

Part 3 – June 27, 2010

Preach the Gospel to Yourself!

Intro

- “If you and I are not committed Christians, pursuing holiness, we will not have as much danger of becoming like the Pharisee of Luke 18”
- How many took the test from last week's outline and scored 45--a perfect 5 on each Q.?

*All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

Isaiah 53:6

“There is a peculiar sinfulness about each of us; all of us are sinful, but each of us has some special annoyance not found in others. It is the mark of genuine repentance that while it naturally associates itself with other penitents, it also takes up a position of loneliness. ‘Each of us has turned to his own way’ is a confession that each person had sinned against light peculiar to himself, or sinned with a vexation which he could not perceive in others.***The confession is a giving up of all pleas of self-righteousness.***Yet we hear no sorrowful wailings attending this confession of sin being that the next sentence makes it almost a song. ‘The LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.’ It is the most grievous sentence of the three, but it overflows with comfort. It is strange that, where misery was concentrated, mercy reigned; where sorrow reached her climax, weary souls find rest. The Savior bruised is the healing of bruised hearts. **See how the lowliest penitence gives place to assured confidence through simply gazing at Christ on the cross!**”
-Charles Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*, April 3, Evening

What Is The Gospel?

Romans 3:19-26

Seven Principles (Truths) Of the Gospel:

1. **"NO ONE IS DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD BY OBSERVING THE LAW"**
(Romans 3:19-21)

Romans Chapters 1-3 =

Indictment;

Evidence of Guilt;

Deliberation;

Verdict -----WITHOUT DEFENSE--GUILTY OF ALL CHARGES!

"IF WE WOULD LIVE A JOYFUL, OVERCOMING LIFE IN CHRIST, WE MUST BEGIN LOOKING TO THE CROSS FOR GRACE, RATHER THAN TO OUR OWN ACTIVITIES FOR VINDICATION."

2. **"THERE IS A RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM GOD THAT IS APART FROM THE LAW"**
(Romans 3:21)

Romans 5:19: "For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."

"Jesus perfectly fulfilled God's law from two different directions: (1) He was perfectly obedient; and, (2) He paid the unpaid penalty for our law-breaking."

Isaiah 61:10

Job 9:2

Luke 3:10

Matthew 19:16

"There are only two religions in the world: (1) The religion of divine accomplishment (Biblical Christianity) and, (2) The religion of human achievement (all other religions).

How would you feel in your gut if God justified [worst criminal of the last ten years] by God's own grace by faith?

John 3:17

"Forgiving sins seems to create a huge problem for the righteousness of God. It makes Him look like a judge who lets criminals go free without punishment. In other words, the mercy of God puts the justice of God in jeopardy. So to vindicate His justice He does the unthinkable--He puts His Son to death as the penalty for our sins. The cross makes it plain to everyone that God does not sweep evil under the rug of the universe. He punishes it in Jesus for those who believe, and in hell for those who don't."
John Piper, Godward Life, Book Two, p. 51

3. "THE RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM GOD IS RECEIVED THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST" (Romans 3:22)

Two chairs, ten feet apart, you can't sit in both at once!

My Accomplishments ← -----10 feet----- → Cross of Christ

Galatians 2:20 "I can't at all but He can do all"
1 Corinthians 1:30

"Faith speaks in an entirely different manner and makes a man say, 'Yes I have sinned grievously, I have lived a life of sin. I was a blasphemer, I was injurious, I was vile; there is scarcely a sin I have not committed, and I am aware of sin within me still, yet I know that I am a child of God because I am not resting on any righteousness of my own; my righteousness is in Jesus Christ, and God has put that to my account.' HE DOES NOT LOOK TO HIMSELF AT ALL; HE LOOKS ONLY UTTERLY, EXCLUSIVELY TO JESUS CHRIST THE LORD."
D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Romans

4. "THIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS AVAILABLE TO ALL ON THE SAME BASIS SINCE ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF GOD'S GLORY" (Romans 3:22-23)

"One person may be a nice sinner and another may be a scandalous and flagrant sinner, but both are sinners. God's law has no room for Ivory Pure sinners 99 and 44/100 pure."

Hebrews 10:14

"Two things here are mightily encouraging for us in our imperfect condition as saved sinners. First, notice that Christ has perfected His people, and it is already complete. 'For by one offering *He has perfected for all time* those who are being sanctified.' He *has* done it. And He has done it *for all time*. The perfecting of His people is complete and it is complete forever. Does this mean that Christians don't sin? Don't get sick? Don't make mathematical errors in school? That we are already perfect in our behavior and attitudes? There is one clear reason in this very verse for knowing that is not the case. What is it? It's the last phrase. Who are the people that have been perfected for all time? It is those who *'are being sanctified.'*"
John Piper, A Godward Life-Book Two, p. 107

5. "ALL WHO PUT THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST ARE JUSTIFIED FREELY BY GOD'S GRACE" (*Romans 3:24*)

TWO COURTS

(First Court) God's Court in Heaven declaring us:

(a) Not Guilty!

