as true what you are attempting to prove (Scientisms: Evolution)
Dinosaurs are old because rocks are old because dinosaurs are old

Spiritual Reasoning is Non-Empirical

- Human senses and reasoning cannot authoritatively speak to non-empirical subjects; even science limits itself to the empirical: Measurability; Repeatability
 - God is spirit and truth, thus beyond empirical means
 - Those who reflect His grace (faith) must rely on the testimony He has given us - Scripture (Self-revelation)
 - To destroy the validity of Scripture is to destroy His Gospel and all hope of Truth and salvation

God does not remove the scales from the lost mind; i.e., God's self-revelation is foolishness
Therefore to the lost, Christian reasoning appear as circular reasoning since they cannot perceive the Truth
Salvation is not about proof; it is a response to the self-revelation of God with a renewed mind