

Redemption in Romans Lesson 2 3Q 2010

Jew and Gentile

SABBATH

Read first three paragraphs, "The first converts..."

Thoughts? Are SDAs accused of being Judaizers because of adherence to the Commandments, or because of adherence to the Commandments in a manner like the Jews did?

How did the Jews keep the commandments? What, then was there problem? Do we have such problems?

And was that the purpose of the 10 Commandments? Were they given by God as a list of deeds to be done, a checklist of behaviors to perform?

No! What was the purpose of the law?

- The law was added so that the trespass might increase.
Romans 5:20

What does this mean? So that sin might become recognizable, so that we might see it more clearly and then see how ubiquitous sin really is:

- What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law.
Romans 7:7

The law then is like an MRI for the soul. It is a diagnostic tool, to expose our sickness, our terminal state. If we are right in understanding this then who is the law given for?

- We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy

and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. 1Tim 1:8-11

So, if we are right about the law – that it is a diagnostic tool, given for the wicked, the sinful, then what is its purpose? What is it to do for us?

- So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. Galatians 3:24,25.

What is the law to do? Diagnose us and lead us to Christ, for what purpose?

Is the law given so that we can work to keep it in order to demonstrate to God we are worthy?

Is the law a diagnostic instrument to convict us of our helpless and hopeless state, if left to ourselves? And therefore, to lead us to Christ, so He can set us right with God when we trust Him.

What is this faith or trust?

First, recently some have suggested we teach a works model because we say that in order to experience God's saving grace in our lives we have to trust God, and therefore, this trust is a work we do. They counter that in the penal model, rather than having to trust, they have faith in what Christ has done.

The Greek word for faith is *pistis* and means, “belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ”¹

¹Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Test of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order.* electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996, S. G4102

So, faith, belief, trust, confidence are all synonyms. So what is it?

- Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb 11:1

What does this mean? Substance, comes from Greek *hupostasis* and has two parts, “hypo” as hypoglycemic, hypodermic and means under, and stasis, means standing. In 1611, there wasn’t much archeological evidence of this word, so they translated it to Latin, and the Latin for under is “sub” as in submarine, subterranean, etc. and stasis, was stance. So substance. Our English translation would be “faith is our understanding.”

But this understanding is more than a cognitive understanding. Archeological evidence discovered after 1611 revealed this Greek word was used as the title for business contracts. Thus, faith is our contract, or agreement, or accord, or understanding with God.

Thus EGW states,

- Saving faith is a transaction by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. DA 347.

So when we have “faith” in God, we have an understanding with Him and what would that understanding be?

We enter into a transaction with God – what is that transaction?

We trust Him, surrender ourselves into His hands, follow where He leads, and He will save and heal and regenerate us.

Then how do the 10 Commandments fit in?

After being diagnosed as terminal, after being led back to Christ, after reviewing the evidence Christ has provided of His trustworthiness, after the Holy Spirit has brought us to conviction, we choose to surrender our lives to Christ. We trust Him and the

Holy Spirit indwells our minds and we experience new motives, desires, insights, wisdom, perspective and as we continue in our contract, transaction with God, to choose to do what He leads, we experience greater and greater healing and transformation.

In other words, the saving and healing is done all by God, in those, who trust Him! The 10 Commandments then are not only a diagnostic instrument to diagnose and lead us to Christ, but God's promise of what we will look like when He finishes with us!

What is the difference in this experience and being a Judaizer? Did the Jews view the law as an arbitrary test of obedience? Do any Christians make the same mistake today? What about SDAs?

What about the New Covenant, what is it? How is it different from the Old Covenant?

