

Romans

Introduction

1:1-17

The Grace of God Revealed

The Theme

*"It may be that the **Deity** can **forgive sins**, but I do not see how."*

- Socrates, to Plato, 469-399 BC

*"Blessed is he whose transgression is **forgiven**,
whose sin is **covered**,
Blessed is the man to whom
the **LORD** does **not impute iniquity**,
And in whose spirit there is **no deceit**."*

- Psalm 32:1-2
- Quoted on death-bed by Augustine of Hippo, 354-430 AD

*"It may be that the **Deity** can **forgive sins**, but I do not see how."*

Socrates, to Plato, 469-399 BC

God's greatest problem:

- To compromise His hatred of sin would be to compromise His character.
- How does a Just God justify sinful man?
- How can God permit man to enjoy the destiny originally prepared for him?

GRACE: Profound in meaning.

Eph. 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Romans displays:

- God's righteousness
- Our iniquity, and
- God's remedy through Grace

Questions:

1. What is the connection between Grace, Faith, and Works?
2. Are we "saved" by Grace alone? What about Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38...?

God's Grace relates to a *type* of Faith that *calls for action*. God deals in reality according to His character. He desires and requires obedience in response to His Holiness (Hosea 6:6, Matthew 7:21). Believers receive a Righteousness imputed (2 Cor. 5:21).

Psalms 32:1-2

- "...there is no deceit" ... *honest with others and with oneself*.
- "...does not impute iniquity" *conveys righteousness*.

Faith, Hope, and Love

An Outline

FAITH, chapters 1-8

- 1-3 Sin
- 4-5 Salvation
- 6-8 Sanctification

HOPE, chapters 9-11

- 9 Israel – Past
- 10 Israel – Present
- 11 Israel - Future

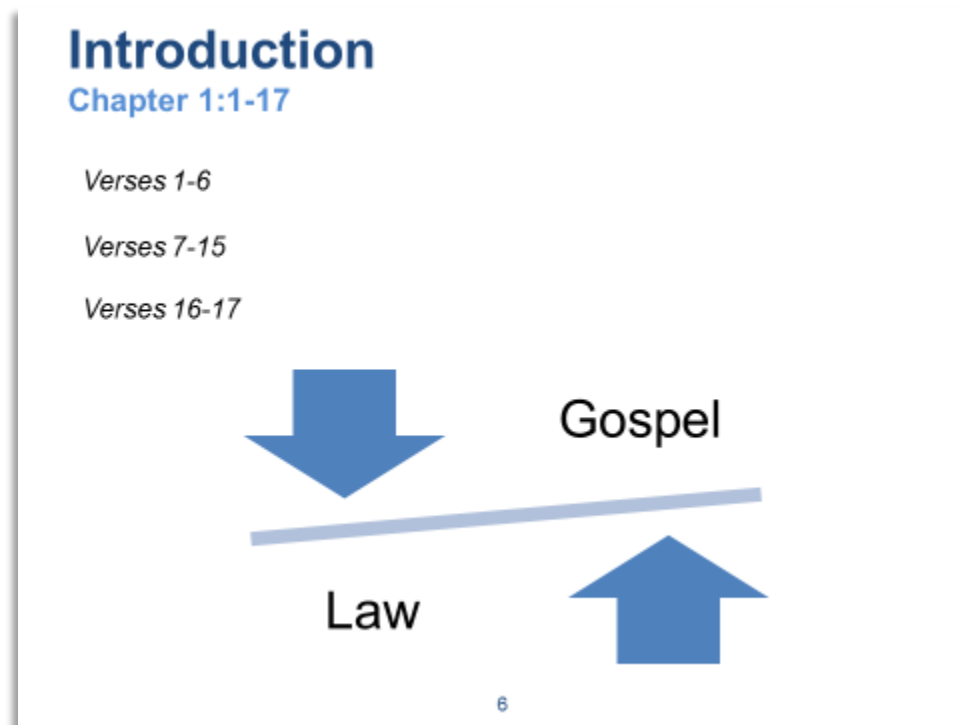
LOVE, chapters 12-16

- Practical Christian Living
- Kingdom Servants
- The Just shall **live** by Faith...

Chapters 1-3 – Establishing the Situation, Problem, and Implications, leading to a Needs Analysis.

- We are all part of a fallen race. But, God's Truth is evident to all.
 - CH1: Pagan or Natural Man – Evidence from Creation enough. Guilty!
 - CH2: Moral Man – Doesn't live-up to his own conscience. Guilty!

- CH3: Spiritual Man – Commitment and sincerity are flawed. Guilty!
- God's Truth encompasses The Elements of Reality
 - Origins
 - Meaning
 - Morality
 - Destiny



Verses 1-6

- v2 - Gospel of God; see 1 Cor. 15:1-4; **establishing link to OT** ; Gospel is of a **Person - Jesus**
- v3 – Prophetic validation of Him; see 2 Peter 1:19-21; made of the seed of David (flesh); declared to be the Son (power)
- v4 – **Confirmed to be the Messiah** by predicted and factual Resurrection from death; see **Acts 2:22-36**
- v5 – Through Him; for His name; see Acts 2:21,22,32,36 **Acts 4:12**

- v6 – Called ; see **Gal. 3:24-29**

Verses 7-15

- v7 – Saints “holy”; see Gal. 3:24-29
- v8 – Must’ve thrilled the hearer in Rome; they’ve heard of our **Faith** (what sets Christianity apart?)
- v9 – Not saying this lightly; **serving with his spirit – a fulltime thing**; being real/honest; coming from the depths of his spirit
- v10 – Expressing his desire to come there and become a part of their lives
- v11,12 – Share in the ministry; **gift of encouragement** together
- v13 – Planned to go; anxious to be a part of their work; **produce a harvest**
- v14 – Greeks=civilized; barbarians=non-Greeks (cultures) : **Acts 3:28 (Jesus changed the intrinsic value of mankind!)**
- v15 – With everything in me, I’m ready to preach the Gospel to those in Rome

Verses 16-17

- **Not ashamed of the Gospel**; Paul will stand-up this Gospel against any Religion (e.g. Jewish, pagan), it will stand the test. Paul will answer those Jewish critics who say “the righteousness of this Gospel doesn’t compare to the righteousness demanded by the Law”. See Heb. 8:12-13, righteous).
- **Power of God** for everyone who believes; Speaks to God’s strategy, or plan, of **redemption for all of mankind**
- It reveals the **righteousness of God**; see **1 Cor. 2:7-10**
- What is meant by “**From Faith to Faith...**”?
 - The Faith of those from the previous Covenants to the Faith of those within the New Covenant.
 - From a Faith that appropriated righteousness (i.e. to those that did what was right) to a Faith that receives the Gift of righteousness (i.e. to those that are declared)
 - From a Faith that made people walk like Saints to a Faith that calls them Saints before they’ve even walked like one.
 - Others?

- There is a righteousness preached in the Old Law, but the righteousness preached via the Gospel is greater.

In Paul's day, the Judaizers sought to diminish the Gospel by claiming the Gospel to be less righteous than the Law. In a similar way today, the post-modern culture seeks to diminish the Gospel by relegating it to the realm of non-rational, unscientific, personal preference. **Discuss the modern dilemma of the sacred versus secular dichotomy.**

Why is the sacred/secular dichotomy so pervasive? What is needed? **Luke 10:42**

The Just Shall Live by Faith

Habakkuk 2:4

The Just...

- Who?
- Romans 1:17

...Shall Live...

- How?
- Galatians 3:11

...By Faith.

- What?
- Hebrews 10:38

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The Righteousness of God is revealed from Faith to Faith...

2 Cor. 5:21 ..."For He made Him who know no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

What does God want of us?

1 Samuel 15:22 ..."to **obey** is better than to sacrifice." (**Matt 7:21**)

Hosea 6:6 ..."For I desire **mercy** and not sacrifice, and the **knowledge** of God more than burnt offerings."

Luke 1:27 ..."You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"

What is the meaning of the phrase, “the just shall live by faith” (Hab 2:4), relative to the Patriarchal, the Mosaic, and the Christian eras?

- Within each era, the believer’s relationship to God is *based upon God’s promises* and not upon anything that the person (or nation) has done or could do.
- Within each era, sin is dealt with in accordance with God’s instruction, the believer simply obeys and accepts by faith that their sin is forgiven. Even the animal sacrifices of the Mosaic Law were based upon God’s **promise** that the sin condition would be relieved. Galatians 3:19-29

Romans

God's Judgment of
Pagan Mankind
1:18-32

The Predicament of Mankind

"The wrath of God is revealed..." "...For all have sinned..."

Romans 1 : The "Pagan Man"

Romans 2 : The "Moral Man"

Romans 3 : The "Spiritual Man"

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The first step in the revelation of the righteousness that God provides for people by faith is to set forth our need for it because we are under God's judgment. We are born into a fallen race. The human race stands condemned before God and is helpless and hopeless apart from God's grace.

Read the summary statement of the first three chapters... 3:23-26

They Became Fools...

- Man's refusal to acknowledge and glorify God leads to a downward path:
 - First, worthless thinking;
 - Next, moral insensitivity; and
 - Then, religious stupidity as seen in idol-worship!
- And we become like the gods we worship (Ps 115:8, 135:15-18)

The Pagan Man

Naturalism – the belief that nature is all that there is.

The Empiricist looks to nature for truth; what he observes. God reveals Himself to men of this type via his creation.

Uniformity of Nature (e.g. the “Laws of Nature” being uniform across time & space) speak to the character of God. Such uniformity cannot be explained if the natural world were based upon mere randomness.

e.g. “Why is the universe discoverable? Understandable? Bound by natural laws? Comprising information?”

The universe reflects the unchanging character of God. We are made in his image and thus able to understand his creation.

The Moral Man – The Philosopher

The Moral Man looks inward for truth; what he reasons (i.e. Logic)

God has reveals Himself to this type of man within the concepts of right and wrong.

Morals reflect the character of God. We are made in His image and thus able to reason using logic of which he is the source.

The Spiritual Man – The “Religious” Person

One who recognizes the Sin Nature of Man. He seeks to “work” his way to a “right” relationship with his god.

The Religious Man looks to religion for truth; what he believes. A “heart” centric conditioned response.

God reveals Himself to men of this type via his special revelation of sin under the law (e.g. via the prototypical Jew) and redemption by grace within Christ.

Man says...

Humanism – man is the measure of all things.

Atheism – god doesn’t exist.

Pantheism – creation itself is the measure of all things.

God says...

Hebrews 1:1 *“God, who are various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,...”*

The Substance of Truth

A Spiritual Battleground – Freeing Captives of a Lie

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6

*“...Attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, **both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge** ... For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily ...” Colossians 2:2,3,9*

*“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a **sword**.” Matthew 10:34*

*A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility **correcting those who are in opposition**, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, **so that they may know the truth**, and **that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive** by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:24-26*

The Substance of Truth:

Biblically speaking, Truth is both relational and propositional. It is at one and the same time a Person – Jesus Christ, God in the Flesh – and also a set of verbally expressible, mentally comprehensible statements about that Person and the invisible God He reveals.

The Truth is consistent with reality; it matches the observable facts of the universe while simultaneously explaining realities we cannot see.

Truth and Faith:

*“Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1*

There is a tendency in our day to separate “reality” from “spirituality”. It’s part of the innate human propensity for compartmentalizing knowledge, belief, and behavior – in other words, for hypocrisy. Biblical Truth demands a total response. It elicits action as well as mental assent. If I believe that what I believe is really real, I will step out and act upon it. This is the meaning of the biblical word “faith”.

Truth and Division:

The light of Christ disperses the darkness of the devil's lies. But in so doing, it splits human society and draws a line through the center of every human heart. In a fallen world – a world divided into warring camps – the Truth gains enemies simply by being true.

We must view those in opposition to truth as captives of a lie... (*Isaiah 44:14-20, v20*)

The Pagan Man

"...who suppress the truth..."

*"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.*

*For **since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that **they are without excuse**, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

***Professing to be wise, they became fools**, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things."*

*Romans 1:18-23
(Isaiah 44:14-20)*

Read 1:18-32 and then return to this section. Ask questions before next slide.

What are the basis stated for God's judgment of the pagan world?

- For Suppressing God's Truth (v.18)
 - (King James correctly translates this as "Holding" Truth but by implication suppressing it.)
- For Ignoring God's revelation (v.19-20)
- For Perverting God's glory (v.21-23)

How do men suppress the truth in unrighteousness?

