

**The Long War Against God:  
“The Gospel of the Grace of God Versus the Gospel of the Kingdom”**

**Review:**

- ***Paul’s distinctive revelation is written to the members of the Body of Christ and is all about Christian living. This is all about what God is doing today, under grace, what therefore the kingdom of God is today. For the Kingdom of God is all about what God the creator, savior, and redeemer is doing now, today. And today grace reigns according to the great letter to the Romans. Once Law reigned but that has been set aside and now Grace Reigns through Jesus Christ our Lord. God is magnifying his grace today as never before in human history. Paul writes of it this way in Romans chapter 5:***

***Rom. 5:20-21***

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

- ***Through Paul’s letters we may learn how God’s grace is operating today in what he calls the Dispensation of the Grace of God with God the Holy Spirit indwelling each believer as the very key to newness life which we are all exhorted to enjoy. We will continue again today to proclaim these truths.***
- ***If you have been with us here in our fellowship recently, you will remember that we looked specifically at the teaching concerning LIBERTY IN CHRIST JESUS as Paul wrote of it in the great letter to the Romans, chapter 6. We saw there much teaching on the Christian life and how to live life to the fullest, under grace, and NOT UNDER THE BONDAGE OF A LEGAL SYSTEM, WHETHER MOSAIC OR OTHERWISE.***
- ***Because we are not under the law, we are free -- and the profound consequence of this is that the bondage of sin has been broken. However, the sin nature remains in us and if we place ourselves back under the law, the sin nature responds in power and our eventual defeat according to Romans 7 is assured. For Law cancels or short-circuits the***

*outworking of grace in our lives. In Galatians 5 Paul wrote of that, as we saw last time, and used there the striking words “fallen from grace” regarding those who had left the liberty of grace and who had retreated from that liberty by placing themselves back under the demands of the law.*

- *Much of the teaching down through the centuries has been quite to the contrary. Through that teaching and the mixing of Law and Grace, many different “rules of living” have emerged, all of them religious in their essence and in no way honoring God’s unlimited pouring out of grace on sinners having no hope at all apart from God’s redemptive plan.*
- *We addressed the great question of what is the essence of law last time and saw that under law obedience brings blessings and disobedience bring the opposite, the judgment of Almighty God. Grace, on the other hand, is in some ways just the exact opposite, providing freely the blessings promised but then expecting fruitfulness based on those gracious provisions. Grasping this critical difference is so important. If anything, a religious and works-based system yields bondage to that legal system’s set of requirements and in no way can remove the stain of sin and the enslavement that law in any of its forms always brings.*
- *We saw from Exodus and Deuteronomy that the Mosaic Law demanded obedience to a great many requirements. Only that Law and its associated religious and ceremonial system was given by God -- but even that could not save anyone as Paul makes so clear in Acts and in Galatians:*
  - *Acts 13:38-39*  
38 Be it known unto you therefore, men [and] brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:  
39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.
  - *Gal. 3:10* For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.
- *We could look at a number of other examples. But it should be*

***transparently clear that the essence of Law is that all commandments MUST BE KEPT or the Law has been broken and the judgment must be delivered. Only the mercies of God can prevent that judgment from being executed.***

- ***In our last fellowship we saw how:***
  - ***Life Under Grace is NOT Limited or Enhanced by Law (Gal. 5:1-6). So reading grace into the law or law into grace provides no benefit. In fact each cancels out the other! Rather, today:***
  - ***Life Under Grace is Empowered by the Spirit of God (Gal. 5:5)***
  - ***Life Under Grace is Available Today! (Gal. 5:16-23)***
- ***The central point in that teaching was that the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives had made a tremendous difference compared to the believer's life under the Law. This is powerfully summarized in Gal. 5:***

***Gal. 5:5*** For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

- ***This is a most glorious and encouraging truth of how God is working today in his people, the church. It is "through the Spirit", a clear reference to the Holy Spirit of God which we all possess as members of His Glorious Body.***
- ***We also saw last time from Galatians 5 how this new life under grace is available today.***
- ***Gal. 5:16-18***

**16 [This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law . . .

- ***Verse 16: We find here an exhortation to "walk appropriately" and***

***its consequence. But the correct interpretation of this verse is that it includes and implied IF - THEN relationship that assumes a condition being fulfilled -- that we are walking by the Spirit. This is a profound statement (and it is a promise) and its truth is at the heart of the Christian life of the believer under grace.***

