

THE BOOK OF ROMANS
THE GOSPEL IS OUR CONFIDENCE-PT 6
ROMANS 1:8; (Cf. EPHESIANS 4:17-23)

INTRODUCTION

PAUL is affirming the **GOSPEL** of **JESUS CHRIST** and his **CONFIDENCE** in the **GOSPEL** of **JESUS CHRIST!**

We have been looking the last two weeks how PAUL'S CONFIDENCE WAS MADE REAL BY THE PERFORMANCE OF THE GOSPEL— That is, by WHAT THE GOSPEL DID IN HIS LIFE AND DOES IN OTHERS' LIVES INCLUDING OURS! (Vs 5-6)

- I. THE GOSPEL IS THE BASIS OF OUR CONVERSION!
 - A. THE GOSPEL Was The Basis Of PAUL'S CONVERSION!
 - B. THE GOSPEL Was The Basis Of The Roman Believers' CONVERSION!
 - C. THE GOSPEL Is The Basis Of Every CONVERSION!
- II. THE GOSPEL IS THE BASIS OF OUR CALLING! (Vs 5)
 - A. It Was The Basis Of PAUL'S Calling As An Apostle!
 - B. It Is The Basis Of The CALLING Of ALL BELIEVERS including those in the ROMAN CHURCH And Us! (6-7a)

THE GOSPEL Of CHRIST IS THE BASIS OF OUR CONDUCT!

- I. THE GOSPEL WAS THE BASIS OF PAUL'S GREETING OF THESE BELIEVERS! (Vs 6-7)

PAUL Greeted Them According To Their CALLING In The LORD!
They Are Among The CALLED Of JESUS CHRIST!
PAUL Acknowledged Their BLESSING In The LORD!
PAUL'S GREETING OF "GRACE To You And PEACE From GOD Our FATHER And The LORD JESUS CHRIST" was grounded in the GOSPEL!

II. THE GOSPEL WAS THE BASIS OF PAUL'S THANKSGIVING FOR THE CHURCH AT ROME! (Vs 8)

Apart from their **FAITH** in the **GOSPEL** and the **GOSPEL'S** effect on them by their **FAITH**, there would have been **NOTHING** about them for **PAUL** to give **THANKS** for!

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Before the **GOSPEL** changed any of our lives, we weren't really anything special...we were pretty much just the same as other lost folk! In fact, **PAUL** described that **former walk (or life)** to the **EPHESIAN CHURCH** in *Ephesians 4:17-19*. **PAUL** mentions several things here:

- A. **The GOSPEL Affects The Purpose Of Our Walk!**
Before The Gospel
We were walking "in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened ..." (Ephesians 4:17b-18a)
vanity = futility, emptiness

My definition of that "**vanity**"...**Before we were saved we had a GOD-sized hole in our hearts where HE was missing!**

Our THOUGHT LIFE was FULL of VANITY!:
Psalm 94:11—"The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, That they are vanity."

Our PURPOSE FOR LIFE was FULL of VANITY!:
The word "**vanity**" is found repeatedly in the *Book of Ecclesiastes* written by Solomon where he describes **life on earth apart from GOD'S PURPOSE being in one's life!**

LIVING WITHOUT GOD and HIS PURPOSE in one's life looks in **VAIN** to find **FULFILLMENT elsewhere:**
The **LUST of the FLESH, the LUST of the EYES, and the PRIDE of LIFE...NONE** of which **SATISFY**, thus **being FULL** of "**vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under sun**"! (*Ecclesiastes 2:11*)

*Ecclesiastes 5:10— "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: **this is also vanity.***

We walked in **VANITY** because that is all we knew with our **UNDERSTANDING (i.e. Our MIND) BEING DARKENED!**

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Without The GOSPEL, everything that we were engaged in left us **unprepared for death** and **unsatisfied with life** and **NONE of the things we worked for could be taken with us to the grave!** That's a life full of VANITY!

After The Gospel

When JESUS comes into one's life, HE fills that GOD-sized hole that NOTHING else can fill!

HE gives us the UNDERSTANDING that we lacked by giving us THE MIND OF CHRIST! (*1 Corinthians 2:16*)

That is also the implication of *Ephesians 4:20-21* here.