- Philosophies of Man (e.g. Humanism)
- Lies, False Teaching, and Artificial Authority

- Pride, Selfishness, and Hatred
- Claiming Presuppositions as “Facts”

What are some secular presuppositions?

- Naturalism – Nature is all that there is (e.g. It is now illegal to teach Biblical Creation in public schools).
- Empiricism – “Science” is the authority
- Relativism – There is no standard of Truth.
- Neutrality – All religions are equal.
- Bible is irrelevant to science, government, and business – Exclusion of Faith from public discourse.

What are some Biblical presuppositions?

- The Bible is true
- Moral Absolutes
- Laws of logic
- Laws of morality
- Uniformity and Induction

His Invisible Attributes

Are Clearly Seen

*"The heavens **declare** the glory of God;
And the firmament **shows His handiwork**.
Day unto day **utters speech**,
And night unto night **reveals knowledge**.
There is no **speech** nor **language**
Where their **voice** is not heard.
Their **line** has gone out through all the earth,
And their **words** to the end of the world."*

Psalms 19:1-4

How can something that's invisible testify to something that's clearly seen?

- Design – It was designed that way from the beginning of creation!
 - Example: DNA
 - DNA – 3 out of 4 error correcting digital code (could not have arisen from randomness)
 - Everywhere in the universe is evidence of design

Evidence of His Handiwork

Creative Design – Open Loop Systems

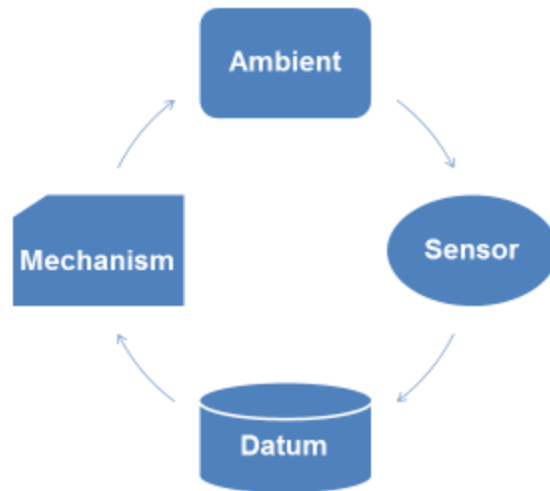


Example: Ceiling Fan

The “system” requires information and intelligence of first-level complexity.

Evidence of His Handiwork

Creative Design – Closed Loop Systems



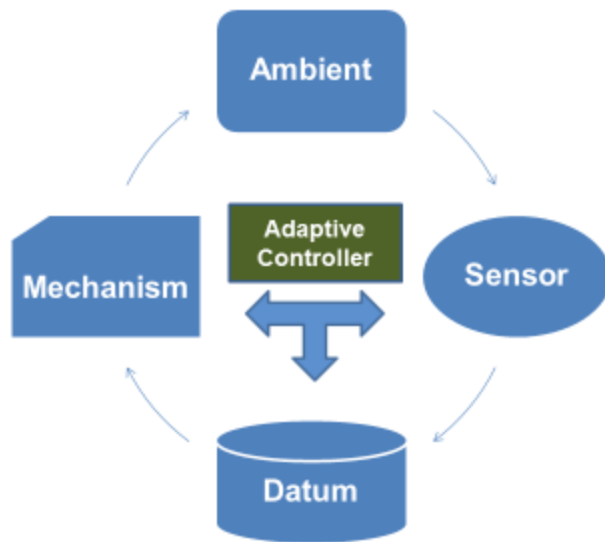
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Example: Introduce a Thermostat

The system requires intelligence and creativity indicative of a second-level of complexity.

Evidence of His Handiwork

Creative Design – Adaptive Systems



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Example: Introduce a micro-controller that assimilates information and applies rules of logic.

The system now represents a high level of sophistication; only possible with significant creativity and design. Most systems of this class are designed by trained, professional engineers.

Evidence of His Handiwork

Creative Design – Hierarchy of Information Systems

Open Loop Systems

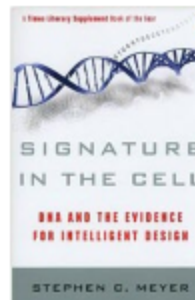
Closed Loop Systems

Adaptive Systems

Intelligent Systems

- ***Self-Modifying***
- ***Self-Programming***
- ***Self-Diagnosing***
- ***Self-Repairing***
- ***Self-Reproducing***

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“Intelligent Systems” represent the pinnacle of known systems complexity. Man-made systems have not yet reached this level.

However, God’s handiwork is demonstrated by living systems (e.g. the living cell) that contain incomprehensible application of creative design.

Natural Information Systems complexity is a clue to God’s creative design. Each higher level of complexity requires adding information to the system.

Evidence of His Handiwork (2)

Probability Reveals Knowledge

"Yes, but you must wager. There is no choice, you are already committed. Which will you choose then?

Let us see: since a choice must be made, let us see which offers you the least interest. You have two things to lose: the true and the good; and two things to stake: your reason and your will; and, your knowledge and your happiness.

Your nature has two things to avoid: error and wretchedness. Since you must necessarily choose, your reason is no more affronted by choosing one rather than the other. That is one point cleared up.

But your happiness? Let us weigh up the gain and the loss involved in calling heads that God exists. **Let us assess the two cases: if you win you win everything, if you lose you lose nothing. Do not hesitate then; wager that he does exist.**"

Pascal's Wager, Blaise Pascal, *Pensées*, 1670

Another example of the inherent creative design evidenced within "information systems".

From a mathematical, probabilistic, risk analysis perspective:

Type I Error: Rejecting a true hypothesis.

Type II Error: Accepting a false hypothesis.

Evidence of His Handiwork (2)

Probability Reveals Knowledge

What is the probability that a random string of black and white beads spells-out Genesis 1:1 in Morse Code?

347 beads, 2 Symbols (black, white)

$$P = 2^{-347} = 2.8669 \times 10^{-104}$$

Absurd?

$P = 10^{-50}$ is generally regarded as impossible

10^{18} seconds since beginning of a 15 billion year universe

10^{66} atoms within the entire MilkyWay galaxy

Chance is too inefficient in both time and material.

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If you found a string of black-and-white beads and upon further inspection discovered it spelled out Genesis 1:1 in Morse Code. What is the probability that this sequence occurred through random chance?

347 beads; only 2 types: black and white; thus a “language” of 2 symbols.

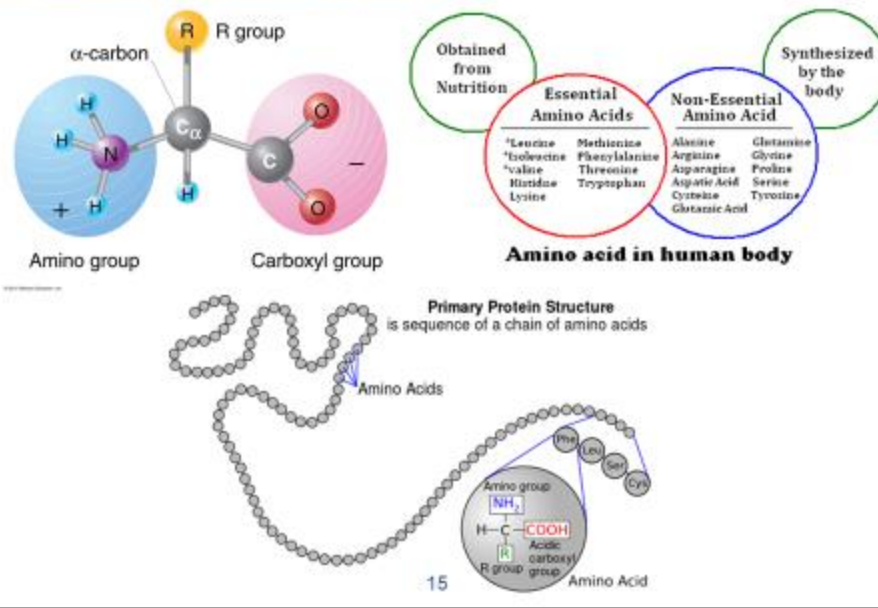
$$P (\text{random chance}) = 2^{-347} = 2.8669 \times 10^{-104}$$

Note: ($P < 10^{-50}$ is defined as absurd!)

A basic concept herein is the concept of information conveyed within Language. In this example, Morse Code, utilizes a language symbol-set of 2 symbols. What about more sophisticated languages? (e.g. English alphabet of 26 symbols; ASCII code of 256 symbols; protein sequences using 20 symbols).

Evidence of His Handiwork (2)

Probability Reveals Knowledge



Molecules: Behave like groups of ball magnets; react with one another and with other catalysts (e.g. oxygen). Amino Acids are simply molecules that serve as the building blocks for all proteins (larger molecules) found in living cells.

Amino Acids: Consider the 20 essential amino acids that make-up all proteins in living cells; 10 our bodies manufacturer; 10 we obtain from our food

All amino acids found in proteins have this basic structure, differing only in the structure of the R-group or the side chain.

Right-handed versus Left-handed? (reacts to mutual destruction)

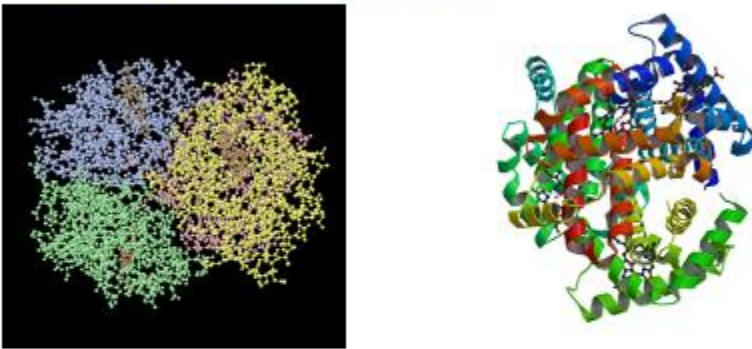
What happens in presence of Oxygen? (reacts to molecular destruction)

Language of Protein Sequencing:

- 20 Symbols; 20 Essential Amino Acids; a "Language"
- Arrange these in specific sequence to produce all proteins (i.e. to convey information)
- Arrangement itself is syntactic. Meaning (i.e. functional specificity) of the sequence is semantic. We are considering only syntactic probability. Semantic meaning is profoundly more indicative of Intelligent, Creative Design.

- Probability calculations consider only the syntactic nature of the sequence. Generally, only a small number (e.g. one in many cases) of permutations in all possible permutations determines a “correct” sequence semantically.

Evidence of His Handiwork (2)
Probability Reveals Knowledge



*What is the probability that a random sequence of molecules spells-out the protein **Hemoglobin** using the 20 symbols of amino acids code?*

547 molecules, 20 Symbols (amino acids)

$P = 20^{-547} = \text{approximately } 10^{-650}$

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Consider the Hemoglobin molecule (i.e. protein sequence)...

Chemical Composition:

Hemoglobin; about 96% of red blood cell (dry weight) is the protein molecule Hemoglobin; binds and transports Oxygen and other gases to/from cells.

Formula for linear arrangements: $N = n! / (p! \times q! \times r! \dots)$

There are approximately 10^{650} permutations possible; nearly only one of them is hemoglobin (i.e. a very small change in the “correct” syntactic sequence? = Hemoglobin Opathy). Only very small variations are permissible relative to functional specificity.

Far beyond “chance”.

The Elements of Language:

- Syntactic
- Symantec

Is this an example of a random accident (chance)? Or coordinated planning (design)?

How does this example (i.e. Hemoglobin) compare to more complex protein sequence structures (e.g. DNA)?

Where did the functional specificity (i.e. semantic meaning within the context of application) come from? How? How can we know?

Judgment with Cause

Three bases for His judgment of the Pagan world...

For Suppressing God's Truth (v.18)

For Ignoring God's Revelation (v.19-20)

For Perverting God's Glory (v.21-23)

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Psalm 19; Romans 1

- For Suppressing God's Truth (v.18)
- For Ignoring God's revelation (v.19-20)
- For Perverting God's glory (v.21-23)

Judgment with Cause

Ignoring God's Revelation

The witness to God in nature is so clear and so constant that ignoring it is indefensible.