- ***Verses 17: This verse is the explanation (see the word “for” at the beginning) of verse 16. In that case (and in that case alone) as verse 16 indicates, the Holy Spirit defeats the power of the flesh providing liberty and the opportunity to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. Otherwise, the flesh dominates and its works, often quite religious in nature, are the result. Those works are never pleasing to God. Never!***
- ***THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS: If we will “walk by the Spirit” we will see our sinful flesh subdued by the Spirit as he carries on that battle that otherwise would surely leave us spiritually broken and in defeat. But when he is fighting against the flesh (instead of grieving within us as we continue in bondage to the flesh and its sin) we are set free in our spirits to enjoy him and his fruit. What a blessing that is!***

***Let grace reign! Rom. 5:17*** “For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)”

### **Introduction:**

- ***Kingdoms speak of how God is working. So the Kingdom of God promised to Israel is very different from the Kingdom of God that we are in today.***
- ***But the great question is always this: how may one enter into this kingdom of God? This is the domain of the gospel. TODAY and in our next fellowship we will look at these two corresponding gospels: The gospel of the Grace of God (appropriate for the dispensation of the grace of God) and the gospel of the kingdom (appropriate for the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom). We shall see how very different these two gospel are.***

I. The Content of the Gospel of the Kingdom Outlined:

**[READ ] Mark. 1:14-15, Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. [Soon judgment is foretold with need for repentance and faith]**

**[READ ] Matt. 4:23, And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. [miraculous signs accompany the preaching] - see also Matt. 9:35**

**Matt. 24:13-14, But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. [This applies in the Great Tribulation period after the Rapture has already occurred and taken the church home to glory.]**

- **No details are provided here for the context remains that of Moses Law. You remember the prophecies of Moses from Deut. 28 - 30 that we have looked into profitably. National repentance was required and John had the commission to prepare a straight path and a people for the Lord. Malachi's prophecies are a clear prophetic link. They point directly forward to John's ministry and then to our Lord's earthly ministry.**
- **Take note that this gospel of the kingdom that was preached is all about ENTRY into the realm of God's working, or the Kingdom of God in this case promised to faithful Israel. For Israel the preaching of the kingdom by John and our Lord himself that the long awaited 1000 year kingdom was finally NIGH or NEAR! Amen.**

**This would occur of course only when the nation of Israel had endured the seven year Tribulation and when the nation of Israel had repented. At that point only the Lord would return and would establish his kingdom on earth.**

- *But that gospel is so different from the gospel of the grace of God which we will now consider. We shall see that there are many, many contrasts between the two.*

## **II. The Content of the Gospel of the Grace of God Detailed:**

- *We begin with taking note of something very interesting that is often ignored. That is that the apostle Paul calls this gospel “my” gospel three times:*

*... the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to **my gospel**.*

***Rom. 16:25** Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to **my gospel**, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began*

***2 Tim. 2:8** Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to **my gospel [compare with 1 Cor. 15:1-4]***

- *So the special significance of this gospel must not be minimized and to do so is do risk upsetting the entire foundation of what God is doing today. I trust we shall see that as we proceed. So, at the very minimum there was something quite special about what Paul preached and therefore called “his gospel”. Surely there were “other” gospels being preached that were not true gospels at all. But, in fact, the apostle exclaims, there was only one gospel and that was the one Paul preached.*

*But will we receive his testimony? That is the question.*

*The exhortations to that effect are bold indeed:*

- *[READ ] Gal. 1:6-9 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble*

*you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any [man] preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." [So the gospel of the grace of God is very distinct from the other gospels including the gospel of the kingdom.*

- *Now we reach the closing point for our study today, and perhaps the very most important aspect of the Pauline teaching, the content of the gospel of the grace of God which Paul gave his very life to proclaim everywhere:*
  - *[READ ] 1 Cor. 15:1-8 "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen . . . And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."*
- *Note that it includes the death of Christ for all sinners, His burial, and His physical, bodily resurrection, his many witnesses and his ascension into heavens glory -- and NOTHING else! Note that there are no works here required. No repentance. No enduring required, etc.*
- *This gospel looks back to the cross simply by faith in the terms of this gospel and forward to the secured heavenly promises and hope. It does not look forward to a conditional entry into the coming kingdom as was promised to Israel. That entry into the Millennial Kingdom is surely conditional on Israel's obedience to the Law as originally stated - PLUS the full acceptance of the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world, of Israel's long awaited Messiah!! Amen.*

- ***So the test today for our continual discernment with all that we read and hear is simply this: Is it Pauline? It is that simple. "Simple as Can Be", the title of a great tract we just discovered in our attic that brought many memories back to our minds and hearts. [Testimony]***

***[Your Comments / Questions?]***