(b) Positively Righteous!

Romans 8:1

Romans 8:31

Romans 8:33

OLD WORDS: A DEBTOR TO MERCY

"A debtor to mercy alone,
Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear with your righteousness on,
My person and offerings to bring;
The terrors of law and of God,
With me can have nothing to do;
My Savior's obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view."

(Second Court) The Court of our conscience declaring:

- (a) You are guilty!
- (b) But, renewed, "the debt is paid"!

**Grace always accompanies Guilt for the believer
"His Grace for Our Guilt"**

6. "THIS JUSTIFICATION IS THROUGH THE REDEMPTION WHICH CAME THROUGH JESUS CHRIST" (Romans 3:24)

Redemption =

"deliverance effected by the payment of a ransom....That from which we are redeemed is the wrath of God; the price of our redemption is the blood of Christ." Charles Hodge, *Romans*

President Ford pardoned Richard Nixon--President Clinton pardoned Marc Rich.

"But the difference in our justification, which was God's pardon of us, is that God's pardon did not violate justice. In our justification justice has been fully satisfied because the penalty was paid in full by the blood of the perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ."

"When we advance to considering the blood of the Son of God, our awe increases even more, and we shudder as we think of the guilt of sin, and the terrible penalty which the Sinbearer endured. Blood, always precious, is priceless when it streams from Immanuel's side. The blood of Jesus seals the covenant of grace, and makes it forever sure. Covenants in ages past were sealed by sacrifice, and the everlasting covenant was ratified in the same manner. Oh the delight of being saved upon the sure foundation of divine engagements which cannot be dishonored!" **Charles Spurgeon**, *Morning and Evening*, Nov. 6,

7. "GOD PRESENTED JESUS AS AN ATONEMENT SACRIFICE, WHICH IS APPLIED TO US THROUGH FAITH IN HIS BLOOD" (Romans 3:25)

Jesus' death on the cross did two things simultaneously.

- (1) It took away God's just wrath for our sins that we laid on Jesus Christ.
- (2) It actually removed "away" our sins.

Hebrews 9:22

"[T]here is no hope for me outside of Christ; for there is no other blood-shedding which is worth a thought as an atonement for sin. *** My soul, sit down, and behold the justice of God as bound to punish sin; see all that punishment executed upon your Lord Jesus, and fall down in humble joy, and kiss the dear feet of Him whose blood has made atonement for you. It is in vain when conscience is aroused to fly to feelings and evidences for comfort; this is a habit which we learned in the Egypt of our legal bondage. The only restorative for a guilty conscience is a look at Jesus suffering on the cross. 'The blood is the life thereof,' says the Levitical law, and let's rest assured that it is the life of faith and joy and every other holy grace.

"Oh! How sweet to view the flowing
Of my Savior's precious blood;
With divine assurance knowing
He has made my peace with God."

Spurgeon, Morning and Evening, Feb. 2, morning

"The so-called unconditional love of God should not be substituted for the gospel-- God's love can only be extended to us because of Christ's atoning death on the cross. So we must dwell on the promises of God that are embedded in the Gospel-- the full gospel."

"Through the Gospel we learn that we human beings, who were made for fellowship with God, are by nature--that is, "in Adam" (1 Cor. 15:22)--dead in sin, unresponsive to and separated from our Maker. We are constantly twisting his truth, breaking his law, belittling his goals and standards, and offending his holiness by our unholiness, so that we truly are "without hope and without God in the world". (Rom. 1:18-32, 3:9-20; Eph. 2:1-3, 12). Yet God in grace took the initiative to reconcile us to himself through the sinless life and vicarious death of his beloved Son. (Eph. 2:4-10; Rom. 3:21-24). "The Father sent the Son to free us from the dominion of sin and Satan, and to make us God's children and friends. Jesus paid our penalty in our place on his cross, satisfying the retributive demands of divine justice by shedding his blood in sacrifice and so making possible justification for all who trust in him. (Rom. 3:25-26). The Bible describes this mighty substitutionary transaction as the achieving of ransom, reconciliation, redemption, propitiation, and conquest of evil powers. (Matt. 20:28; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Rom. 3:23-25; John 12:31; Col. 2:15). It secures for us a restored relationship with God

that brings pardon and peace, acceptance and access, and adoption into God's family (Col. 1:20, 2:13-14; Rom. 5:1-2; Gal. 4:4-7; 1 Pet. 3:18). The faith in God and in Christ to which the Gospel calls us is a trustful outgoing of our hearts to lay hold of these promised and proffered benefits."

"An Evangelical Celebration"

**Now that we know what the gospel is,
Preach the Gospel to Yourself Every Day!**

Next Week's Assignment-For July 3, 2010:

- Read Chapter 4, The Discipline of Grace
- Meditate on Romans 6:1-2
- Practice preaching the Gospel to yourself everyday