- The pagan man's condemnation is based not on their rejecting Christ of whom they have not heard,
- **But sinning against the Light that they do have.** *2 Corinthians 8:12*

Examples:

- Pharaoh, *Exodus 10:16*
- Philistines, *1 Samuel 4:7,8; 5:7,8,11*
- King of Nineveh, *Jonah 3:7-9*

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How do we reach the pagan man with the Gospel?

1. Argument from Design
 1. All Designs imply a Designer
 2. There is great design in the universe
 3. Therefore, there must be a Great designer of the Universe
2. Argument from Creation
 1. The Universe had a beginning
 2. Anything that has a beginning must have been caused by something else
 3. Therefore, the universe was caused by something else, and this cause was God

Five key questions to focus conversation with non-believers:

1. What do you mean by _____?
2. How do you know?
3. What difference does that make?
4. What if you are wrong?
5. What would you accept as evidence?

Romans

God's Judgment of
The Moral Man
Ch. 2

The Predicament of Mankind

"The wrath of God is revealed..." "...For all have sinned..."

FAITH, chapters 1-8

- **1-3 Sin (All men are without excuse.)**
- 4-5 Salvation
- 6-8 Sanctification

Romans 1 : The "Pagan Man"

- For **Suppressing** God's Truth (v. 18)
- For **Ignoring** God's Revelation (v. 19-20)
- For **Perverting** God's Glory (v. 21-23)

Romans 2 : The "Moral Man"

Romans 3 : The "Spiritual Man"

4

REVIEW

The Pagan Man - They Became Fools...

Man's refusal to acknowledge and glorify God leads to a downward path:

- First, worthless thinking;
- Next, moral insensitivity; and
- Then, religious stupidity as seen in idol-worship!

The witness to God in nature is so clear and so constant that ignoring it is indefensible.

- The pagan man's condemnation is based not on their rejecting Christ of whom they have not heard,
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Case Study: Sodom

- Ezekiel 16:48-50
- For what cause did God "take them away"?
- Was this "fair" of God?

The first step in the revelation of the righteousness that God provides for people by faith is to set forth our **need** for it because we are under God's judgment. We are born into a fallen race.

The human race stands condemned before God and is helpless and hopeless apart from God's grace.

What Law is at play in this judgment scenario?

- The Law of Sin and Death (Romans 8:2)

Is this a real law?

- Compare to other "natural laws" like gravity, cause and effect, entropy, others.

Review our "court-room" scenario... The 3 men in the dock; the Judge; the Jury... What type of glasses are we all wearing?

Is pagan mankind guilty?

- How do you know?
- Do you now judge the Pagan man guilty?
- Read Romans 2:1-3 (PAUSE)
- What about Matthew 7:1-2 ???
- What about I Cor. 2:13-16 ???
- What is the common thread? A common measuring stick that we all possess and recognize?
- Aren't we (i.e. the jurist) now also defendants?

Read I Corinthians 2:13-16

- How can we "know" anything? ("But we have the mind of Christ.") How is this possible? John 18:37
- What is meant by v15? What is meant by "rightly judged"?
- Is this passage a clue as to the meaning of Jesus' statement, "Everyone who is of the Truth hears My voice." ...?
- Is this a clue as to the power of the glasses we are given to wear as jurors within the Romans 1-3 court-room?
- What is the correlation within I Cor 3:9-15 ...?

Review how the court-room changes as we enter chapter 2.

Let us not confuse Romans 2 with Revelation 20... at Judgment Day (Rev 20), there will be no reasoning or preaching; only condemnation; based upon the Principles of God's Judgment.

The Agent of divine judgment is Jesus Christ. John 5:22, 27; Acts 17:29-31

Now that Jesus is the divine judge within our court-room...

- What does this say about God's "fairness"?

The Moral Man

Seven Principles of God's Righteous Judgment

(1) According to Truth

"But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things." v.2

- Self-righteousness
- Condemnation before investigation
- The only barrier to receiving the Truth is the assumption that you already have it. (pride vs. "ask, seek, knock" humility)

(2) According to Accumulated Guilt

"...treasuring up for yourself wrath..." v.5

- Not until the last evil result of a life of sin can the final condemnation of the sinner be known.
- **Unless...** John 5:24; Romans 8:1; (The Good News!)

5

What is the greatest thought that ever entered the mind of Man?

"My responsibility to my Maker!" Daniel Webster

How does God deal with Man individually? Ezekiel 18...? Mankind Corporately?

According to Truth...

- In this court-room, we are privileged to be wear (as jurists) the glasses of God's Truth... to see the evidence with the Mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:15).
- Emphatically! We MUST always wear these when doing Kingdom work (in humility, planting, watering, answering, with compassion).

Seven principles dealing with how God will decide and respond to mankind.

(1) According to Truth

- Do you think that you will escape judgment – You? Self righteousness is a death sentence that we all share in. (Ezekiel 16:48-50)
- The principle that keeps us in ignorance is condemnation (coming to a conclusion) before investigation.
- v4, Not only do we feel ourselves innocent, but the riches of God should be leading us to repentance.
- Note God's progressive degrees – goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering – in responding to our ingratitude.

(2) According to Accumulated Guilt

- The First Law of Holes... stop digging.
- Ezekiel 16:49-50 – Example Sodom and Gomorrah – pride; more than homosexuality
- Luke 17:28-30
- Prosperity always feeds pride; it's easy to be humble when you are poor.

The Moral Man

Seven Principles of God's Righteous Judgment

(3) According to Works

"Who will render to each one according to his deeds:" v.6

- Revelation 20:13-15
- Not a revelation of the way of salvation, but a general description of the character of the saved.
- "Doing good" demonstrates a heart that is right with God.

(4) Without Respect of Persons

"For there is no respect of persons with God." v. 11

- Just recompense by God is without regard to:
 - Ethnic background or any other consideration,
 - Except what each person has done.
- Law – specific and general (according to the Light given)

The Moral Man

Seven Principles of God's Righteous Judgment

(5) According to Obedience

"...for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;..." v. 13

- Addresses the false comfort or false peace (i.e. false teaching) of justification by merely "knowing God's Truth".
- Gospel speaks of the "obedience of faith".
- Habitual conduct reveals one's heart.

(6) According to Secrets of the Heart

"In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel." v. 16

- In accord with theme of verses 2:5-13
- Judgment will deal with men's secrets. 1 Cor. 4:5

The Moral Man

Seven Principles of God's Judgment

(7) According to Reality

Romans 2:17-29

- Specifically addressing the Jew; exemplar of the religious person; who is proud of the law, but not keeping it.
- Religion – man's attempt to cover himself.
- Basis of Jewish Pride
 - Being called a Jew
 - Relied on the Law
 - Boasting of God
 - Knowing God's Will
 - Being instructed of the Law
- **"For 'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you'..."** Isaiah 52:5; Ezekiel 36:22
- Reality counts with God... the true "Jew" exemplar is one who is circumcised in heart; one who seeks to walk in accordance with the revealed will of God.

The Moral Man

Conscience, v. 14-15

Conscience is an important part of human nature...

- *But, not an absolutely trustworthy indicator of what is right.*
- *Romans 2:14, 15 are an explanation of verses 2:12, 13*

One's conscience can be...

- *"good" - Acts 23:1; 1 Timothy 1:5, 19*
- *"clear" - Acts 24:16; 1 Timothy 3:9; 2 Timothy 1:3; Hebrews 13:18*

But, it can also be...

- *"guilty" - Hebrews 10:22*
- *"corrupted" - Titus 1:15*
- *"weak" - 1 Corinthians 8:7, 10, 12*
- *"seared" - 1 Timothy 4:2*

By way of the blood of Jesus Christ, our conscience may be...

- *"cleansed" - Hebrews 9:14*

The Moral Man

Regarding his Fate

"The saving of souls, if a man has once gained love to perishing sinners and his blessed master, will be an all-absorbing passion to him.

It will so carry him away, that he will almost forget himself in the saving of others. He will be like the brave fireman, who cares not for the scorch or the heat, so that he may rescue the poor creature on whom true humanity has set its heart.

If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let none go there unwarned and unprayed for."

Charles Spurgeon

Let us not confuse Romans 2 with Revelation 20... at Judgment Day, there will be no reasoning or preaching; only condemnation; based upon the Principles of God's Judgment.

The Agent of divine judgment is Jesus Christ. John 5:22, 27; Acts 17:31; Hebrews 9:27

How to evangelize to The Moral Man?

How do we think about this predicament in order to help mankind?

- Situation
- Problems
- **Implications**
- **Needs**
- Within the context of Truth...
 - Origins
 - Meaning
 - Morality
 - Destiny

The Righteousness of God Revealed

- God created man “in His own image.”
 - Since we are persons, so is God
 - Since we have personal feelings, so has God
 - **Implications?**
 - If God be God, He must be the judge of all.
 - We must meet God as He is, not as we wish Him to be.
 - We need to really understand how He sees things... not as how we imagine Him to be.
 - We don’t want to hug our own delusions to our own damnation.

Needs?

- Truth
- Compassion Now! (Luke 16, Lazarus, too late to help the lost)
- How would you describe your current attitude about the fate of the lost?
 - Unconcerned

- Concerned
- Alarmed
- Horrified

What about you and I...?

- Psalm 139
- Jeremiah 1:5-10
 - What was Jeremiah's response (v6)?
 - What was the real underlying reason (v8)?
 - What was Jeremiah given (v9-10)? Do we have this same knowledge? (Jeremiah 31:31; Hebrews 8:10)
- Paul
 - I Corinthians 2:1-5

Romans

God's Judgment of The Spiritual Man Ch. 3

The Predicament of Mankind

"The wrath of God is revealed..." "...For all have sinned..."

Romans 1 : The "Pagan Man"

- For **Suppressing** God's Truth (v. 18)
- For **Ignoring** God's Revelation (v. 19-20)
- For **Perverting** God's Glory (v. 21-23)

Romans 2 : The "Moral Man"

- According to **Truth** (v. 2)
- According to **Accumulated Guilt** (v. 5)
- According to **Works** (v. 6)
- Without **Respect of Persons** (v. 11)
- According to **Obedience** (v. 13)
- According to **Secrets of the Heart** (v. 16)
- According to **Reality** (v. 17-29)

Romans 3 : The "Spiritual Man"

- Our **Conscience** is an **Indicator** of a **Need for Righteousness** and a basis for **Religion** (v. 2:14-15)
- God recognizes **Obedience from the Heart** (v. 2:29)

The Pagan Man - They Became Fools...

Man's refusal to acknowledge and glorify God leads to a downward path:

- First, worthless thinking;
- Next, moral insensitivity; and
- Then, religious stupidity as seen in idol-worship!

The witness to God in nature is so clear and so constant that ignoring it is indefensible.

- **The pagan man's condemnation is based not on their rejecting Christ of whom they have not heard,**
- **But sinning against the Light that they do have. 2 Corinthians 8:12**

NOTE: God's prior judgments of mankind (i.e. condemnations) reveal that He judged them apart from the Law and according to the eternal principles of His Revealed Truth (e.g. Sodom and Gomorrah, Noah's Flood).

The Moral Man – Seven Principles of God's Righteous Judgment

****** The First Law of Holes... stop digging! ******

Let us not confuse Romans 2 with Revelation 20... at Judgment Day, there will be no reasoning nor preaching; only condemnation; based upon the Principles of God's Judgment.

The Agent of divine judgment is Jesus Christ. John 5:22, 27; Acts 17:31

Judgment

- The Same Measuring Stick (we all know and use the same stick):
 - *Romans 2:1-2*
 - *Matthew 7:1-2 (passing judgment should give us pause...)*
- *Does not imply "do not pass judgment – i.e. discernment"*
 - *1 Corinthians 2:14-16 – the spiritual man makes judgment about all things*
- Different judgments
 - Examples of prior Judgments (with condemnation) by God: Ezekiel 16:48-50 (Sodom and Gomorrah – pride **and** sexual perversion; see also Luke 17:28-30)
 - At the end: *Revelation 20:13-15 ("...treasuring up for yourself wrath..." Romans 2:5)*
 - *Even the Christian: 1 Cor. 3:11-15 (but not condemned...! John 5:24; Romans 8:1)*

The Moral Man / The Spiritual Man

Conscience, A Basis for Religion, 2:14-15

Conscience is an important part of human nature...

- But, not an absolutely trustworthy **indicator of what is right**.
- Romans 2:14, 15 are an explanation of verses 2:12, 13

One's conscience can be...

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- "seared" - 1 Timothy 4:2

By way of the blood of Jesus Christ, our **conscience** may be...

