



Epilogue

[Lesson 14]

RG and 10 GOSPEL TRUTHS

KEY PASSAGE(S)

¹ "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:1-4)

THE BIG PICTURE – THE Story

Well, we have just worked through thirteen areas of application as it relates to the gospel. Sometimes our tendency is to view the gospel as something we come through and work from. As if to say, we move on from there. However, our premise throughout this study is to see the gospel as primary and all other fruits as coming from this one root. **If the root is lost, there is no fruit.** Thus, we must always keep the gospel as central. The Bible tells a single *Story* and at the center of this *Story* is JESUS. Newton's Cradle provides a good illustration of this concept. Our desire has been to see the gospel and then to align everything else about this world and the Christian life as emanating from the gospel. Everything receives energy from the "first strike." Perhaps a good way of remembering this is to place your hands parallel in front of you and move them from side to side mimicking NEWTON'S CRADLE. EVERYTHING comes from, is sustained by, and flows back to THE GOSPEL.

BASIC IDEAS:

1. Only the person and work of Jesus can free the believing from sin and death and give to them joy and glory.
2. The Christian life is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
3. What the Christian receives by grace, he cannot maintain by works.

INITIAL TRUTHS TO REMEMBER

The person and work of Jesus Christ is so vast and of such limitless quality that all He does is lavish in its ability to cancel out the nature of the crime against Him by His people.

1. The believer is right with God.
2. The believer is debt-free before the Father.
3. The believer is no longer the object of God's displeasure, wrath, or anger.
4. The believer is no longer liable to punishment for their sins before the Father.
5. The believer has the imputed righteousness of Christ.
6. The believer is no longer in Adam but is fully and eternally in Christ.
7. The believer is no longer an enemy of God, but enjoys peace and access with the Father.

OVERVIEW OF THE LESSON

There are certain categories of belief that makes one an evangelical. We confess such truths. We believe our justification is the work of one—Jesus Christ. Because of His work, the believer is free. Unfortunately, believers often exchange one form of bondage for another. We believe the Gospel, and believe the Gospel creates an “atmosphere” of freedom. No matter how many generalizations one makes, it is still necessary to lay out just how free the believer is in Christ. For us, the gospel and grace are not mere words without definition. The weight of establishing and maintaining the Christian's relationship with God is all on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He has done all the heavy lifting - the believer does none. The believer simply believes and lives from the firm foundation of that truth. He does not believe in order to establish it or to maintain it. The following is our attempt to define the atmosphere grace provides.¹

TODAY'S LESSON

1. **Nothing anyone does merits God's favor. This is equally true before and after they accept Jesus as their Savior from sin and death.**
 - Therefore, because of Jesus, God loves us without condition, accepts us without requirement, forgives us without limit, favors us without merit, and serves us without reward. This is grace and nothing less or more is required.
 - Therefore, **The Christian “Disciplines” are for joy.** They are not required or prescriptive. They describe the fruit of the JESUS SEED. They are “lollipops” to be enjoyed **by the believer** and not “paddles” to be used **against the believer.** When such activities produce guilt, they are misused.
2. **The person and work of Jesus is so thorough that the offering against sin brought by Him forever cancels any sin debt the believer had, has, or will ever have. God will never bring up their sin issue again.**
 - Therefore, the Father never deals with believers according to their sin in the present.
 - Therefore, the Father will never bring up a believer's sin in the future.
 - Therefore, the Father never chastens believers according to their sin.

3. The person and work of Jesus is so thorough that the offering against sin brought by Him forever forgives sin as a transgression.

- Therefore, there is now no condemnation by God for/on the believer.
- Therefore, God forgives believers of all transgressions past, present, or future.
- Therefore, because the basis of forgiveness is rooted in the person and work of Jesus, God forgives unconditionally.
- Therefore, after justification, no confession of sin is necessary for forgiveness.

4. The person and work of Jesus is so thorough that the offering against sin brought by Him satisfies the wrath of God against His people.

- Therefore, Jesus fulfills the demands of the Law and imputes His Law obedience to His people.
- Therefore, God never looks upon His people with anything other than complete joy and good pleasure.
- Therefore, His people never need worry about divine judgment because of non-conformity to God's Law.
- Therefore, it is not possible for Christians to cause God to become angry with them.
- Therefore, in the Day of Judgment the only work one must rely on is the work of Jesus.

