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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Bereans "received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so."

1

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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Deut.29:29
Lesson #28
The Full Gospel?
12/7/2025

2

"People who think they know it all really tick off those of us **WHO DO!**"

How do we punctuate our beliefs?

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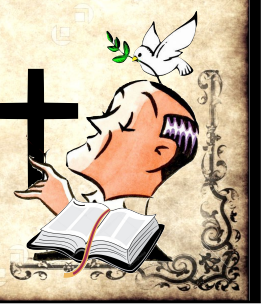


3

Deuteronomy 29:29

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law."

In this life there is a lot we cannot understand.

That has not stopped us from
thinking we do.

1 Corinthians 13:12

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known."

4

Two themes in Jesus' teaching that need respect -

PEACEMAKING, & UNITY

John 17

"11 And I am no more in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, **that they may be one, even as We are.** … 20 I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 **that they may all be one**; even as You, Father, are in me, and I in You, that they also may be in us; that the world may believe that You have sent me. 22 And the glory which You gave to me, I have given to them; **that they may be one**, just as We are one; 23 I in them, and You in me, **that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know** that You have sent Me, and love them, even as You loved Me. "

(Jn.10:16, 13:34-35, Matt.5:9,23-24, Mk.3:24-25)

5

The "FULL" GOSPEL"

is an addition to the Word & Way of the Cross that can distort the gospel and divide the church.

Experiential legalism

Spirit Baptism as a "second blessing"

Moral legalism

The Bible as an encyclopedia of rules

Intellectual legalism

God's sovereign grace"

6

Experiential legalism

Some Christians believe and teach that there is a special baptism with the Spirit (a dramatic infusion of power) that comes after salvation.

This is authenticated by "speaking in tongues".

1 Corinthians 12

"13 For by one Spirit **we were all baptized** into one body,... and made to drink of one Spirit.... 29 All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? **All do not speak with tongues, do they?** All do not interpret, do they?"

The Body of Christ is not a "caste system".

It is to be neither "charismaniac"nor "charisphobiac".

7

It is all too easy to make OUR gifts, systems, & priorities "God's Standard" for EVERYONE.

1 Corinthians 1

"10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and **there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.** 11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, **that there are quarrels among you**. 12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, **"I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas,"** and **"I of Christ."**

1 Corinthians 4

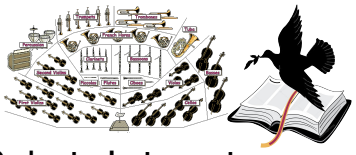
"1 Let a man regard us in this manner, as **servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.** ... 6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might **learn not to exceed what is written**, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other. "

8

God's design of the Body of Christ is to include differences.

1 Corinthians 12

"4 Now there are **varieties of gifts,** but the same Spirit. 5 And there are **varieties of ministries**, and the same Lord. 6 And there are **varieties of effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."



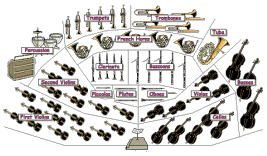
Orchestra Instruments make different sounds that can be confusing

until they play from the same music and have a trusted conductor

who guides the diversity in unity.

9

Both diversity & harmony are vital.



The key to community is not forced uniformity but wise orchestration of our unique differences.

1 Corinthians 12

"18 But now **God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired**. 19 . . . 21 And **the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"**; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;"

10

Moral legalism

Some Christians believe and teach that the whole Bible is written not just FOR us but also TO and ABOUT us.

Conflation of O.C. and N.C.

Old Testament | One Covenant | New Testament

Faith (God's grace)

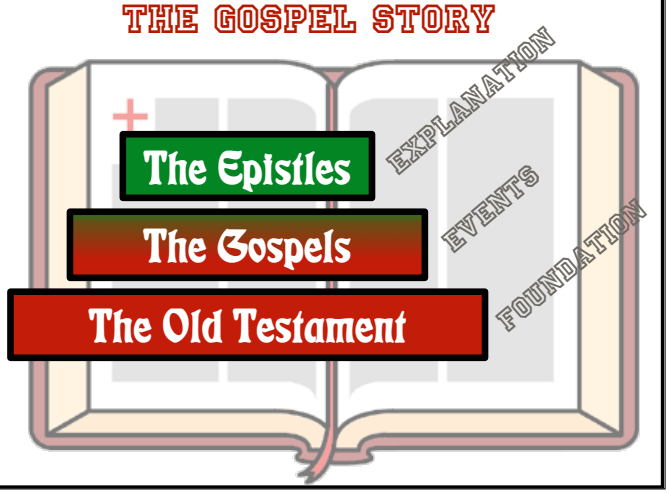
Kingdom

Works (human moral responsibility)

Moses **Jesus** **Paul**

11

THE GOSPEL STORY



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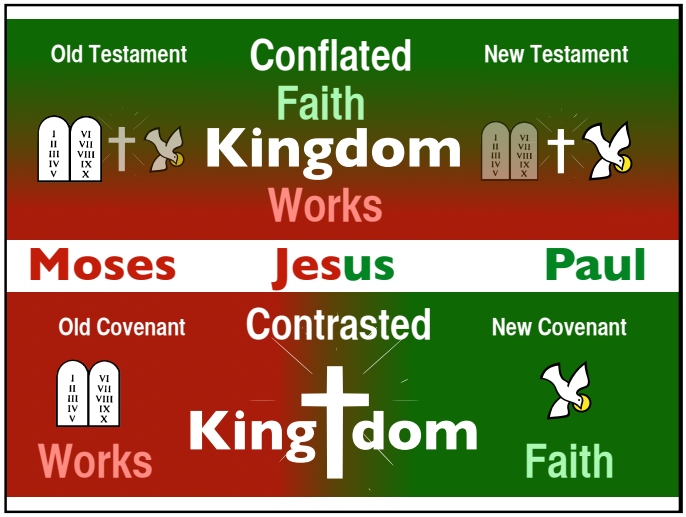

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Romans 16

"25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to **my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been **kept secret for long ages past,** 26 **but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets**, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, **leading to obedience of faith**; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen."