- "**cleansed**" - Hebrews 9:14

What is the greatest thought that ever entered the mind of Man?

"My responsibility to my Maker!" Daniel Webster

Men recognize a void in themselves..., and sometimes seek to fill that void with religion.

(basically a selfish drive) (we'll see that even in man's best effort, his corporate attempt; religion; that man is not good...)

The Righteousness of God Revealed

- God created man "in His own image."
 - Since we are persons, so is God
 - Since we have personal feelings, so has God
 - We all recognize the need for universal judgment! (we've all just judged pagan man in our reading of chapter 1...!)
- **Implications?**
 - If God be God, He must be the judge of all. (We've all agreed, v. 2:1-2, that universal judgment is warranted.)
 - We must meet God as He is, not as we wish Him to be.

- We need to really understand how He sees things... not as how we imagine Him to be.
- **We don't want to hug our own delusions to our own damnation.**

Needs Analysis...? A basis for Religion... (the implications of our condition requires a solution)

S.P.I.N.

Situation – is self-evident

Problems – are experienced universally

Implications – are recognized by all

Needs Analysis – solutions are sought by all and translated by intent.

The Spiritual/Religious Man

Man's Attempt to Cover Himself

Romans 2:17-29; 3:1-8

- Specifically addressing the **Jew**; **exemplar of the religious person**; who is **proud of the law, but not keeping it**.

Basis of Jewish Pride

- Being called a Jew (v. 17)
- Relied on the Law, "rest" (v. 17)
- Boasting of God (superior attitude, v. 19)
- Knowing God's Will (v. 20)
- Being instructors of the Law (v. 21)

But, all men could see their self-righteous hypocrisy

- **"For 'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you'..."** Isaiah 52:5; Ezekiel 36:22

Reality counts with God...!

"...but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter..." (v. 2:29) (Deut. 10:16-17)

6

Read 2:17 thru 3:8

Were the Jewish people "better" (e.g. culturally) than others?

- Arguably "yes"... compare OT laws about health and living systems vs. others (e.g. hygiene, food restrictions, "keepers of God's Laws")

- Jews had set aside the “hope of the Messiah” as the Light (even unto Gentiles) and assumed themselves to be the Light.
- i.e. arrogant conceit
- They had the “form of the Law”, an adaptation of the “original Law”
- Paul uses the very Law the Jew trusts in to “root him out”

Note: Historically, the Church had begun in the Jewish community; most of the early Christians (in the years after pentecost) were Jews. But, here we are 30-40 years since then and the Church had largely become a Gentile phenomenon. Paul (as he traveled and preached in the synagogues) undoubtedly faced a hostile, taunting, perhaps demeaning audience of Jews. Hence, his focus on a Jewish centered argument from that perspective.

Sub-argument (circumcision is of the heart – **Deut 10:16**):

- The Jew (*being* circumcised under the law) would not receive covering under the law *without* obedience...
- And, the Gentile (*not being* circumcised under the law) could receive covering under the law *with* obedience (argument from v. 2:13)...
- Therefore, the Jew would argue (tauntingly)... **Romans 3:1-8**
 - What advantage is there in being a Jew...? If we are made right with God by His Grace alone, then...
 - Isn't it the case then that our unrighteousness further increase God's glory...?
 - **Discuss Job 38:1-3; Job 40:2; Job 40:8**
 - Discuss Psalm 51:4
 - (Similar argument today – is baptism then really necessary?)

The Starting Place of Faith (God's Truth is not determined by our assessment of it...):

- 3:3 *“Let God be true and every man a liar...”*
 - *We all know about truth because we all comprehend what a lie is... (the negative reveals the positive)*
- 3:4 *Men are judging God...! (Psalm 51:4) Man says... “God doesn't have the right to judge me..! I am as he has made me...” Discuss Job 40:8*
- 3:5-9 *Paul assents to their argument and then demonstrates how the argument can't be true because it contradicts God's own nature... (How can a perfectly just God not apply justice?)*

- Sin is born of motivation....! Who is really good?

| | Christianity | Islam | Secular Humanism | Marxism-Leninism | Cosmic Humanism | Post-Modernism |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Foundation | Bible | Qur'an, Hadith, Sunnah | Humanist Manifestos I, II, III | Marx, Engels, Lenin, Mao | MacLaine, Spangler, Chopra | Neitzsche, Foucault, Derrida |
| Theology | Theism (Trinitarian) | Theism (Unitarian) | Atheism | Atheism | Pantheism | Atheism |
| Philosophy | Super-naturalism | Super-naturalism | Naturalism | Dialectical Materialism | Non-Naturalism | Anti-Realism |
| Ethics | Moral Absolutes | Moral Absolutes | Moral Relativism | Proletariat Morality | Moral Relativism (Karma) | Cultural Relativism |
| Biology | Creationism | Creationism | Neo-Darwinian Evolution | Punctuated Evolution | Cosmic Evolution | Punctuated Evolution |
| Sociology | Traditional Family, Church, State | Polygamy, Mosque, Islamic State | Non-Traditional Family, Church, State | Classless Society | Non-Traditional Family, Church, State | Sexual Egalitarianism |
| Politics | Justice, Freedom, Order | Islamic Theocracy | Liberalism, Secular World Gov. | Statism, Communist World Gov. | Self-Government New World Order | Leftism |

They (i.e. world religions) can't all be true!

Comparing competing world-views

Reference: "Understanding the Times, The Collision of Today's Competing Worldviews", David A. Noebel

The Religious Man looks to the practice of religion for righteousness. He develops exhaustive belief systems. He recognizes the Sin Nature of Man and seeks to "work" his way to a "right" relationship with his god.

God reveals Himself to mankind via his special revelation of sin under the Law (i.e. via the prototypical Jew) and points mankind instead to redemption by grace within Christ.

Man says...

Humanism – man is the measure of all things.

Atheism – god doesn't exist.

Pantheism – creation itself is the measure of all things.

God says...

Hebrews 1:1 “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...”

The Righteousness of God Revealed

How the LORD delights in keeping his promises...!

*“Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That **I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness**; A King shall reign and prosper, And **execute judgment and righteousness** in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved. And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is **His name** by which He will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.”*
Jeremiah 23:5-6

*“He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge **My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities**.”* Isaiah 53:11

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

FIRST, Read Galatians 3:19-29

The Promises of GOD are the currency upon which man-kind’s ultimate hope and destiny rest. Discuss how GOD made promises to Abraham, Moses and the Israelites, and to us (Jer 31:31).

What should our response be?

The Grace of God Revealed

How *the* perfectly just LORD *has* forgiven sin...!

*"It may be that the **deity** can **forgive sins**, but I do not see how."*

- **Socrates**, to Plato, 469-399 BC

*"Blessed is he whose transgression is **forgiven**,
whose sin is **covered**,*

Blessed is the man to whom

*the **LORD** does **not impute iniquity**,*

*And in whose spirit there is **no deceit**."*

- **Psalm 32:1-2; Romans 4:7-8**

- Quoted on death-bed by **Augustine** of Hippo, 354-430 AD

*"...that **He** might **be just and the justifier** of the
one who has faith in Jesus." Romans 3:26*

FIRST - Read Romans 3:21-26

- How can a perfectly **just** God forgive sins?
- How can **sinful** man find favor with a **righteous** God?

THE ANALOGY:

- God (the Son) presides as the Judge of mankind (pagan, moral, and spiritual men). John 5:22
- The Son steps down from the Judgment seat and assumes the seat of the plaintiff (mankind). Isaiah 53:11
- The Son himself assumes the just penalty of sin for all of sinful mankind.
- The Father is satisfied with the just payment for sin.
- The Father demonstrates mercy by extending the righteousness of one man to cover many. 2 Cor. 5:21

God demonstrates His perfect justice at the same time that he demonstrates His perfect mercy... in the act of delivering justice, he also justifies.

Eph. 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Hallelujah! What a Savior

Romans

Evangelism
Chapters 1-3

Evangelism

Key Takeaways

- People will always **interpret evidence** in light of their **world-view** and **heart-condition**.
- Only a **Biblical world-view** can account for **preconditions of intelligibility**.
- A **Bible-First apologetic** is the only defensible approach because no other **standard** can **make knowledge possible**.

3

1. We all see the same facts or evidences, but we also interpret these based upon fundamental presuppositions. Evidence by itself will not resolve a world-view conflict.

2. Where do Laws of Logic (reasoning) come from? How about Laws of Nature like gravity? Why should we expect to find uniformity of these laws within the universe?
3. How can we know that anything is good, bad, right, or wrong? Even the atheist must borrow these ideas from the biblical God. If the Bible were not true, it would be impossible to prove anything.

Implications of a World-View



Components of a World View:

- Origin
- Meaning
- Morality
- Destiny

World-View: Assertions and Assumptions; Lens through which we view and evaluate all things.

Must be:

- Logically Consistent: Reasonable

Empirically Adequate: Able to verify

Experientially Relevant: Applicable in Life

World-View Tests:

Correspondence: To particular questions, your answers must correspond to reality.

Coherence: All of your answers must, in total implication, summarize coherently.

World-Views may be systemically flawed. No need to examine every detail.

(Ex: Muslims deny Christ's death, though historically verifiable.)

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Evangelism Examples

Eye-Witness Behaviors

*“For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ**, for it is the **power of God to salvation for everyone who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” **Romans 1:16***

Acts 3:11-4:33 – Peter and John before the Jewish rulers.

Acts 17:16-34 – Paul to the Greeks in Athens.

John 4 – Jesus and the woman at the well.

*“And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **Romans 12:2***

People were Transformed by Jesus Christ

- The first 30 years (33-64): the Jewish community was transformed. Over the next 300 years, the “known world” was transformed. *Acts: 17:6*
- Some eyewitnesses were **not** transformed (Jesus laments the apathy of witnesses of miracles during His ministry): *Matthew 11:20-24*

Jesus Transformed His Disciples

- How did the disciples behave prior to the crucifixion? During? After? What changed?
 - Jesus told them in advance what would occur... *Luke 9:22*
 - They did not understand nor believe it... *Luke 24:11*
 - What did they see and experience...? *John 20:19-20; John 20:28; Luke 24:37-43*
 - What did they learn...?
 - The appearances of Christ’s physically resurrected body not only transformed the disciples from fear and doubt, but it also enabled them

to understand what Jesus had told them before His crucifixion. He said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die..."*

John 6:40

- They finally understood that he would someday also raise them from the dead and that they, as believers in Him and His resurrection, would live forever.
- They were transformed and motivated to proclaim the message of the Truth. *John 14:6, Acts 4:12*
- *"We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard..." Acts 4:20*

More People were Transformed

- Stephen, the first Martyr, Acts 6-7
- James, the brother of Jesus, (Skeptic before, Mark 3:21); (believer and Martyr after, Acts 1:14, Acts 12:2)
- Saul (Paul), (Skeptic, Acts 8:1); (believer and Martyr, 2 Timothy 4:16)
- An army of Martyrs, Acts 8:4
 - Did Christ warn them? (Matthew 10:22; Matthew 10:28)
 - Their report was strengthened by works of the Holy Spirit... (Acts 2:41; Acts 9:35; Acts 9:42)
 - Theirs was not a superficial Faith (they were moved to obey Christ's teaching and to reject pagan lifestyles; John 14:15, 1 Peter 4:3)

Eyewitness Perspectives

What would you accept as Evidence?

*"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but we were eyewitnesses** of His majesty. ... And so **we have the prophetic word confirmed**, which **you do well to heed** as a light that shines in a dark place, ... for prophecy never came by the will of man, **but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**" 2 Peter 1:16,19,21*

*"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received; 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** by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that **He was seen** by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that **He was seen** by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all **He was seen** by me also, as by one born out of due time." 1 Corinthians 15:3-8*

The Apostles are eye witnesses, but they appeal to prophecy (i.e. Scripture) for much of their argument. Something that their Jewish audience was well-versed in.

2 Peter 1:16-21 → "We were eyewitnesses alright; but you have something better; i.e. 'prophetic word confirmed'." (paraphrase)

Key Question: "What would you accept as evidence?"

Five key questions to focus conversation with non-believers:

1. What do you mean by _____?
2. How do you know?
3. What difference does that make?
4. What if you are wrong?
5. What would you accept as evidence?