5. The person and work of Jesus is so thorough that the offering against sin brought by Him forever declares the sinner righteous.

- Therefore, one's right standing before the Father is only possible in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- Therefore, one's right standing is based solely on whom Jesus is and what He does/did and not on anything the believer has done, does, or might do.
- Therefore, what God declares right no one and nothing can make wrong.
- Therefore, only the unbelieving need to get right with God.
- Therefore, the believer need never get right with God.

6. The person and work of Jesus is so thorough that the offering against sin brought by Him forever removes any standing of guilt before the Father.

- Therefore, because Jesus receives all of our sin and we receive all of His righteousness there is never a time when the believer is culpable before God for His sin.
- Therefore, no matter what the believer does or does not do, he is never guilty before the Father.
- Therefore, although guilt does continue to operate in our horizontal relationships, guilt has no place in our vertical relationship with God.

7. The person and work of Jesus is so thorough that the offering against sin brought by Him forever imputes His righteousness to the believing.

- Therefore, God will never credit their sin to the believer's account.
- Therefore, God will never "chastise/discipline" the believer for their sin.
- Therefore, God will always look upon the believer in the very righteousness of Jesus regardless of what the believer is or is not doing.

8. The person and work of Jesus is so thorough that the offering against sin brought by Him forever reconciles the believer to the Father.

- Therefore, no believer can ever fall out of fellowship with God.
- Therefore, no believer is anything other than a friend of God.
- Therefore, such language as falling out of fellowship and confessing one's sin to restore fellowship is theologically inappropriate.

9. The person and work of Jesus is so thorough that the offering against sin brought by Him forever moves believers from their identity in Adam to who they now are in Christ.

- Therefore, God never sees His people in anything less than the very righteousness of Jesus.
- Therefore, God never deals with His people according to their sin.
- Therefore, the believer's identity is no longer "in Adam" ever again.

10. The person and work of Jesus is so thorough that the offering against sin brought by Him forever adopts them into the family of God.

- Therefore, those who believe are the children of God.
- Therefore, those who believe can call the Father, Abba.
- Therefore, those who believe are joint heirs with Jesus.
- Therefore, because of position and not performance all believers will receive the inheritance.

Jesus came to give life and to give it more abundantly (John 10:10). He came preaching good news to the poor (Luke 4:18, 19). Jesus never vacillates from His gospel. As noted by the apostle Paul, "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1).

BREAKING IT DOWN EVEN MORE

A condensed reading of the above is as follows.

Because of how glorious and complete Jesus' Work is:

1. Nothing anyone does can earn God's blessing or merit God's favor in any way. This includes Christians. Because of our position in Christ and because of how thorough His work was and how powerful and gracious He is, no "performance" can earn us additional blessings, nor "failures" lose us the blessings purchased by His blood.
2. The Father never deals with a believer's sin in a "punishing" way; God never "chastens" us in His wrath, because Jesus took that for us. God is never angry with a Christian; God is always, only, pleased with them. Though sin affects our human relationships, it no longer, ever, forever, will affect our relationship with God.
3. Therefore, nothing Christians do earns additional favor(s) from God or absolves them of fresh sins. Believers do not need to continue to ask for forgiveness. They never need to "get right" or "get back into fellowship with God." They cannot "pray" or "obey" their way into extra blessings, since they can never reverse what Christ has already done.
4. Therefore, traditional Christian "disciplines" are given to us as grace, for our joy, not as a vehicle to "higher living" or "greater success." They must never be used as "paddles" -- against our own selves or against others.

SQUEEZING OUT THE JUICES

If I had to reduce it down to the specific, unique, peculiarities of our theology, it would be:

1. God never punishes Christians, ever.
2. Christians never lose fellowship with God (or need to confess sins in order to restore it).
3. Christians never earn blessings; obedience is the enjoyment of blessings purchased by Jesus.

FOR FURTHER STUDY: Rom. 3:21-26; 5:6-10

¹ For Scriptural study on all of the above see, *Christ Has Set Us Free - Nine Words Every Christian Should Know, Credo - I Believe, Five Gospel Fruits Produced by the JESUS SEED for the Christian to Enjoy, and Reigning Grace*. All are available through www.waukeshabile.org

