

31st of January 2016

## The Gospel of Christ preached by Paul (Doctrine of the Gospel) Pt6

### Introduction.

This is our sixth study on the doctrine of the gospel. Three points were established from our previous study on the gospel that the risen Lord gave to the apostle Paul to preach (1Cor.1: 17).

1. We are not to be ashamed of the gospel of Christ.
2. The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation.
3. A person receives the gospel when they believe it in their heart.

Three points are established from the scriptures for this study.

1. Those who believe the gospel of Christ crucified are in the body of Christ.
2. Those who believe the gospel of Christ crucified are washed from their sins in Christ's blood.
3. Those who believe the gospel of Christ crucified are imputed with His righteousness.

Our three points in more detail.

1. Those who believe the gospel of Christ crucified are in the body of Christ.

Supporting verse.

Eph.2: 16 "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby".

Context & setting of our verse.

\* The second chapter of Paul's letter to the Ephesians is pivotal in establishing the condition of a person before they believe, "who were dead in trespasses and sin" (verse 1). And every one of those who believe had their past conversation "in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind" such that they "were by nature the children of wrath" (verse 3). Paul asserts in verse 8 that it is "by grace that ye are saved through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God". Then we have a verse that establishes the error of all religions that seek God's righteousness through works, where he says "Not of works, lest any man should boast". Then verse 10 we find we are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works". Next Paul reflects on those who are Gentiles, and were outside of the commonwealth of Israel, they were "without Christ", "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel...without God in the world" (verse 12). That was before a Gentile believed Paul's gospel, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." (verse 12). Christ "abolished in his flesh the enmity...to make in himself of twain one new man" that is the body of Christ (Jew & Gentile - 1Cor.12: 13). Then we have our verse: "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (verse 16). Hence our point: those who believe the gospel of Christ crucified are in the body of Christ. And that body is established at the cross of Calvary!

Scriptural examples.

Rom.12: 5.

Application of our verse today.

\* Paul is writing to the Gentile church at Ephesus, those of the uncircumcision (verse 11), and therefore this verse is doctrinally applicable to us today.

Illustration.

\* Next time you meet a Roman Catholic (RC), Mormon, Jehovah's Witness (JW) or anyone that believes we are to preach the kingdom gospel today, ask them if they are in the body of Christ. And if they say yes, then ask them how they got into the body of Christ.

Learning from our Illustration.

\* If a RC believes his church dogmas then he cannot be in the body of Christ.

\* If a Mormon believes Joseph Smith's gospel he cannot be in the body of Christ.

\* If a Jehovah's Witness believes the gospel of the kingdom that Christ preached he cannot be in the body of Christ.

WHY? Because the body of Christ is NOT mentioned in the gospels where Christ preached his kingdom gospel, it is NOT a consequence of believing Mk.16: 15. But it **IS** a result of believing the gospel of Christ crucified in your heart.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Be not deceived by those who claim to be preaching the gospel for today but are NOT! If a person has NOT believed the gospel of Christ crucified in their heart, and called on the name of the Lord, or they have believed the gospel in vain (1Cor.15: 2), then they are NOT in the body of Christ. If you have believed be encouraged to tell others, and be challenged that when you proclaim the gospel today, the good news of Christ crucified to a lost man, and he believes unto righteousness, THEN he too is in the body of Christ.

## 2. A believer in the gospel of Christ is washed from his sins in Christ's blood.

Supporting verse.

Rev.1: 5 "And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood".

Context & setting of our verse.

\* God gave to Christ a revelation to show "unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass" (verse 1). In verse 4 John points out that his audience is the seven churches which are in Asia. John offers them "Grace...and peace, from him...and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne" (verse 4). Then we have our verse, "And from Jesus Christ", who "is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (verse 5).

Other scriptural support.

1Pet.2: 24 & 1Jn.1: 7.

Application of verse today.

\* The first three chapters of the book of Revelation are written to seven churches, hence this point is doctrinally applicable to us today.

Illustration.

\* According to the NZ Protestant tract for RCs, their Catechisms teach "past sins" and "future sins" are washed away, cleansed when they drink the wine (at the Eucharist), which the priest mysteriously changes into Christ's actual blood. But if their doctrine of the Eucharist was not just a fable then the wine would be changed into Christ's soul cleansing blood, but instead they have to drink the wine "at least once a year". Therefore, they prove that they deny the finished work of Christ on the cross (Heb.9: 26), and **disobey** the commandment NOT to eat blood (Lev.7: 26).