Confirmed Bible Prophecy

Demonstrates Mastery of both Time and Space

*"...Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book **it is written of Me.**"*
Psalm 40:7

Born of the seed of a woman (Genesis 3:15 / Galatians 4:4)

Born of the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3 / Matthew 1:1)

Born of the seed of Isaac (Genesis 17:19 / Matthew 1:2)

Born of the seed of Jacob (Numbers 24:17 / Matthew 1:2)

Descended from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10 / Luke 3:33)

Heir to the throne of David (Isaiah 9:7 / Luke 1:32-33)

Place of Jesus' birth (Micah 5:2 / Luke 2:4-7)

Preceded by a forerunner (Isaiah 40:3-5; / Luke 7:24,27)

Genesis 22 : A foreshadowing of the Plan of Salvation

Psalms 22 : A first-person description of the crucifixion

Isaiah 53 : How His suffering would bring Reconciliation

Daniel 9 : Advance notice of His Triumphal Entry

Over 300 documented prophetic scriptures that Christ fulfills. See Josh McDowell's "New Evidence that Demands a Verdict".

Understanding Your Audience (1)

What Your Audience Thinks of You

*"And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. **I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." [and following] 1 Cor. 2:1-16*

"Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him."
Proverbs 26:4

"Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes."
Proverbs 26:5

Paul adjusted his behavior in order to focus his audience upon the message and not upon himself.

Understand what your audience (typically secular humanists or post-modernists today) think of you:

Examples:

1. Your message is not sophisticated.
2. Your Truth is not reasonable.
3. Your argument is not empirical.
4. You are not impressive (i.e. elite, non-credentialed).

We learn that we are not to answer the unbeliever according to his folly – according to his fallacious presuppositions. We are not to accept his standards for the debate, because they are nonsense.

The "Don't Answer --- Answer" strategy

Jesus used this technique... Matthew 12:24-29 and at other times. The Pharisees asserted that Jesus was only able to cast out demons because He Himself was using the power of Satan ("Beelzebul") – not God. Jesus responded using the "don't answer, answer" strategy. He did

not accept their foolish standard (“don’t answer”), but then He showed how silly their position was by showing what would hypothetically happen if it were true (“answer”).

Five key questions to focus conversation with non-believers:

1. What do you mean by _____?
2. How do you know?
3. What difference does that make?
4. What if you are wrong?
5. What would you accept as evidence?

| Understanding Your Audience (2) Evangelism vs. Pre-Evangelism | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Evangelism | Pre-Evangelism |
| Done by all Christians | Done by any Christian when Needed |
| Anytime and Anyplace | Only if Objection is Raised |
| Content is the Gospel | Content is all of Christian Doctrine |
| Based on Revelation | Based on Reason |
| States the Gospel | Clarify Christian Teaching |
| Goal is Faith | Goal is Understanding |

"When Skeptics Ask, A Handbook on Christian Evidences", Geisler, Brooks

Natural Man : Address the Intellect

Moral Man : Address the Conscience

Spiritual Man : Address the Heart

Reasoning from History, Creation, Morality, and Sin

“If someone does not believe that God exists and that He can perform miracles, then it makes no sense to him to say that God raised Jesus from the dead (a big miracle!).”

Understanding Your Audience (3)

The “Natural Man” – How do you know?

*For **since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that **they are without excuse**, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Romans 1)*

Does God Exist?

Argument from Creation (Law of Causality):

1. The universe had a beginning.
2. Anything that has a beginning must have been caused by something else.
3. Therefore, the universe was caused by something else, and this cause was God.

Argument from Intelligent Design (Laws of Information and Entropy):

1. All designs imply a Designer.
2. There is great design in the universe.
3. Therefore, there must be a Great Designer of the universe.

Naturalism – the belief that nature is all that there is.

Creation proves that there is a Creator.

The Empiricist looks to nature for truth; what he observes. God reveals Himself to men of this type via his creation.

Uniformity of Nature (e.g. the “Laws of Nature” being uniform across time & space) speak to the character of God. Such uniformity cannot be explained if the natural world were based upon mere randomness.

e.g. “Why is the universe discoverable? Understandable? Bound by natural laws? Comprising information?”

The universe reflects the unchanging character of God. We are made in his image and thus able to understand his creation.

Understanding Your Audience (4)

The “Moral Man” – Are you a good person?

*“...(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although, not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law **written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness**, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)...” (Romans 2)*

Would you consider yourself to be a good person?

Argument from Moral Law:

1. All men are conscious of an objective moral law. (Indicated by conscience.)
2. Moral Laws imply a moral Lawgiver.
3. Therefore, there must be a universal moral Lawgiver.

The Moral Man looks inward for truth; what he reasons (i.e. Logic, Conscience).

The “Will of God” observable in nature. (The Law of Moses may be considered a revealed specification of this natural law.)

Moral laws don’t describe what is; they prescribe what ought to be. They are not simply a description of the way men behave, and are not known by observing what men do. If they were, our idea of morality would surely be different. Instead, they tell us what men ought to do, whether they are doing it or not. Thus, any moral “ought” comes from beyond the natural universe. You can’t explain it by anything that happens in the universe. It transcends the natural order and requires a transcendent cause. (“When Skeptics Ask”, Norman L. Geisler)

God has reveals Himself to this type of man within the concepts of right and wrong (via the conscience).

Morals reflect the character of God. We are made in His image and thus able to reason using logic of which he is the source.

Practical Example

Made evident using questions from the Law.

Questions:

1. Would you consider yourself to be a good person?
2. Do you think that you have kept the Ten Commandments?

1. Have you ever lied?
2. Have you ever stolen something?
3. Have you committed adultery? Perhaps even in your thoughts?
4. Have you disobeyed and dishonored your parents?
3. If God were to judge you by the Ten Commandments, do you think you would be innocent or guilty?
4. Are you aware of the Law of Sin and Death? Do you think that applies to you too?
5. Do you think that you would escape the consequences of this law?

Follow-on Questions:

1. Does that concern you?
2. Did you know that Jesus overcame the Law of Sin and Death for all humanity?
3. Do you want to know more about how to become “right” with God?

Understanding Your Audience (5)

The “Spiritual Man” – What do you believe?

*“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore, by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, **for the law is the knowledge of sin.**” (Romans 3)*

What about your belief-system? Aren't you seeking to justify yourself with God?

1. Reduces to a form of self-righteousness.
2. God uses the Law to strip the person of what he's trusting in – his self-righteousness. The wrath of God is thus revealed.
3. In trying to justify himself through "good works", he is attempting to bribe the Judge of the Universe. *Aren't you trying to justify yourself? Why?*

Why was Jesus here? What does He want of us?

*“Jesus said to him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**” John 14:6*

The Religious Man looks to religion for truth; what he believes. He recognizes the Sin Nature of Man and seeks to “work” his way to a “right” relationship with his god.

God reveals Himself to men of this type via his special revelation of sin under the law (e.g. via the prototypical Jew) and redemption by grace within Christ.

Man says...

Humanism – man is the measure of all things.

Atheism – god doesn't exist.

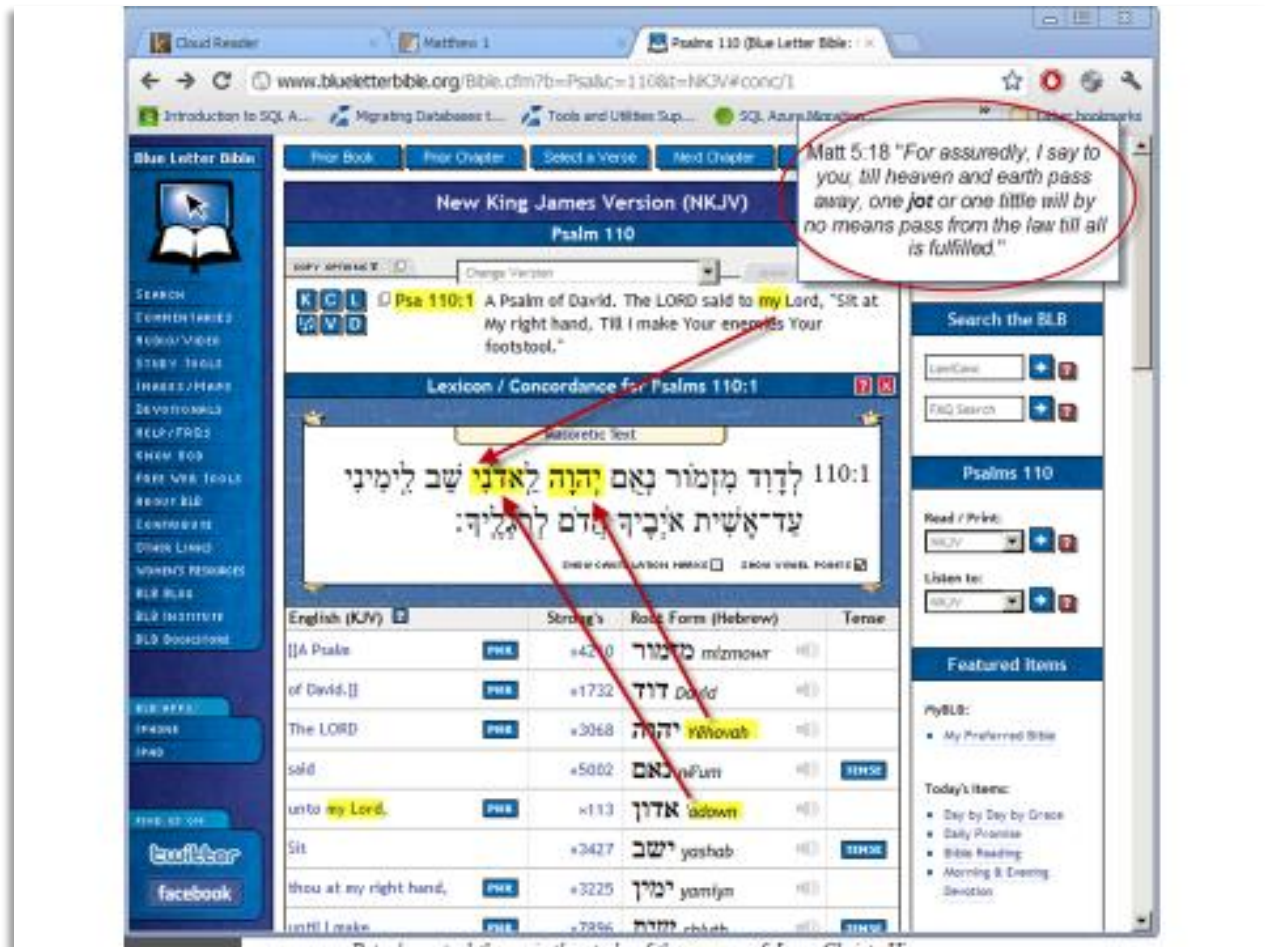
Pantheism – creation itself is the measure of all things.

God says...

Hebrews 1:1 “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,...”

Five key questions to focus conversation with non-believers:

1. What do you mean by _____?
2. How do you know?
3. What difference does that make?
4. What if you are wrong?
5. What would you accept as evidence?



An example of how Jesus responded to an errant religious system of beliefs...

An example of how Jesus responded to an errant religious system of beliefs...

We should be reminded of Jesus' words as quoted in Matthew 5:18... "...one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."

The jot is the Hebrew character illustrated here that looks similar to an apostrophe. It modifies the preceding word to form a 'possessive' grammar (e.g. Lord becomes "my Lord").

Jesus used this passage (Psalm 110:1) to confuse the Pharisees who could not reconcile the concept of "Son of God" versus "Son of David" (whose throne they regard as that upon which the Messiah must be coming to fulfill).

"The Son of David" versus "The Son of GOD" Matthew 22:34-46 (41-46) (also: Mark 12; Luke 20; Acts 2)

The Jewish religious leaders were incorrectly focused on the Davidic Kingdom aspect of prophetic scripture. They expected (perhaps demanded) God to provide a Messiah that would

rule the Earth from Jerusalem. Jesus uses a Messianic prophecy written by David himself to confound their reasoning. What did David mean when he prophesied concerning the Christ?

The small mark that appears at the end of the upper red arrow is a “jot”. It looks somewhat like an apostrophe. This jot is appended to the word “Lord” and creates a “possessive” context around that word (i.e. “my Lord”). Hence, the rendering “Jehovah said to my Adonai...” (in effect, the Christ would sit at the throne of God Himself, not in Jerusalem; certainly not an earthly throne.)

Why was Jesus here?