As the Bible presents **two laws**, one changeless and eternal, the other provisional and temporary, so there are two covenants. **The covenant of grace was first made with man in Eden**, when after the Fall, there was given a divine promise that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. To all men this covenant offered pardon, and the assisting grace of God for future obedience through faith in Christ. It also promised them eternal life on condition of fidelity to God's law. Thus the patriarchs received the hope of salvation. {FLB 77.2}

This same covenant was renewed to Abraham in the promise, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Gen. 22:18. This promise pointed to Christ. So Abraham understood it, and **he trusted** in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. It was **this faith that was accounted** unto him for righteousness. The covenant with Abraham also maintained the authority of God's law. The Lord appeared unto Abraham, and said, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." The testimony of God concerning His faithful servant was, "Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." Gen. 17:1; 26:5. . . . {FLB 77.3}

The Abrahamic covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ, and it is called the "second," or "new," covenant, because the blood by which it was sealed was shed after the blood of the first covenant. {FLB 77.4}

The covenant of grace is not a new truth, for it existed in the mind of God from all eternity. This is why it is called the everlasting covenant. {FLB 77.5}

There is hope for us only as we come under the Abrahamic covenant, which is the covenant of grace by faith in Christ Jesus. **The gospel preached to Abraham, through which he had hope, was the same gospel that is preached to us today.** . . . Abraham looked unto Jesus, who is also the author and the finisher of our faith. {FLB 77.6}

Thoughts?

SUNDAY

First I want to commend the study guide for paragraph number three, "Meanwhile, ..." well said.

Read first paragraph, "Perhaps..." thoughts?

"Only through the atonement He provided could they have their sins forgiven." – what does this mean?

- without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Heb 9:22

What does it mean to have one's sins forgiven?

- Does it mean that God personally pardons?
- Does it mean that we are reconciled to God and sin is removed from us?
- Does it mean both?

Could God do the first (personally pardon) without Christ's death?

Could God do the second (heal and restore) without Christ's death?

Was Christ's death needed to enable God to personally pardon?

- But **forgiveness has a broader meaning than many suppose**. When God gives the promise that He "will abundantly pardon," He adds, as if the meaning of that promise exceeded all that we could comprehend: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:7-9. **God's forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin, but reclaiming from sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart.** David had the **true conception of forgiveness** when he prayed, "**Create in me a clean heart**, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10. And again he says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath **He removed our transgressions from us.**" Psalm 103:12. {MB 114.1}

Thoughts? Notice forgiveness is much more than God's pardon, it includes the cleansing of the sinner, the renewal of our hearts, the removal of fear and selfishness from our characters!

One of the deceptions is to get people to misunderstand forgiveness as judicial or legal, something that happens in record books, because this obscures the reality of what God wants to do in us!

The paragraph talked about standing before God without condemnation occurs from the imputation of Christ's perfect life. What does this mean?

Consider this statement:

- "In My name," Christ bade His disciples pray. In **Christ's name His followers are to stand before God**. Through the value of the sacrifice made for them, they are of value in the Lord's sight. **Because of the imputed righteousness of Christ they are accounted precious**. For Christ's sake the

Lord pardons those that fear Him. **He does not see in them the vileness of the sinner. He recognizes in them the likeness of His Son**, in whom they believe. {DA 667.5}

How do you like this paragraph? Could it sound like Christ is influencing God? Could it sound like “accounting” tricks in heaven? Could it sound like God’s value of us is because of Jesus? Yes, if we read this in isolation, but what if we read the next couple of paragraphs – do they clarify and enlighten the meaning?

The Lord is disappointed when His people place a low estimate upon themselves. He desires His chosen heritage to value themselves according to the price He has placed upon them. **God wanted them, else He would not have sent His Son on such an expensive errand to redeem them.** He has a use for them, and He is well pleased when they make the very highest demands upon Him, that they may glorify His name. They may expect large things if they have faith in His promises. {DA 668.1}

But to pray in Christ's name means much. It means that we are to accept His character, manifest His spirit, and work His works. The Saviour's promise is given on condition. "If ye love Me," He says, "keep My commandments." **He saves men, not in sin, but from sin;** and those who love Him will show their love by obedience. {DA 668.2}

All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. **And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses.** The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. **Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.** {DA 668.3}

Thoughts?

Why does the Father see us in the purity of Christ? Because Christ actually lives in the believer!

Read last paragraph, “Helping both...” thoughts? Why a transition, did the salvation process change? Were Jews before Christ saved in a different way than Christians after Christ? What needed to change? Why would it take time? Does this have any bearing on us today?

MONDAY

Third paragraph, “The moral law...” nicely said, it is a summary, it is not the entirety or fullness of the law, but a distillation of the law of love, written for this creation’s need.

What evidence do we have that the 10 Commandments were not always in existence but added for our need?