Learning from our Illustration.

\* We say to believers in the church of Rome as Paul said to the Galatians:"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth" (Gal.3: 1) For the RC doctrine to be believed by over a billion people it must be a "strong delusion" (2Thes.2: 11). The RC, Mormon, JW, and any who believe the kingdom gospel, have no need to believe that Christ died for their sins because in the case of the RC their sins are cleansed by the wine.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Whether we speak to a Muslim, Buddhist, RC, or Mormon, the focus of the good news that we proclaim is that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and His blood that He shed on Calvary washes away the believer's sin. That is the defining difference, that when believed in a person's heart unto righteousness they are then placed in the body of Christ. So be challenged to proclaim this first, and not debate any other doctrinal differences, because if we can get this truth across, and they believe it in their heart then they will have their sins washed in His blood at the cross of Calvary.

### 3. Those who believe the gospel of Christ are imputed with His righteousness.

Supporting verse.

Rom.4: 24 "But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead". c.p. Rom.3: 21 "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets."

Context & setting of our verse.

\* In Romans chapter 4 Abraham is the basis of Paul's example to the church of faith (belief in God) counting for righteousness (Rom.4: 3, 9, 13 & 22). Abraham's belief which counted for righteousness was outlined in Gen.15: 6 and is also used by Paul in Gal.3: 6.

\* Rom.4: 23 indicates that it was not only for Abraham's sake that it was imputed to him, and then we have our verse which says, "But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed if we believe on him that raised up Jesus from the dead." When we compare our verse to Rom.3: 21 we see that the righteousness that we are imputed with is Christ's righteousness. Hence our point: those who believe the gospel of Christ are imputed with His righteousness.

Other scriptural support.

1Cor.1: 30 & Phil.1: 11, 3: 9 and that righteousness is the righteousness of Christ (2Pet.1: 1).

Application of our verse today.

\* Paul is writing to the Gentile church at Rome and therefore this verse is doctrinally applicable to us today.

Illustration.

\* People that stop on the street and say they are Christians are often asked the question: how did you get saved? A frequent response to that question is: "I believe God". And so the preacher will ask them another question: what do you believe about God?

At the same time the self-confessed Christian will often tell of his struggles with sin and his feeling of helplessness in his struggle. I remember the same struggle when I attended a Presbyterian church for 16 years. I read a bible, I spoke some words in prayer, and I attended church once a week, and sung hymns, yet my only weapon in the struggle against sin was myself.

Learning from our Illustration.

\* Because of Abraham's faith God gave to him righteousness. When a man today believes the gospel of Christ crucified he is imputed, he is reckoned with the righteousness of God, that is Christ. In such a way that Christ's righteousness is attributed to those who believe (Rom.3: 22).

\* To simply say that we believe in God does **not** mean that a lost man is washed in the blood of Christ, and nor is that lost man imputed with the righteousness of God.

\* To simply attend a traditional church and sing hymns does **not** mean a lost man is saved, and therefore he is not imputed with the righteousness of God. But **if you have** believed the gospel of Christ then you will have been imputed with the righteousness of Christ.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Our challenge today is to spot those who say they are Christian and have either believed in vain, or believed "another gospel", as I had when I was in the Presbyterian church. Then show them the truth of the gospel of Christ crucified, that it would "Not be by works of righteousness" as Christ is the "end of the law to righteousness" (Rom.10: 4). Whether such a man is a RC, a Mormon, a JW, or pew sitter at the local Presbyterian church, they are deceived by Satan, and need to hear the glorious gospel of Christ crucified to be saved from hell, and be imputed with the righteousness of Christ.

\* Be encouraged to know the gospel of Christ, and proclaim it to the lost that all may have an opportunity to hear and believe the gospel that Christ gave to Paul, and be in the body Christ, washed from their sins in Christ's blood, and be imputed with His righteousness.

### Summary of points

1. Those who believe the gospel of Christ crucified are in the body of Christ.
2. Those who believe the gospel of Christ crucified are washed from their sins in Christ's blood.
3. Those who believe the gospel of Christ crucified are imputed with His righteousness.