The “Tipping-Point” of Human History

*“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are **they which testify of Me.**”*
John 5:39

*Jesus answered, ‘You say rightly that I am a king. **For this cause I was born and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth.** Everyone who is of the **truth** hears My voice.’”*
v. 37, John 18:24-38

*“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**”’* John 8:31

And, why at that time and place?

There are several possible answers to that question, but let’s allow the Bible to speak... it is the scriptures that testify of Jesus.

v.39... “What is truth?” Pilate doesn’t seem to have grasped the importance of his ironic question. Without the plumb line of Truth, we can know neither life, goodness, righteousness, nor justice. We can’t even know ourselves. **This is why Jesus, the King of all creation, came into the world to serve and bear witness to the Truth.**

What does it mean to live in a world without Truth?

*Isaiah 59:14, 15 "Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for **truth** is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey."*

*"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the **truth** in unrighteousness..."*

Romans 1:18

Jesus is the Messiah...!

From Messianic Prophecy to Named Person

*"But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the **Christ** would suffer, He has thus fulfilled." Acts 3:18*

*"And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the **name** of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:21*

*"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made **this Jesus**, whom you crucified, both **Lord and Christ**." Acts 2:36*

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This is the key Pentecostal proclamation: Jesus is Lord and Christ!

(Isa 53; Isa 61)

Acts 3 – Peter identifies Jesus with the core Messianic prophecies that all Jews would recognize.

- Acts 3:18, Peter relies upon prophecy to make his case before the Jews. [Read thru 3:26]
 - What prophecies does Peter mention in this short passage? Did he expect the audience to recognize these? Why would they be expected to recognize these OT passages?

- What about v. 3:19-21...? Is Peter herein also prophesying? Is this yet to be fulfilled?
- What prophecy indicated that the Christ would suffer...? (Is. 53, others?)
 - Was this the common or popular understanding of the Messiah?
- What prophecy indicated that the Christ would reign...? (Daniel 7, others?)

Acts 2 – Although Peter’s speaks to the fulfillment of prophecy concerning the Holy Spirit (v 17-21), Jesus is the primary subject of his sermon.

- V. 22-36
 - Jesus, not the Holy Spirit, is the primary subject. Peter uses text from Joel to explain what the crowd is now witnessing.
- V. 21-22
 - Naming the specific person who is the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. The NAME is significant – “...whoever calls on the name of the LORD...”
 - Approved (demonstrated) of God as a perfect man.
 - Examples of other instances wherein the **name** of Jesus is made to be specific in context of Messianic prophecy:
 - John 1:45 – Philip to Nathanael... “We have found Him of whom Moses ... wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”
 - Mark 1:24 – The demon possessed man
 - Math 21:11 – The Triumphal Entry
 - John 19:19 – Pilate affixed name to cross
 - Mark 16:6 – Angel at resurrection tomb
 - Luke 24:19 – To men on Emmaus road
 - Acts 2:21-22 – Peter at Pentecost
- V. 23
 - Referred to the death of this specific person.
- V. 24
 - This specific person is raised from the dead.
- V. 33
 - This specific person is exalted.

- He received from the Father the ancient **promise** of the Holy Spirit.
 - Joel 2:28; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4
- He specifically has poured forth the Spirit. Jesus Christ was promised the Holy Spirit, from the Father (John 16; Joel 2:28). So Peter is saying that what the people are seeing is Jesus Christ receiving the promise of the Father being fulfilled; i.e., The Holy Spirit.
- V. 34-36
 - Peter quotes Psalm 110:1 to emphasize that David himself was speaking of the Messiah (not David, who has not ascended into heaven) and identifying such as the Son of God
 - “Jehovah said to Adonai...” This is the quote that Jesus used to totally confuse the Pharisees in Matthew 22:41-45.
 - The grammar of the possessive “my Lord” hangs on a single jot!” Matt 5:18
 - How is this passage use in the gospels...?
 - Matt 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42;
 - Note “Until” and not “While”... Rev 6-19

This is the climax of Peter’s sermon. He quotes from three different portions of Scripture, and builds this sermon on the person of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is Alive...!

The Messiah's Life, Death, and Resurrection Foretold

*"I have set the Lord always before me; **Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.** Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; **My flesh also will rest in hope.** For you will not leave my soul in Sheol. Nor will you allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; In your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*
Psalms 16:8-11

*"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, **One like the Son of Man**, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then **to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom**, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. **His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.**" Daniel 7:13-14*

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Jesus' identity and our Faith hang on fulfilled prophecy and the fact of the Resurrection. Phil 2:9-11

Peter references Psalm 16:8-11 to illustrate that Jesus resurrection was further proof that He is the Messiah. For death cannot keep a hold on Him. He notes that this passage cannot refer to David, because David died and his remains "are with us today".

The resurrection of the Lord is a basic doctrine in Acts:

- 2:32
- 3:15, 26
- 4:10
- 5:30
- 10:40
- 13:30, 33-34, 37
- 17:31
- 26:23

It's interesting to note how the Jewish scholars were confused by the Messianic prophecies. They tended to favor those that illustrated the Messiah at the head of a political kingdom.

What OT passages present the Messiah as a suffering servant? As one experiencing death?

Psalms 22

Isaiah 53

Isaiah 61

Genesis 22 (type or foreshadowing)

Romans

Salvation
Chapters 4-5

Faith, Hope, and Love

The Outline

FAITH, chapters 1-8

- 1-3 Sin (GOD's great problem – the sin nature of man.)
- **4-5 Salvation (GOD's great gift – Abraham & David Speak)**
- 6-8 Sanctification

HOPE, chapters 9-11

- 9 Israel – Past
- 10 Israel – Present
- 11 Israel - Future

LOVE, chapters 12-16

- Practical Christian Living
- The **Just** shall **live** by **Faith**...

GOD's Intrinsic Motivation

His own character

3:25 "...to demonstrate **His righteousness**, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time **His righteousness**, that He might be the just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

GOD's character traits:

- Sovereign (accountable only to Himself)
- Omniscient (knows all; supremely insightful)
- Omnipotent (all powerful; creative designer)
- Omnipresent (non-local; unbounded by time and space)
- Immutable (unchanging; uncompromising character)
- Love (highest of personality)
- Truth (personification of reality)
- Just (absolute righteousness; His own standard; links with Sovereign)

The Purpose of the Law...?

Faith is also taking GOD at His Word (Promises)

3:27-31 "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith." ... **"Do we then make void the law through faith?"** Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."

"Do we then make void the law through faith?"

Answering the Jewish audience.

What then is the purpose of the law?

- To show us what sin is.
- To establish a distinction between our sin nature and GOD's character.
- To drive us to sin more! (??? – Romans 5:20-21)
- To drive us to our knees! (Galatians 3:24)

More on the Jew versus Gentile controversy

- Acts 15 – The council at Jerusalem
- Do Christians have to come under the Law to be saved?
- If not, then what happens to Israel?

Works versus Faith

A Biblical Contradiction?

"But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith is accounted for righteousness**, ..." Romans 4:5

"What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has **faith** but does not have **works**? Can faith save him?" James 2:14

"Thus also **faith** by itself, if it does not have **works**, is dead." James 2:17

James 2:18-24

There is a Correspondence:

- **True faith produces works (as a testimony); True works don't produce faith (just boasts).**
- Faith Calls for Action.
- Are Works (e.g. Obedience) sometimes a Test of Faith?

GOD's Promises

How the LORD delights in keeping his promises...!

Promises to Abraham

- Genesis 12
 - *Make a great nation; descendants inherit Canaan*
- Genesis 15:4-6
 - *"And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness." v. 6 (Justified by faith at this point.)*
- Genesis 17
 - *The covenant of circumcision. (Became first Jew at this point.)*

Genesis 15:6

- Abraham was **reckoned** to righteousness **by his faith** when he was still a Gentile, two chapters before the covenant sign of circumcision was placed upon his flesh.
- At the time Abraham was "saved" he wasn't "Jewish". (Rom 4:9-12)
- Abraham **did no works** to acquire righteousness, it was by a gift of grace. (Romans 4:4)

7

Abraham: The Father of the Jews (fleshly, v1, versus spiritual, v16)

FIRST, Read Romans 4:1-12

The Jews were proud of Abraham and themselves. The Rabbis had taught that Abraham had a surplus of merit from his works that was available to his descendants. Paul built on that idea and agreed that, assuming that Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about (cf. boasting or bragging in Rom 2:17, 23; 3:27). But, Paul insisted, his boasting could only be before other people, not before God.

The Promises of GOD are the currency upon which man-kind's ultimate hope and destiny rest. Discuss how GOD made promises to Abraham, Moses and the Israelites, and to us (Jer 31:31).

Read Galatians 3:19-29

Promises Given in Faith Alone

A common thread amongst GOD's dealings with Man.

*"For the **promise** that he would be the heir of the world was **not** to Abraham or to his seed **through the law**, but **through** the righteousness of **faith**." Romans 4:13*

*"What then shall we say that **Abraham our father** has found according to the **flesh**? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God." Romans 4:1-2*

*"Therefore **it is of faith** that it might be according to grace, so that the **promise** might be sure to all the seed, not only to **those who are of the law**, but also to **those who are of the faith** of Abraham, who is the **father of us all** (as it is written, 'I have made you a father of many nations') ..." Romans 4:16*

*"For **if** those who are of the law are heirs, **faith is made void** and the **promise made of no effect**, because the law brings about wrath;..." Romans 4:14*

Abraham's Response a Pattern

Faith in GOD's Promise a Key Takeaway

*"And not being weak in faith... He did not waver at the **promise** of GOD through unbelief, but was strengthened in **faith**, giving glory to GOD, and **being fully convinced** that what He had **promised** He was also able to perform. And therefore 'it was **accounted to him** for righteousness'." Romans 19-22*

*"Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was **imputed** to him, **but also for us**. It shall be **imputed to us who believe** in Him who raised up Jesus our LORD from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our **justification**." Romans 23-25*

GOD's plan of reconciliation is bigger than we can imagine... we must come to Him on His terms, not our own.

Don't neglect GOD's plan.

Why is this so important?

If we come to GOD on the basis of the Law:

- The only result can be wrath.
- We must be perfect on the basis of our own merit.
- We fall into the trap of attempting to rely upon our own merit and not His.

The Law cannot be the means of earning what is freely given.

Romans

The Gifts by Grace through Faith
Chapter 5

What about the Here and Now?

Now, the blessings of God flow to those Justified by Faith.

*"Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ..." Romans 5:1*

What kind of peace?

- World Peace...?
- Tranquility of the Soul...?
 - *"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."* John 14:27
- **Peace with God...?**
 - *"...and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding..."* Philippians 4:7
 - "peace with"
 - Implies relationship; understanding; access to
 - Not in the sense of "making peace", but rather in the sense of "enjoying peace".
 - Claiming the gift of peace with God by faith.
 - Access to approach the throne through whom?

What about the Here and Now?

Now, the blessings of God flow to those Justified by Faith.

*"...through whom also **we have access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." v. 5:2*

into this grace...

- We can rejoice! We could not have earned it, and yet it is freely given.

What if we try to earn it...?

- *"And **if by grace**, then **it is** no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But **if it is of works**, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work."* Romans 11:6
 - **Attempting to earn it represents a form of rejection of the intent of the Giver!**

How have you received salvation? *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Why? *Ephesians 2:7*

What do we do in response? *Colossians 2:6*

How then shall we live? *Galatians 2:17-21; 3:11*

Whom is the key? *2 Cor. 5:17, 21*

What about the Here and Now?

Now, the blessings of God flow to those Justified by Faith.

*"And not only that, but we also glory in **tribulations**, knowing that tribulation produces **perseverance**; and perseverance, **character**; and character, **hope**. Now hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God** has been poured out in our hearts by the **Holy Spirit** who was **given to us**." Romans 5:3-5*

We enter into a process of maturing...

- "we also glory"; something to be excited about.
- Only the Christian God has plunged himself into the suffering that we all face in life. That we share this experience with God Himself is amazing. By sharing in His experience we also share in His triumph! (a corollary; Death-Burial-Resurrection → Baptism)
- "...though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered." **Hebrews 5:8**
- The "end product" of this maturing process is hope. You will know it by perception.
- Can this gift of Grace be received in vain? **2 Corinthians 6:1-11**
 - How to measure maturity? By the presence of hope.

What about the Here and Now?

Why do Christians suffer trials and tribulations?