- Did angels have things pass down the generations?
- Did angels need to honor mother and father?
- Did angels need a prohibition on adultery?
- The Sabbath is measure by what? When was the sun created?
- **The law of God existed before man was created.** The angels were governed by it. Satan fell because he transgressed the principles of God's government. After Adam and Eve were created, God made known to them His law. **It was not then written, but was rehearsed to them by** Jehovah. {SR 145.1}
- **The Sabbath of the fourth commandment was instituted in Eden. After God had made the world and created man upon the earth, He made the Sabbath** for man. After Adam's sin and fall nothing was taken from the law of God. The **principles** of the Ten Commandments existed before the fall and were of a character suited to the condition of a holy order of beings. After the fall the principles of those precepts were not changed, but additional precepts were given to meet man in his fallen state. {SR 145.2}

What was the purpose of the feast days in the OT?

Festivals to remind the people of God's plan of salvation. Was there some form of cleansing from sin inherent in the festivals? In OT times was it required to keep the festivals in order to be saved?

Nebuchadnezzar, Naaman, others?

Today some suggest that it is a requirement, if it wasn't a requirement then, how much less so now.

TUESDAY

The early church was turned to confusion by a group of Pharisees who argued that the Gentiles must be circumcised. Where were they turning the focus?

To behavior, performance, acts, deeds, law. Where was the focus to be turned? To Christ, God's character of love, renewal of heart and mind to be recreated to love others and die to selfishness.

Read bottom green section – thoughts?

What should our attitude be toward church leadership? Should we be respectful? Should we surrender our thinking? Does a position of leadership in the church ensure that the leader is correct or right?

Caiaphas was High Priest, was he right? Was he even on God's side of the controversy?

What should Martin Luther have done when church leadership met, had counsels, and the leaders voted that he was wrong?

Do we determine truth by vote of church leaders? What if the issues are unrelated to truth?

What did EGW do when the church leaders wanted her to go to Australia? Did she have a word for the Lord she was to go? No, but she went. Was going to Australia compromising the truth? No.

We may find ourselves worshipping in places because leadership votes, but voting of committees cannot determine truth. Truth originates in God and is truth regardless of leadership. Our ideas and opinions must be in harmony with the evidences of God's word, not the opinions of man, even if those men hold leadership positions in the church.

Have we sought separation from our church? What do we do when leadership is not open to unity, communication, reconciliation?

We humbly pray for God's healing of our church and continue to present the truth in love exercising patience.

WEDNESDAY

The church leadership determined that the Gentiles were not to be burdened with Jewish traditions. But they did instruct them to not eat blood, animals sacrificed to idols and against adultery.

Read last paragraph – “Although Jewish...” thoughts? What do you think about the reason given for keeping these restrictions, to not be an offense to the Jews?

I don't think that was the reason. I think it was to help cleanse the minds of the Gentiles, to protect them from old habit patterns of thinking.

The Gentiles had worshipped idols, often related to fertility and believed the idols had power. The rules were to prevent the slippage into old thinking and to allow faith in God.

Why not food offered to idols, so that the blessings they were receiving would be clearly attributed to God. To prevent the temptation in their mind, did this good thing happen because of Jesus or because of the idol, since I am eating food blessed by the idol. Avoiding all such things eliminates such questions.

Read bottom green section – thoughts?

THURSDAY

Read third paragraph, “It is an...” thoughts?

What do you think about the language “binding”? How are the 10 Commandments binding?

Which law was being talked about in the book of Galatians? Both laws,

I am asked concerning the law in Galatians. What law is the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ? I answer: Both the ceremonial and the moral code of ten commandments...

"The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24). In this scripture, the Holy Spirit through the apostle is speaking especially of the moral law. {1SM 233, 234}

What did Paul say would happen to those who bring another gospel?

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! Gal 1:8,9

Anathama, damned to hell – why? Is Paul calling for God to do this? Or is Paul announcing the only possible outcome? What happens to someone who accepts and teaches a false gospel?

If a person is in a terminal state, rejects the only cure, and promotes a counterfeit which will not heal, what is the only possible outcome? And this is what Paul is saying.

Read bottom green section – thoughts?

FRIDAY- Read first paragraph, “But if...” thoughts? What did they lose? Questions 1 and 2 read and discuss.