

Redemption in Romans Lesson 13 3Q 2010

All the Rest is Commentary

SABBATH

Second paragraph states, "What is the role of the law – be it the whole Old Testament system or just the Ten Commandments – in the area of salvation? Paul needed to define clearly what are the grounds upon which God accepts a person."

Thoughts about this?

What would you say are the grounds upon which God accepts a person? What makes a person unacceptable to God? How does our unacceptableness get changed into acceptance?

What reasons have you heard that we are unacceptable to God and what grounds have you heard that God can accept us?

After Adam and Eve had partaken of the forbidden fruit, they were filled with a sense of shame and terror. At first their only thought was how to excuse their sin before God and escape the dreaded sentence of death. When the Lord inquired concerning their sin, Adam replied, laying the guilt partly upon God and partly upon his companion: "The woman whom Thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." The woman put the blame upon the serpent, saying: "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.' Why did You make the serpent? Why did You suffer him to come into Eden?" These were the questions implied in her excuse for her sin, thus charging God with the responsibility of their fall. **The spirit of self-justification originated in the father of lies and has been exhibited by all the sons and daughters of Adam. Confessions of this order are not inspired by the divine Spirit and will not be acceptable before God.** True repentance will lead a man to **bear his guilt himself** and acknowledge it without deception or hypocrisy. {5T 637.2}

Why is such a confession not acceptable before God?

Does this give us insight into what makes one acceptable, what the grounds are?

The apostle says, "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." Let every soul heed these words, and know that the **Lord Jesus will accept of no compromise**. In accepting and retaining workers who **persist in retaining** their imperfections of character, and do not give full proof of their ministry, the standard has been greatly lowered. There are many in responsible positions **who do not heed the injunction of the apostle, but make provision for fulfilling the lust of the flesh. Unless the worker puts on the Lord Jesus Christ** and finds in Him wisdom, sanctification, and redemption, how can he represent the religion of Jesus? All his efficiency, all his reward, is found in Christ. .. Why is it that those who have been long engaged in the ministry do not grow in grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus? I have been shown that they gratify their selfish propensities and **do only such things as agree with their tastes and ideas**. They make provision for indulgence in pride and sensuality and carry out their selfish ambitions and plans. They are full of self-esteem. But although their evil propensities may seem to them as precious as the right hand or the right eye, **they must be separated from the worker, or he cannot be acceptable before God.**
{TM 171.1}

What do you hear in this reference that prevents one from being acceptable to God? Is it similar to the first reference? Does our lack of acceptance with God have anything to do with our condition?

The apostle recognizes the importance of the family relations, and the powerful influence of the home. In his epistles he enjoins certain rules upon families. He says of the children, "Let them learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents; for **that is good and acceptable before God.**"
{The Health Reformer, December 1, 1877 par. 1}

What is good and acceptable before God? Again is it something about our heart/mind/character condition?

What makes us acceptable before God? Is it not union with Jesus Christ which transforms us back into His image and we live His life?

You can show to the world that there is power in the religion of Christ. Jesus will help those who seek him with all their hearts, to overcome the world, the flesh, and the Devil. **When you follow the light, walking in the path of truth, you will reflect the rays of glory**, and be like a city set upon a hill that cannot be hid. **When the books of remembrance shall be opened, your words, your deeds of love, will be acceptable before God;** your robes, washed in the blood of the Lamb, will be spotless; the righteousness of Christ will be put upon you, and you will be given a new, an immortal name. {RH, September 16, 1890 par. 8}

What makes us acceptable before God? Is it not being healed and restored to Christlikeness by God's work in our lives and living a life in harmony with God's law of love?

Why is this what makes us acceptable? Why can God not accept something else?

It is faith that engrafts us into the parent stalk of the living vine. Faith that depends on Christ, derives virtue from him as the branch draws sap from the root. Says the prophet, "The just shall live by faith," and this truth, woven into the religious experience of every Christian, should be that by which the righteous shall live. .. {ST, August 5, 1889 par. 7}

The Gentiles had no light upon the law of God, and had not followed after righteousness, but those who believed in Christ attained unto righteousness through faith in him. They accepted God's law as the rule of character. The unbelieving Jews had not attained to the righteous requirements of the

law, because they refused the only virtue that could avail **to make them righteous and acceptable before God.** "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness [which is of the law], have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth." **Christ is the end, or purpose, of the law. The law condemns the sinner, and thus drives him to Christ for righteousness.** {ST, August 5, 1889 par. 8}

What do you hear? What do we obtain from Christ – a declaration or a real transformation in heart/mind/character? We are actually changed to be like Him and this is what makes us acceptable to God!

What is the role of the law? Is there more than one law? Let's name as many of the different types of law as we can:

- Universal Principles
 - Law of love
 - Law of liberty
 - Law of worship
 - Laws of health
 - Laws of nature
- Written laws
 - By God
 - 10 Commandments
 - Criminal
 - Civil
 - Property ownership
 - Marriage
 - Ceremonial laws
 - Religious rituals
 - Diet
 - Hygiene
 - By men
 - Criminal
 - Civil

- Rules
 - Parental
 - Brush teeth, clean room etc.
 - Organizational
 - School
 - Dress, absenteeism, conduct
 - Work
 - Dress, absenteeism, conduct
- Social rules/conventions
 - Don't come to church in a swimsuit
 - Eastern society take shoes off indoors

With this in mind let's turn to Sunday's lesson

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, "In Romans..." thoughts? Why is there confusion over this point? Because people confuse three different laws.