1. To Glorify God (Daniel 3:16-18; 24-25 – the Lion's Den)
2. Discipline for Sin (Hebrews 12:5-11; James 4:17; 1 John 1:9)
3. To Keep us from Sinning (1 Peter 4:12)
4. To Keep us from Pride (2 Cor. 12:7-10)
5. To Build Faith (1 Peter 1:6-7)
6. To Cause Growth (Romans 5:3-5)
7. To Teach Obedience and Discipline (Acts 9:15-16)
8. To Equip us to Comfort Others (2 Cor. 1:3-4)
9. To Prove the Reality of Christ in Us (2 Cor. 4:7-11)
10. For Testimony to the Angels (Job 1:8; Ephesian 3:8-11)

Thus... **James 1:2-4**

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

What about the Here and Now?

How far have we come in our relationship to God?

*"For if when we were **enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, **much more**, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." Romans 5:10*

"Enemies"

- *"Helpless", "Ungodly", "Sinners", "Enemies" (Romans 5:6-11)*
- *Romans 8:7; James 4:4*

"Children"

- *If God loved you that much, while in that condition, how much more so now that you are His children?*
- *John 1:12*

Can the context of this new relationship be misconstrued? How?

- *By forgetting the continuous work of our Intercessor (Heb 7:25)*
- *By living in fear instead of awe (Philippians 2:12-13)*
- *By having the wrong motivation (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)*

What about the Here and Now?

Qualifying further what Christ has done for us...

- **Redemption** (pertains to sin; we are rescued from our fate)
 - *Rom 3:24; 1 Cor 1:30; Gal 3:13; Eph 1:7*
- **Propitiation** (pertains to God's judicial satisfaction)
 - *Rom 3:25; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:10*
- **Reconciliation** (this is **our** blessing; where we now stand)
 - *Rom 5:10-11; 2 Cor 5:18-20; Col 1:22 (atonement)*

Context, Context, Context... what is Paul's purpose?

- Paul is proceeding to the crescendo of Romans 8, the significant theological purpose of encouraging Christians and establishing **Joy and Hope** for those now living within the **Kingdom of God**.
- *The Romans were mature Christians (v 1:8). How does this set context for the entire letter?*

Context, Context, Context... what is the **Kingdom of God**?

- Domain is both Heaven and Earth (Matt 6:10; Matt 28:18-20; John 15:6-10)
- The Kingdom has a King; Citizens; Rules (Matt 5:20; Matt 7:21-23; not the Law of Moses – Acts 15:28-29; Hebrews 8:7-13; Rev 3)
- What is the Kingdom of God like? (Matt 13:24-43; 47-50; 22:2-14)

Context by Implicit Condition (1)

How did Paul write this letter?

Example understanding that we *could* take-away...

1. By the fall of the Jew the world was made rich. (Romans 11:12)
2. By the disobedience of the Jew the Gentile received mercy. (Romans 11:30)
3. By the Sin of Adam mankind was made sinners. (Romans 5:19)
4. By the Righteousness of Christ mankind was made righteous. (Romans 5:19)

Context by Implicit Condition (2)

How did Paul write this letter?

Example understanding that we *ought to* take-away...

1. By the fall of the Jew the world is made rich **IF it turns to Christ in Faith.** (Romans 11:12)
2. By the disobedience of the Jew the Gentile receives mercy **IF they come to Christ by Faith.** (Romans 11:30)
3. By the Sin of Adam mankind is made sinners **IF they go the way of Adam.** (Romans 5:19)
4. By the Righteousness of Christ mankind is made righteous **IF it turns to Him in Faith.** (Romans 5:19)

A Context Check

Summary of Paul's Key Points

What Paul has shown us thus far:

- Man, standing on his own record, has failed miserably. (ch 1-3)
- Man, may obtain acquittal (imputed righteousness) independent of his moral excellence or performance. (v 3:24)
- What then was the purpose of the Law (v 3:31)? A summary discourse is thus in order. (ch 4)
- Man, justified by Grace through Faith in Christ, is given every spiritual blessing. (ch 5:1-11)
- Mankind has gone the way of Adam, and thus sin has reigned. Spiritual death is the result of that way. (ch 5:12-14)
- Mankind has now been offered the free gift of righteousness within God's Grace by way of Jesus Christ's remarkable atonement. This gift serves to demonstrate how much more powerful is God's Grace over the power of sin. Eternal life is the result of that way. (ch 5:15-21)

Blessings by Type Contrast

Adam's Record versus Christ's Record

| Adam (our representative) | Christ (our representative) |
|---|---|
| One man's offense (v15) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Many died</i> | One man's free gift <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Righteousness to many</i> |

"But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many." (Rom. 5:15)

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| That which thus came (v16) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Judgment, condemnation</i> | That which thus came <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Gift of justification</i> |

"And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification." (Rom. 5:16)

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| Through one man (v17) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Death reigns</i> | Through one man <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Believers reign in life</i> |

"For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ." (Rom. 5:17)

Blessings by Type Contrast

Adam's Record versus Christ's Record

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|---|--|
| One man's offense (v15) • <i>Many died</i> | One man's free gift • <i>Righteousness to many</i> |
| That which thus came (v16) • <i>Judgment, condemnation</i> | That which thus came • <i>Gift of justification</i> |
| Through one man (v17) • <i>Death reigns</i> | Through one man • <i>Believers reign in life</i> |
| One man's offense (v18) • <i>Condemnation to all</i> | Righteousness of One • <i>Justification offered all</i> |

*"Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life."
(Rom. 5:18)*

Blessings by Type Contrast

Adam's Record versus Christ's Record

| Adam (our representative) | Christ (our representative) |
|---|--|
| That which thus came (v16) • <i>Judgment, condemnation</i> | That which thus came • <i>Gift of justification</i> |
| Through one man (v17) • <i>Death reigns</i> | Through one man • <i>Believers reign in life</i> |
| One man's offense (v18) • <i>Condemnation to all</i> | Righteousness of One • <i>Justification offered all</i> |
| Disobedience of one (v19) • <i>Many made sinners</i> | Obedience of one • <i>Many made righteous</i> |

*"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous."
(Rom. 5:19)*

Blessings by Type Contrast

Adam's Record versus Christ's Record

| Adam (our representative) | Christ (our representative) |
|--|---|
| Through one man (v17) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Death reigns</i> | Through one man <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Believers reign in life</i> |
| One man's offense (v18) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Condemnation to all</i> | Righteousness of One <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Justification offered all</i> |
| Disobedience of one (v19) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Many made sinners</i> | Obedience of one <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Many made righteous</i> |
| Ultimate result (v21) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Sin reigns in death</i> | Ultimate result <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Grace reigns in eternal life</i> |

"Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 5:20-21)

More Blessings?

What next?

"Justification"

- **Declares** within God's Holy Court that a sinner has been **imputed** righteousness (by Faith through Grace, as it has always been).
- **But has the sinner's heart changed?**

"Sanctification" Romans 6 thru Romans 8

- The believer is now free from the **penalty** of sin (i.e. spiritual death), but what about from the **power** of sin?
- God has a plan within the context of Salvation whereby He not only **declares** a sinner righteous, but He is also going to **make** a sinner righteous.
- A way that a sinner may grow in grace and thus become "set apart" for God. (v6:14)

United with the One, Jesus Christ

How are we changed?

*"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who **died to sin** live any longer in it? Or, do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized into Christ Jesus** were **baptized into His death**? Therefore we were **buried** with Him through **baptism into death**, that just as Christ was **raised from the dead** by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life**."*

*For if we have been **united together** in the **likeness of His death**, certainly we also shall be in the **likeness of His resurrection**,..."*

Romans 6:1-5

- *Does Paul assume that his readers were baptized into Christ? Does he also assume this to have been something of significance?*
- *In this passage, is Paul teaching that baptism is essential for union with Christ?*
- *Why does Paul mention baptism here? Is there a significance relative to the previous passage contrasting the power of sin versus the power of grace?*

Romans

Whom Do You Now Serve?

Chapter 6

United with the One, Jesus Christ

An obligation to live in holiness?

*"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who **died to sin** live any longer in it? Or, do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized into Christ Jesus** were **baptized into His death**?*

*Therefore we were **buried** with Him through **baptism into death**, that just as Christ was **raised from the dead** by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life**."*

*For if we have been **united together** in the **likeness of His death**, certainly we also shall be in the **likeness of His resurrection**, knowing this, that our old man was **crucified with Him**, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should **no longer be slaves to sin**." Romans 6:1-5*

- Justify means to "declare one righteous", not "make one righteous". Consequently, could we logically continue in sin? Gal. 5:15-23 1 John 1:5-10
- Is Paul mentioning baptism to make the point that it is essential to union with Christ; or, is he stressing the ethical significance of immersion into Christ (i.e. Christ the sin-hater)? Eph. 2:1-10

United with the One, Jesus Christ

An obligation to live in holiness?

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*For if we have been **united together** in the **likeness of His death**, certainly we also shall be in the **likeness of His resurrection**, knowing this, that our old man was **crucified with Him**, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should **no longer be slaves to sin**." Romans 6:1-5*

- Who is the "old man"? Eph. 4:21; Col.3:9
- Connection with baptism? Acts 19:1-7
- Is there a connection between the death of the "old man" and the death of the "deeds of the body"? Rom. 8:13; 2 Cor. 3:18
- What is "the body of sin"? Rom. 8:3; 1 Cor. 6:19
- What was master over the body of the old man?

United with the One, Jesus Christ

Dead but now alive?

*"For **he who has died has been freed from sin**. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, he died to sin once for all; **but the life that He lives, He lives to God**. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body**, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but **present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead**, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, **for you are not under law but under grace**." Romans 6:7-14*

- United with Christ... died with Him? United with Christ... alive with Him?
- Is there sin without a sinner?
- In 5:20 Paul illustrates that even the Mosaic Law was no help in freeing people of sin. Is this possible with any law?

United with the One, Jesus Christ

No one can serve two masters...

Romans 6:15-23

- In saying "do not let sin reign..", does Paul indicate the possibility of a saint letting sin rule?
- Are Christians "not under law"?
- If Christians are "not under law", are they then free to commit sins?
- What is the "form of doctrine to which you were delivered"?
- Does obedience to God merit eternal life?

Romans

Freedom from Old Law

Chapter 7

The Law in Context

A reflection of human behavior (sin nature of man)

*"For **whatever things were written before were written for our learning**, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."* Romans 15:4

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9

*"Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for **by the law is the knowledge of sin.**"* Romans 3:20

*"Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified by faith apart of the deeds of the law.**"* Romans 3:28

*"Moreover the **law entered that the offense might abound**. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more."* Romans 3:28

*"For if the **ministry of condemnation** had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory."* 2 Cor. 3:9

The Burden of the Law (refer to Exodus 20)

- Acts 7:53; Stephen before the Sanhedrin
- Acts 15:10; Peter refers

The Law in Context

A reflection of the will and purpose of God

Psalm 119
Matthew 5-7

"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace." Romans 6:14

Romans 7:1-4

- In the illustration of the husband and wife, what is Paul's single point?
- How does this illustration reflect upon versus 6:2-6?
- What are the demands of law?
- Did moral law exist before the Mosaic covenant?
- Does a person have to die to some law before they can come under the Law of Christ?
- After the cross, what law did Jews die to?
- What law did gentiles die to?

The Law in Context

The Spiritual Life Revealed

Romans 7:5-6

- What does "in the flesh" mean?
- Are passions sinful in themselves?
- Does a person have to die to some law before they can come under the Law of Christ?

| Life by the Letter | Life by the Spirit |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Depends on the flesh (Rom. 8:3) | Depends upon God's power (Luke 23:49; Acts 1:8) |
| Produces rebellion (Rom. 7:8) | Produces God's desires (Phil. 2:13) |
| Results in more sin (Rom. 5:20) | Results in righteousness (Rom. 8:4) |
| Brings wrath (Rom. 4:15) | Brings joy, peace, production (Gal. 5:22-23) |
| Not of faith (Gal. 3:12) | By faith (Gal. 5:5; 2 Cor. 5:7) |
| Kills (2 Cor. 3:4-6; Gal. 3:21) | Gives life (Phil. 2:12-13) |

Why was the Law given?

Purpose of the Law of God

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? ..." Romans 7:7-12

1. To expose our sin nature. Romans 7:7
2. To incite our sin nature to sin more. Romans 7:8-23
3. To drive us to despair of self-effort. Romans 7:24-25
4. To drive us to dependence upon the Holy Spirit alone. Romans 8:1-4

Romans 7:7-12

- How many people "had known sin except through the law"?
- When was Paul alive apart from law?
- What is meant by the phrase "sin revived"?
- When did Paul "die" and what death did he "die"?
- How does this dying through "meeting up with the law" relate to the Jew?