PETER tells us a similar thing in:

2 Peter 1:3—"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"

So, we can now WALK IN THE LIGHT AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT! (*1 John 1:7*)

In fact, CHRIST gives REAL PURPOSE to life...
i.e. ETERNAL LIFE comes with GOD'S PURPOSE for life and by it the POSSIBILITIES of laying up HEAVENLY TREASURE as we set our AFFECTION on things ABOVE (ETERNAL things!), not on things on the earth (TEMPORAL things!)

Ephesians 1:3-11; Colossians 3:1-4

As PAUL encouraged the CHURCH at PHILIPPI to work out the SALVATION that GOD had worked within them, he told them this:

Philippians 2:13—"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

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The GOSPEL Affects The Purpose Of Our Walk...

B. **The GOSPEL Affects The Life Of Our Walk!**
Before The Gospel

We were nothing more than dead men walking!
Spiritually we were dead...physically we were alive though we were in the process of dying even then!

"...being alienated from the life of GOD through ignorance because of the blindness of their heart." (*Vs 18b*)

"ignorance" = this is a "willful ignorance" by ignoring GOD'S revelation and manifestation to them and thus remaining alienated from the life of GOD!

"blindness" = "a dullness or hardness that resists the light."

Ephesians 2:1b-3; 11-12

John 3:18— "...condemned already..."

After The Gospel

Ephesians 2:1a; 4-10; 13

Quickened us together with Christ = "made alive" (*Vs 4*)

...raised us up together...in Christ Jesus (*Vs 5*)

Both speak of our identification "in Christ Jesus" that is pictured by water baptism!

Colossians 2:12-13—"12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;"

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*Romans 6:3–5–“3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

*“...made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”
(Ephesians 2:6; Cf. 1:17-21; Romans 8:29-30)*

*The GOSPEL Affects The Purpose Of Our Walk...
The GOSPEL Affects The Life Of Our Walk...*

C. The GOSPEL Affects The Nature Of Our Walk!

Before The Gospel

*“Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness to work all uncleanness with greediness.”
(Ephesians 4:19)*

“past feeling” = calloused; become insensitive

“given themselves over” = “deliver...surrender themselves”

“lasciviousness” = “without moral restraint; loose or lewd”

“uncleanness” = “impurity; immorality; filth; rottenness”

“greediness” = “covetousness; never being satisfied”

i.e. A flesh driven walk

Galatians 5:19–21–“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like:..”

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After The Gospel

Ephesians 4:20-24

“But ye have not so learned Christ;” (Vs 20)

Note that he did not say “*learned about CHRIST.*” One can learn about **CHRIST** and never be saved. To “*learn CHRIST*” speaks of a **personal relationship with CHRIST** so that we get to know **HIM** better each day in that relationship. We can “*learn Christ*” through our **personal fellowship with HIM in HIS WORD and PRAYER!**

“If so be ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus.” (Vs 21)

The better we understand the **WORD OF GOD**, the better we know the **SON OF GOD**, because the whole **BIBLE** is a revelation of **JESUS CHRIST!**

“That ye put off the former conversation the old man which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.” (Vs 22)

“conversation” = “way of life or behavior”

“corrupt” = “ruined”

When we learn CHRIST, we find that HE wants us to PUT OFF the OLD MAN!

“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;” (Vs 23)

“renewed” = “make it new again”

John 6:63–“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

When we learn CHRIST, we find that HE wants us to PUT ON the NEW MAN!

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We do that by our new spiritual nature; the restored and divinely informed leading principle of the mind.

The **GOSPEL** at work in the **BELIEVERS'** lives made their lives different than they were before and thus made them **THANK-WORTHY!**

The **GOSPEL** made such a dramatic **CHANGE** in their lives that folks throughout the then known world were talking about their **FAITH!**

Later in Paul's letter he gives us some details about their faith:

Romans 6:17–18—“17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

That is the kind of change the **GOSPEL CAN MAKE** and **SHOULD MAKE** in folks lives! What kind of difference has it made for you?

Is it a difference that folks see and are thankful for? I hope so!