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Paul's Gospel

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Paul's Gospel.

Topics.

- Jesus appears to Paul.
 - Nullifying the grace of God.
 - The mystery of the Gospel.
 - God desires all to be saved and know the truth.
 - Paul's Gospel leads to salvation and eternal life.
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INTRODUCTION

Most scholars and theologians consider Paul to be the most important person after Jesus in the history of Christianity, because his Gospel is the complete Gospel, from redemption and salvation to being built up in the Body of Christ. At its core it is always a message about Jesus, and the Good News of what God has achieved for mankind in Jesus Christ. Paul's Gospel is the cornerstone, and foundation of Christian faith. In a nutshell the Good News of the Gospel proclaims, Christ, the Son of God died for our sins, he was buried, and on the third day God raised him from tomb to His heavenly throne. It invites us to be part of God's eternal family, and Kingdom by acknowledging our sinful state before God, repenting and accepting Jesus Christ as Lord.

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The word gospel: comes from the Greek word 'euangelion,' which literally means 'good news.' In the New Testament, it refers to the announcement that Jesus has brought salvation to the world through his life, death, and resurrection from the dead. It is the best and most important news a person will ever hear, for it has the power to completely change our lives for the better, unite us to God and save us to eternal life.

JESUS APPEARS TO PAUL (ACTS CHAPTER NINE)

As Paul approached Damascus, we are told a light from heaven suddenly shone around him, and falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And Paul said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting, rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." (Acts 9:3-6).

Then the Lord told Ananias he has chosen Paul to carry his name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. (Acts 9:15). Ananias baptizes Paul, and Paul immediately went and proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "Jesus is the Son of God" (Acts 9:20), and preaching boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, proving that Jesus was the Christ amongst the Jews. (Acts 9:22, 28).

Paul's sole desire was that his Jewish nation would be saved, and the sole focus of his message to them is Christ. It is interesting to notice, when Paul is speaking about the Old Testament to the Jews, he is not teaching it to them (they already know it), he is using it to prove to the unbelieving Jews that Jesus is the Messiah the Christ the prophets proclaimed was to come.

- **Acts 18:4:** And he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. ⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

Even though Paul is speaking to Jews, and he had an amazing knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures, his focus, for salvation, is not upon the Old Testament Scriptures, but solely upon Christ.

- **Acts 18:8-9:** Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent.

Here Paul proclaimed the Gospel to Crispus and those in his household, and many believed and were water baptized. The only message Paul proclaimed to Crispus was the things concerning Jesus, and he did this in one night, and those that believed were baptized.

- **Romans 11:13-24:** Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry.

God chose Paul to bring salvation to the Gentiles (i.e., everyone who is not a Jew), this could be stated, God chose Paul to bring salvation to the world.

- **1 Corinthians 1:18-31:** For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The cross of Calvary, is the center and core of Paul’s Gospel, because what Christ achieved for us on the cross, is the power of salvation, and the only path to God and to eternal life.

- **1 Corinthians 1:23-24:** but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Prior to Jesus appearing to Paul, he was at the top of the Pharisee tree, meaning he had a brilliant knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures, yet when it comes to sharing the Gospel of salvation to the Gentiles, he never entertains Old Testament Scriptures, except to use them to prove to unbelieving Jews, Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ their prophets proclaimed was to come. In contrast to Paul, there are elders of churches today who will not baptize a sinner seeking God, until they have spent three months or more learning the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

- **1 Corinthians 1:29-31:** so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Here is the beauty of Paul’s Gospel, all the faithful in Christ, are counted as being, righteous, sanctified, and redeemed, not because of their good works and righteous deeds, but because of their faith in Christ.

- **Galatians 1:11:** For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man’s gospel. ¹² For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Paul did not receive the Gospel that leads to salvation and eternal life from the religious leaders at Jerusalem or from the apostles, but directly by the revelation of Jesus Christ. Understanding this, it stuns me that there are teachers and elders today who seem to bypass this truth, and refuse to water baptize a repentant sinner who is honestly seeking God,

until they understand the Old Testament. Though it is a great blessing to have a great knowledge of the Old Testament, no one needs this knowledge to be saved and water baptized. This is knowledge that can be gained as the new convert grows in Christ, and as they meet and share Gods word with other brothers and sisters in Christ.

- **Galatians 1:15-16:** But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles,

The sole focus of Pauls Gospel that leads to salvation is God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Galatians 2:7-8:** On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised (Gentiles), just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised (Jews) ⁸ (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles.

Paul was called to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, which is why he never spends time teaching the Gentiles the Old Testament, for they do not need to know it, to be united to God and saved to eternal life. The only time Paul uses the Old Testament is to prove to unbelieving Jews, Jesus is the Messiah and Christ their prophets proclaimed was to come.

- **Galatians 2:16:** we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

This is the central and core message of Paul’s Gospel, that Jesus gave him to proclaim to the Gentiles. A church that sets their central focus on teaching the Old Testament will not survive or grow, for it is not intellectual knowledge the world needs, but love. The key to church survival and growth is to set the central focus upon Pauls Gospel, for it unites a believer to God’s grace, and to Christs love. This does not mean churches should stop teaching the Old Testament, this also would be a great error, for it contains many treasures and pearls, but it should not be given the highest focus and greatest attention, unless it is used to magnify Christ.