The Law of Sin and Death

Who will deliver me...?

"O wretched man that I am! ..." Romans 7:24

Romans 7:13-24

- Is sin a condition? Or, is sin a deviation from the Holy will of God?
- What gives sin its power or ability to inflict death? (1 Cor. 15:56)
- Is the law spiritual?
- What are the different laws in his members?
- When he says: "It is no longer I who do it..." is he rejecting responsibility for his sins?
- Is the "wretched man" a Christian or not?
- Is the wretched man incapable of doing any good?
- Is the wretched man a captive to the law of sin and death?
- Does the wretched man live in a body of death?
- How does all of this fit in with Paul's argument that the Christian (logically) should serve righteousness?

The Dual Nature of Man

The “Flesh” versus the “Spirit”

“So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.” Romans 7:25

Summation

- The Law isn't evil; Paul knows that for he serves it with his mind; he serves it as his standard of righteousness.
- The problem is, in his flesh, he doesn't live-up to the law, and thus is the servant of sin.
- His virtues and good desires don't count. His sins are imputed to him both judicially and practically.
- Standing in his human nature (in the flesh), he is unable to live-up to what his mind freely recognizes and wants.

Romans

Assurances of Christian Faith

Chapter 8

The Dual Nature of Man

The "Flesh" versus the "Spirit"

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- His virtues and good desires don't count. His sins are imputed to him both judicially and practically.
- Standing in his human nature (in the flesh), he is unable to live-up to what his mind freely recognizes and wants.

What does this tell us about...

- *Human knowledge?*
- *Human resolution?*
- *Human self-diagnosis?*

The Dual Nature of Man

The Law Reveals our Condition

*"There is **none righteous**, no, not one;
There is **none** who understands;
There is **none** who seeks after God." Romans 3:10-11*

*"Now we know that whatever **the law says**, it says to those who are under the law, **that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.** Therefore, by the deeds of the law **no flesh will be justified** in His sight, **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**" Romans 3:19-20*

*"Moreover the **law entered that the offense might abound.** But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more." Romans 3:28*

*"Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified by faith apart of the deeds of the law.**" Romans 3:28*

*How does the Christian deal with the **letter** of the law?*

*How does the Christian deal with the **spirit** of the law?*

How are the "righteous requirements" of the law fulfilled? (8:3-4)

The Law of the Spirit

A fulfillment of the will and purpose of God

*"There is therefore **now no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**" Romans 8:1-2*

*"For sin shall not have **dominion** over you, for you are not under law but under grace." Romans 6:14*

For the Christian, chapter 8...

- Begins with "now no condemnation"
- Ends with "no separation" (compare John 15:1-5)

Romans 8:5-27

- Develops a wide-range of truth regarding the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer.
- Compare to experience of David (Psalm 51) and others regarding presence of Holy Spirit.
- A sort-of "seal of authentication" or "title of ownership of".

The Righteous Requirements of the Law

How fulfilled?

*"For **what the law could not do** in that it was weak through the flesh, **God did** by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**" Romans 8:3-4*

How are the "righteous requirements" of the law fulfilled?

- Summary of chapters 6 and 7.
- "That" – purpose clause
- "in us" – not "by us"
- "who walk ... according to the Spirit" [not by our own efforts]
- A statement of fact here; imperative statement in Gal 5:16-17
- The flesh (our selves) will always fail.
- Christ's purpose was not only to defeat sin (as a man) but also to overcome the sin nature of man.

The Indwelling Spirit

A phenomenal gift

*"For **those who live** according to the **flesh** set **their minds** on the things of the flesh, but **those who live** according to the **Spirit**, the things of the Spirit. For to be **carnally minded** is death, but to be **spiritually minded** is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."*
Romans 8:5-8

- "flesh" == human resources
- Contrast is between believers! "those who... set their minds..."
- Emphasizes the impossibility of living under any resources other than the Spirit. E.g. Positive thinking; works; self-denial
- Sincerity is not the issue. It is your mind. Is it focused on the things of the world or on the things of the Spirit...?
- We can't live for God by human effort! "to be carnally minded is death" (Hebrews 9:14)

The Dual Nature of the Believer

Dead in the body; Alive in the Spirit

*"**But** you are not in the flesh **but** in the Spirit, if indeed the **Spirit of God** dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the **body** is **dead** because of **sin**, but the **Spirit** is **life** because of **righteousness**. But if the **Spirit of Him** who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you**, **He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**"*
Romans 8:9-11

- "But" == However
- "Spirit of God" == Holy Spirit (whose mission is? John 16:13-14)
- Every believer has the indwelling Holy Spirit... but...
 - But, is He in control of your life?
 - Do you have the Spirit of Christ in you?
 - Are you in the power of His presence?
 - Do you take advantage of it?
- Romans 6:3-5

"Therefore, brethren, **we are debtors** – not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For **if you live according to the flesh you will die**; but **if by the Spirit** you put to death the deeds of the body, **you will live**. For as many **as are led by the Spirit of God**, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, **but you received the Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The **Spirit Himself bears witness** with our spirit that **we are children of God**, and if children, then heirs – **heirs of God** and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." Romans 8:12-17

What is meant by "we are debtors"...? To whom/what?

- We have a moral obligation to live after the Spirit.
- We have NO obligation to live after the flesh.
- We received the Holy Spirit as a token of son-ship – not bondage.

Are Christians capable of dying spiritually?

- "die" here cannot mean physical death since we all thus die.
- Refer to Galatians 3:1-5; 6:7-8
- Refer to Ezekiel 18:24 (Matthew 12:48-50)

Within this context, what assurances does the Christian have?

"For I consider that the **sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with the **glory which shall be revealed in us**. For the earnest expectation of **the creation eagerly waits** for the **revealing of the sons of God**. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the **creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption** into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that **the whole creation groans** and labors with birth pangs together until now. **Not only that, but we also who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body**. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, **we eagerly wait for it with perseverance**." Romans 8:18-25

What is the glory of 8:18...?

- 1 John 3:1-3 Phil. 3:21

Is the "creation" material? Why personified here? Waiting for what?

What do we, along with the creation, eagerly await? Galatians 4:6

*"Likewise the **Spirit also helps** in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the **Spirit Himself makes intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He makes intercession** for the saints **according to the will of God**."*

*"And we know that all things work together for good to **those who love God**, to **those who** are called **according to His purpose**. For **whom He foreknew**, He also **predestined** to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover who He predestined, these **He also called**; whom He called, these **He also justified**; and whom He justified, these **He also glorified**." Romans 8:26-30*

Is God ever surprised by events? If not, why not?

- Phil. 1:6

Does this passage teach predestination of individual souls to eternal glory? Colossians 1:12-29 "called"; how? 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

- Refers to what God purposed before creation. E.g. That those who love Him (i.e. a class of people) would be ordained to spiritual union and fellowship with Him. They would look like His Son.

*"What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? **Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?** It is God who justifies. **Who is he who condemns?** It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from **the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord**." Romans 8:31-39*

What is the sense of "the love of God" herein? Contrast with John 3:16.

- Galatians 3:26-27; Jude 21

Romans

Have God's Promises Failed?

What about the Jew?

Chapter 9

Faith, Hope, and Love

The Outline - Review

FAITH, chapters 1-8

- 1-3 Sin
- 4-5 Salvation
- 6-8 Sanctification

HOPE, chapters 9-11

- **9 Israel – Past**
- 10 Israel – Present
- 11 Israel - Future

LOVE, chapters 12-16

- Practical Christian Living
- The **Just** shall **live** by **Faith**...

What about the Jew?

How are we to relate?

"What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God. For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?"
Romans 3:1-3

How are the Gentiles to relate to the Jews?

- This same question was prominent in **Acts 15** and will be answered in Romans chapters 9, 10, and 11.
- The issue behind all of this is a demonstration by God to the world that He keeps His promises.

The Problem (chapter 9)...

- God made promises to physical Jews and, according to Paul's teaching, the bulk of all Jews were unblessed. *How do you reconcile God's faithfulness to those to whom he gave promises when the bulk of them were cut off from those blessings?*

Advantages of the Jews

What Paul has already said about the prototypical Jew

Romans 2:17-29; 3:1-8

- **Specifically addressing the Jew; exemplar of the religious person; who is proud of the law, but not keeping it.**

Basis of Jewish Pride

- Being called a Jew (2:17)
- Relied on the Law, "rest" (2:17)
- Boasting of God (superior attitude, 2:19)
- Knowing God's Will (2:20)
- Being instructors of the Law (2:21)

But, all men could see their self-righteous hypocrisy

- **"For 'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you'..."** Isaiah 52:5; Ezekiel 36:16-36

Reality counts with God...!

"...but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter..." (v. 2:29) (Deut. 10:16-17)

Advantages of the Jews (9:3-5)

1. **Received the Words of God** (Romans 3:1-2).
2. **Called "Israelites" → "Princes of God"** (Genesis 32:28)
 1. Why chosen? As a witness of His reality.
 2. All nations had excluded knowledge of God (Rom. 1:18-26)
 3. God called an Assyrian named Abram – for His purposes
3. **"Adoption" as sons** (Deut. 7:6-9)
4. **"Glory"; "Shekinah"** (Exodus 24:16-17; 29:43; 40:34-38)
5. **"Covenants"** (Conditional? Unconditional?)
 1. **Abrahamic** (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:6-21)
 1. God's plan for mankind follows from this covenant – Gal 3:8
 2. Eternal – Gen. 17:7; 1 Chron. 16:17;
 3. Re-confirmed – Gen. 22:15-18; Gen. 26:2-5; Heb. 6:13-20
 2. **Land** (Genesis 12:7; 13:12-17; 15:9-21; 35:9-12)
 3. **Mosaic** (was a conditional covenant)
 1. Deut. 28:63-68; 30:1-3 Lev. 26:40-45
 4. **Davidic** (Gen. 49:10; 2 Samuel 7:11-16; 1 Chron. 17:11-14)
 1. Jeconiah was the last of David's line to rule (Jer. 22:30)
 2. Confirmed of Jesus to Mary by Gabriel (Luke 1:30-33)
 3. Recognized by Church Council (Acts 15:16-18)

Advantages of the Jews (9:3-5)

6. **Giving of the Law** (Rom. 7; Gal. 3:17-18)
7. **Service of God** (e.g. temple services)
8. **Special Promises**
9. **Fathers of the Faith** (e.g. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)
10. **The Messiah**

The Everlasting Covenant...

- *Jeremiah 31:31-34*
- *Hebrews 8:6-13*
- *Was this promise made to the Jews only?*

Did God's Promises Fail?

How does Paul deal with the "failure" of God's promises?

"But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called.' That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. For this is the word of promise: 'At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.'" Romans 9:6-9

The Problem (chapter 9)...

- God made promises to physical Jews and, according to Paul's teaching, the bulk of all Jews were unblessed. *How do you reconcile God's faithfulness to those to whom he gave promises when the bulk of them were cut off from those blessings?*
- Paul insists that the real Israel to whom the promises were to be fulfilled was not synonymous with the whole nation of Israel.
- Paul claims that the real heirs are children of faith (i.e. the believers) and promise (i.e. as Isaac was) and so the rejection of the unbelievers is not a breach of promise on God's part.

GOD's Promises

How the LORD delights in keeping his promises...!

Genesis 15:6

- Abraham was **reckoned** to righteousness **by his faith** when he was still a Gentile, two chapters before the covenant sign of circumcision was placed upon his flesh and 400+ years before the Mosaic Law.
- At the time Abraham was "saved" he wasn't "Jewish". (Rom 4:9-12)
- Abraham **did no works** to acquire righteousness, it was by a gift of grace. (Romans 4:4)

The Lord delights in keeping His promises...

- Galatians 3:15-29

Jacob's heirs include "all believers"...

- Promises extended first to the Jew (Romans 1:16) then to the Gentile – but only to those who believe by faith as Abraham did.
- The Israelite without faith was never regarded as a partaker of the promises. Galatians 3:16-18
- John 8:32-44; Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Acts 3:21-23

What shall we say then?

Perhaps just what the eye-witnesses said...

*"What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? **Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law.** For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. As it is written: '**Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.**'"* Romans 9:30-33

*"This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' **Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**"* Acts 4:11-12