- The text is referring to the law of worship and that if you recognize an idol is nothing more than a piece of stone or wood it has no impact on the nutritional value of the food, so eat. But if you don't recognize this, and your spiritual maturity (faith) is such that you still struggle with certain superstitions and fear the food offered to idols may curse you, then don't eat.
- Second law sometimes considered in this text is the ceremonial law. We recognize that after Christ one cannot be ceremonially unclean by association with things non-Jewish.
- Third law – laws of health

The mistake made today by much of Christianity is in confusing these three laws. While it is true an idol is not real and has no power and the ceremonial law is no longer applied, neither of those truths do away with the laws of health. Meaning, just because something isn't affected by an idol, or causes us ceremonial uncleanness, doesn't mean it is healthy. And therefore much of

Christianity suffers with illness of body and mind they could avoid if they would remember the laws of health and eat only that which God has given for food.

Can you think of other areas in which we get “laws” confused?

Read bottom green section, “Though we need...” thoughts?

How can we know when to speak and when to keep silent? When are we to speak?

- When we are in the position of responsibility – like parents teaching our children the principles of God’s kingdom and healthy living
- When we are health care practitioners treating a patient
- When we are preacher or teach exhorting a group

What about person to person in the church or community?

I have seen the great sacrifice which Jesus made to redeem man. He did not consider His own life too dear to sacrifice. Said Jesus: "Love one another, as I have loved you." **Do you feel, when a brother errs, that you could give your life to save him? If you feel thus, you can approach him and affect his heart; you are just the one to visit that brother.** But it is a lamentable fact that many who profess to be brethren, are not willing to sacrifice any of their opinions or their judgment to save a brother. There is but little love for one another. A selfish spirit is manifested. {1T 166.2}

Thoughts? What about judging our leadership? Is it ever appropriate to do this? Why or why not? What about judging God? Are we to make judgments about God?

MONDAY

Read memory text from SABBATH’s lesson and then read first paragraph, “We tend...” thoughts?

Why will those who judge others be judged with the same measure? Is it because God has an angel keeping track of what we do and how we judge others to ensure He gives us exactly what we have given others? No!

Jesus said, “from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, the good man brings forth good out of the good stored up in him and the evil man brings forth evil out of the evil stored up in him.” Matt 12:34,35.

What is Jesus telling us? The measure we use to judge others reveals what? The actual condition of our heart and mind, therefore, this is the measure to judge us because it is the measure of our very own condition!

Read next paragraph, “The citation...” thoughts? How do you understand the idea of appearing before the judgment seat of God? Would you hear it differently if we said “everyone must appear before the diagnostic eye of God?”

When God “judges” what is He doing? Is it not making the accurate diagnosis of our hearts and minds, either healed or unhealed?

Here is one of God’s judgments in Hosea 4:17:

Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone!

Does such a judgment cause Ephraim to be this way or merely accurately diagnose his actual condition?

Why can no one answer for another? We are all responsible for the condition of our own hearts and minds and characters, have we accepted opportunities to overcome injury, heal wounds, rise above disadvantages of upbringing and through God’s grace develop a loving, kind and forgiving heart – or have we made excuses and refused God’s healing plan?

Last paragraph, “A person should not...” thoughts? Why is this true? Can someone actually have an overly sensitive conscience? I

want to suggest no, we can have a misinformed conscious or an overly active conscious. In other words we can believe untruths which bring sense of guilt when no wrong had transpired, or have neural circuit defects which cause guilt, but the conscious in this state is not overly sensitive but overly active. What is the way to help someone in this state? By the truth and other appropriate treatments.

But we can have an imbalanced mind in which reason is not operating while conscience is. Our judgment is comprised of reason and conscience and if reason is diminished or sidelined then conscience can become unhealthy.

WEDNESDAY

Read Romans 14:5:

One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

The lesson asks if this applies or refers to the fourth commandment and then argues that it does not. What are your thoughts?

Is Christ important to our salvation? Does each person, who is saved, need to be fully persuaded in their own mind regarding Christ?

Is the Sabbath important? Does each person need to be fully persuaded in their own mind?

Is Paul saying whichever day doesn't really matter or is he saying if you are not fully persuaded in your own mind about the value and benefit of the Sabbath, then even if you avoid work on it, you won't be blessed by it.

What are you persuaded about when it comes to the Sabbath?

- Which day of the week is the Sabbath

- What about its purpose?
 - Embodiment of God's principles truth, love, freedom
 - Evidence of God's character
 - Evidence to the fundamental questions of life, where are we from, why are we here, and where are we going
 - Given to mankind for our protection, enlightenment, and as evidence of God's true nature and character
- Is it a delight?

TUESDAY

Read Romans 14:15-23:

If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸ because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.

¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

²² So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³ But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.

Thoughts? What does this mean to you? How do you apply this in your life?

THURSDAY

Read Romans 15:1-3:

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”^c

Thoughts? What does this mean?

My paraphrase:

Romans 15:1 We who have had our minds set free from distrust and fear, and are therefore strong in our confidence in God and in our understanding of his methods, have a responsibility to help those still weakened by the infection of distrust and selfishness and not simply live to please ourselves. ² Each of us should do all in our power to help our neighbor recover from the devastation caused by distrust in God, fear and selfishness. We should work to help heal and restore our neighbor. ³ Christ, himself, has shown how to live, for he did not live to please himself but, as the Scriptures state, “I have accepted the abuse meant for you in order to protect and heal you.”

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 2 and 3.

^c Psalm 69:9