NULLIFYING THE GRACE OF GOD

- **Galatians 2:19-21:** For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Through the law I died to the law: means that there is absolutely nothing in the Ten Commandments, the Jewish laws of purification and ceremonial rites, customs, and traditions that Paul considers has any power to make him righteousness enough to be counted worthy of justification, or that can maintain his salvation to eternal life

That I might live unto God: means that Paul will not even put the tiniest amount of faith or trust in any part of the Law to save him, but rather totally surrender his mind, his will, and his life to the righteousness that God imputes to those who fully trust in Christ for their justification.

I have been crucified with Christ: means everything contained in Moses law and the Old Testament Covenant that Paul believed had power to make him righteous and acceptable to God, he now counts as being

totally worthless, and has totally forsaken them, to live entirely in God's grace and by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It means from Paul's water baptism onward nothing except the Lord Jesus Christ would ever again be trusted for his righteousness and justification to eternal life.

I do not nullify the grace of God: these words of Paul's should be engraved on the forehead of every brother and sister in Christ, because we all have the potential to nullify the grace of God, and by our own actions make Christ's cruel and brutal death count for nothing. This is because the instant we trust in in our own works, rather than faith and grace for our righteousness and justification we nullify the grace of God and everything the Lord achieved for us on the cross. Even in our best moments not one of us can attain to God's perfect Holiness, and Christ's perfect and sin free character, and none of us can stand before God free of sin, if we could Jesus died for no reason. This is why these words of Paul's are so important, for without grace not one of us would have any hope of eternal life, and the Law would have full right to condemn us to eternal destruction.

The practical application for us today: it is very easy for us to fall into the trap of trusting in our works to be counted righteous since human pride and ego prefers self-effort to grace, because self-effort produces self-righteousness, and this allows pride to rise-up and exalt itself above others, which in turn produces a heightened sense of spiritual superiority (howbeit a false one), which is one of the reasons it is important to forsake any thought of attaining to our own righteousness by self-effort and works. Some at this point will cite the following verses:

- **James 2:17-18:** So, also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
- **James 2:24:** You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.

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James is not saying we are counted righteous by works, but that true faith will have outward works that evidence a believer's inward faith, a simple example is a person who says, they believe in Jesus, and go to church, but during the rest of the week, give God no thought and live as they please.

Self-effort can take the form of trusting in any of the following:

- Regular attendance of church and Bible reading.
- Singing in a choir, and faithfully attending practice meetings.
- Preaching and teaching the Lord's word.
- Strictly adhering to religious rites and ceremonial practices.
- Praying, fellowshiping, and worshipping the Lord etc.

Obviously, most of these things are good in themselves and spiritually healthy to practice, but the moment we think they have any power to make us righteous before God and worthy of eternal life is the moment we nullify the grace of God, and what Christ achieved for us on the cross.

THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL

- **Ephesians 3:6:** This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

During Paul's era the Jews (especially the religious leaders) viewed themselves as a holy race with God, and the Gentiles as an unclean race without God. This verse shatters this idea to its core, for Paul proclaims, that through faith in Christ the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, and members of one body, and will together share in God's promises through faith in Christ Jesus.

GOD DESIRES ALL TO BE SAVED AND KNOW THE TRUTH

- **1 Timothy 2:3-7:** This is good (praying for all people, kings, and those in authority), and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

God desires all to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth, the knowledge of the truth Paul has in focus is not the entire knowledge of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, but the knowledge of the Gospel Jesus called him to proclaim, which embraces:

- The truth there is only one God.
- The Lord Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and men.
- Jesus gave himself as a ransom for all.

In this context, the knowledge of the truth God desires all would come to is in the context of salvation, and embraces all things Paul proclaimed concerning Christ.

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PAUL'S GOSPEL LEADS TO SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE

Though Paul wrote about many issues, the Gospel he proclaims that leads to eternal life embraces the following:

- There is one true God, and the Saviour of all mankind is His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.
- God is just and righteous, and salvation in Christ is for Jews and Gentiles.
- All are sinners separated from God, and it is by faith in Christ, repented sinners are saved and restored into a perfect relationship with God the Father.
- Jesus is the propitiation and perfect atoning sacrifice, for our sins, and faith in him guarantees a share with him in eternity.
- All must believe in the lordship of Jesus Christ, and that he was crucified, died, and was raised from the dead.
- Salvation is coming to know Jesus as one's own Lord and Savior.
- The redeemed in Christ should do all they can to live a godly life, and grow in the fruits of the Spirit (i.e., love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) (Gal. 5:22-23), and be prepared for Christ's return at any time.

- Salvation is not achieved by man's efforts, but by the grace of God through the gift of faith
- The salvation of those saved by faith in Christ will be outwardly manifested by a changed life (i.e., a life that no longer loves the things of the world, but loves the things of God).

Having, an understanding of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, is a great blessing, but Salvation is not dependent upon it, for God in His eternal wisdom planned and purposed before time began, that salvation would be in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus displayed His love for us, on the bloodstained cross of Calvary, which means the Gospel that leads to salvation and eternal life is founded on love. It is from this love, that the faithful in Christ desire to live a life that honours God, and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus' and the Christian faith.

The Gospel that unites us to God, and saves to eternal life, does not take months to learn, but is very simple, in fact so simple it can be learnt overnight. This is the beauty of the Gospel that leads to eternal life. God has designed it so that no one needs a great memory or high IQ, or to spend months learning it before they can be saved. Jesus said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book." (Hebrews 10:7), the purpose of Scripture is to point us to Jesus, for he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