15

Four kinds of righteousness

1. God's perfect character ***2. Man's relative virtue***

Word of the Cross - fit for heaven

3. The imputed virtue of Christ
This is the gift of justification by faith.
we "in Christ"

Way of the Cross - fit for earth

4. The implemented life of the Spirit
This is the fruit of justification by faith.
"Christ in us"

16

Old Covenant hope and longing was focused on MATERIAL and SOCIAL BLESSING IN THIS LIFE.

- The peace of national Israel - a political messianic age of peace and prosperity for the whole world.
- Holiness - living lives of moral and ceremonial discipline according to the Law was demanded.

All Scripture is written FOR us
but not always TO or ABOUT us.

The side effects of this can put us UNDER the Law and miss the point of the Word & Way of the Cross.

17

Intellectual legalism

Some Christians teach that God's sovereign control of His creation is a vital part of His grace being without works.

- "Sovereign-grace" is treated as one word.
- God is believed to micromanage faith and all works for His glory.

The side effects of this can make a mockery of:

- God's power, foreknowledge, creativity,
- God's glory & image in all humans,
- love, free choice, justice, etc.
- authentic relationships,

18

"If one single molecule in the universe is outside God's sovereign control, nothing can be assured."

R.C. Sproul

19

The High Calvinist Model

Predestination
God's sovereign election of all who would be saved

Provision
at the Cross
Redemption of the elect only

Calling
(conviction of sin)

Faith
(New Birth)

Obedience
(Good works)

It happens for, to, & through us
but in no way by us.

20

1 Corinthians 15:22

"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive."

In the O.T. election was corporate.

In Christ
the elect Isa.42:1

Elect
UNTO faith

Individual election

In Adam

Elect
BY faith

Corporate election

21

Christ's atonement is limited.

- Not everyone will be saved.
- Only those who believe will be saved.
- But was Christ's work at the Cross limited in its intent or only in its reception?

Calvinists emphasize that the redemption was FINISHED at the Cross.

Faith is a gift from God to "the elect" who were predestined to believe before they were born.

Were the elect saved before they believed?

Arminians emphasize that the redemption was only FURNISHED at the Cross.

Man has freedom to respond to the Gospel by the common grace bestowed on all who bear God's image.

Are we saved by faith?

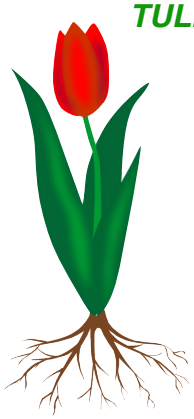
22

TULIP (Reformed Theology)

- **T** otal depravity - we are incapable of responding to Christ without first being regenerated.
- **U** nconditional election - God chose individuals for salvation based on His sovereign will alone.
- **L** imited atonement - Christ's death affected the redemption of the elect only.
- **I** rresistible grace - All whom God calls cannot but respond with faith and obedience.
- **P** reservation of the saints - All whom God calls will not fail to display faith and good works until the end.

23

TULIP's roots (presuppositions)



- The reading of both O.T. and N.T. as though they are addressed TO and ABOUT us.
- God's sovereignty demands the micromanagement of all things based on His free choice alone.
- The belief that human free choice is a meritorious work.
- All of Scripture must be understood so as to conform to the above foundational "truths".

24

Pruning ***TULIP*** *(Arminian theology)*

- **T** otal depravity - Affects every area of life but not completely.
- **U** nconditional election - God elected Christ and all that He foresaw would freely respond to him.
- **L** imited atonement - Christ's death paid the debt of all humanity but its benefits were realized only by those who received Christ by faith.
- **I** rresistible grace - We are free to receive or reject Christ.
- **P** erseverance of the saints - Salvation is for those who maintain their faith and hope in Christ.

25

Be a Berean

Calvinists point to the rigid decrees of God, while Arminians point to the relational dynamics of God.

Both are right in what they affirm but wrong in what they deny.

The Bible gives us a theology which is more human than Calvinism, and more divine than Arminianism, and more Christian than either of them.

Philip Schaff (paraphrase)

26

How can we be spiritual peacemakers, and bodybuilders, while learning from our unique differences?

- ✓ Celebrate differences - that can keep us from distorting or distracting from the Gospel.
- ✓ The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing.
- ✓ Live with paradoxes that are beyond the scope of our human need to understand.
- ✓ Exercise humility - Scripture may be inerrant; but its readers are not.
- ✓ Read the Bible wisely - context, principles, emphasis, and community consensus.

27

Romans 11:33

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!"

28

Hard Questions

29