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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

*Hebrews 5:11-14*  
*Lesson #13*  
*Word of Righteousness*  
*04/7/2024*

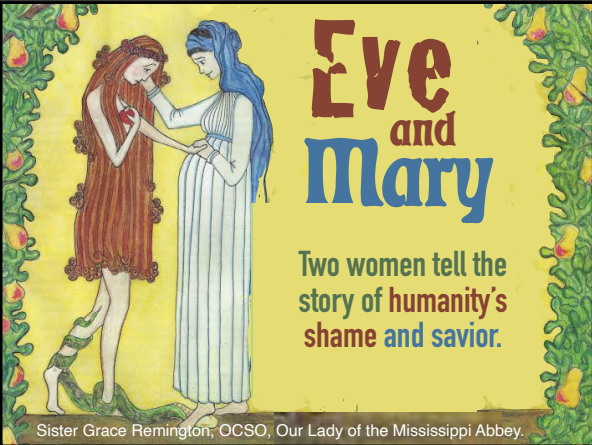
1

The majesty of Christ

# HEBREWS

*5:11-14*  
*Word of Righteousness*  
*(What is the heart of the Gospel?)*

2



**Eve**  
and  
**Mary**

Two women tell the story of humanity's shame and savior.

Sister Grace Remington, OCSO, Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey.

3

**Know** yourself  
**Accept** yourself  
**Forget** yourself  
**Give** yourself

4

**Context**  
*Hebrews 5*

“9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to **the order of Melchizedek.**”

**Jesus Christ is the Melchizedekian High Priest a unique holy, royal priest over both Jew and Gentile for all eternity.**

**This would be very confusing and certainly unorthodox to Jewish culture and tradition.**

5

*Hebrews 5*

“11 Concerning him (Melchizedekian Jesus) we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to **the word of righteousness**, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”

6

*Hebrews 5:11-14 (interpretive paraphrase)*

“The Melchizedekian, High Priestly, King, *Jesus* is to be understood through a Gospel message that may be **hard to understand** at first.

The message is “**the word of righteousness**” that addresses a deep longing for reconciliation with God that is generated by the image of God within every human.

This image of God includes a spiritual antenna tuned toward God that must be **recognized and nurtured** if we are to *understand the Gospel message and find peace with God.*”

7

*2 Peter 3*

“<sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, <sup>16</sup> as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are **some things hard to understand**, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.”

**“The word of righteousness”**  
is the stumbling stone in Paul’s teaching?

**“active and passive righteousness”**  
the relationship of the Old & New Covenants,  
of faith and good works, of Jew and Gentile.

8

*1 Corinthians 1:30*

“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, **who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,**”

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

“He made Him who knew no sin **to be sin on our behalf**, so that we **might become the righteousness** of God in Him.”

*Philippians 3:9*

“and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is **through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,**”

*Titus 3:5*

“He **saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness**, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”

9

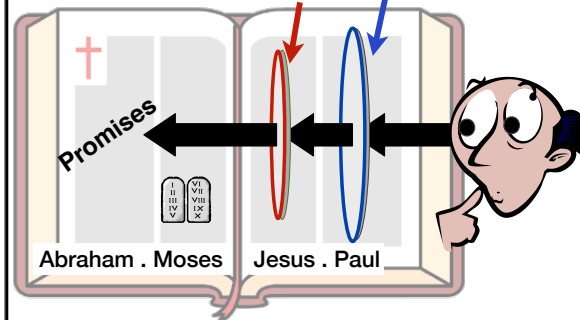
*Understanding Paul’s teaching is key to understanding Christianity.*

1. Christianity cannot be reduced to **moral ethics for this world and age.**
2. Justifying faith is distinct from **human moral virtue.**
3. The New Covenant is not a **doubling down on the Old Covenant Law.**
4. The whole Bible is written **FOR us, but not always TO or ABOUT us.**

10

We interpret the Scripture through lenses.

Old Testament **Gospels** **Epistles**



11

*1 Corinthians 1*

“<sup>18</sup> For the **word of the cross** is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, “*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.*” . . . <sup>22</sup> For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but **we preach Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

12

**One Gospel**

**The Gospel is**

*Pre Christ (Old Testament)*  
*the Good News of the promised hope of God's blessing through the seed of Abraham & the Law of Moses*

*Pre Easter (Jesus)*  
*revealed in the person of Jesus Christ*

*Post Easter (Paul)*  
*through his Cross and Resurrection for both Jew and Gentile.*

*evolving through the unfolding drama of redemption*

13

**Trust in God**

**The nature of saving faith**

*Pre Christ (Old Testament)*  
*Trust in God is expressed through keeping the Law Covenant of Moses.*

*Pre Easter (Jesus)*  
*Trust in God is expressed through following Jesus.*


*Post Easter (Paul)*  
*Trust in God is expressed through identification with the crucified and resurrected Jesus as our hope.*

*Evolving expressions of faith*

14

**Jesus promised the Apostles that the coming Holy Spirit would bring more revelation and understanding.**

*John 16:13*  
 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth;** . . . and He will disclose to you what is to come."




Old Testament - Gospels      **Paul's Gospel**

Old Covenant      Acts - Epistles

15

**Paul understood his Gospel to have been a mystery until his day.**

*Ephesians 3:3-5*  
 "that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, . . . which **in other generations was not made known** to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;"




Old Testament - Gospels      **Paul's Gospel**

Old Covenant      Acts - Epistles

16

**The Apostles saw the coming of the Holy Spirit as the beginning of a new community - the Body of Christ.**

*Acts 11:15*  
 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us **at the beginning.**"



Old Testament - Gospels      **Paul's Gospel**

Old Covenant      Acts - Epistles


17

**Jesus ministered under the O.C. to fulfill its demands and end its reign.**

*Galatians 4*

"4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born **under the Law,**

5 in order that He might **redeem** those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."



Old Testament - Gospels      **Paul's Gospel**

Old Covenant      Acts - Epistles

18

**There was a great and clear distinction between Old and New Covenants.**

*John 1:17*  
 “For the **Law** was given through **Moses**; **grace and truth** were realized through **Jesus Christ.**”

**Old Testament - Gospels**      **Paul's Gospel**  
**Old Covenant**      **Acts - Epistles**

19

*Romans & Righteousness*

<b>Righteousness and Faith</b>	<b>Righteousness and Israel</b>	<b>Righteousness and Living</b>
<b>(Faith)</b>	<b>(Hope)</b>	<b>(Love)</b>
<b>ch.1-8</b>	<b>ch.9-11</b>	<b>ch.12-16</b>

*Romans 1*  
 “16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the **righteousness (moral virtue and just actions) of God** is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘*But the righteous man shall **live by faith.***’”

20

**Three great imputations**

**Adam's sin (unto all humanity)**  
**Humanity's sin (unto Christ)**  
**Christ's righteousness (unto all who believe)**

21

*Romans 5:12-19*  
 “19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.”

*1 Corinthians 15:22*  
 “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.”

**All who are in Adam die.**      **All who are in Christ are made alive.**

22

*Ephesians 2*  
 “1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. . . . 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), . . .”

**All who are in Adam die.**      **All who are in Christ are made alive.**

23

**Our legal standing before God is our security as we are declared righteous “in Christ”.**

**Legal position “in Christ” (instant & perfect)**  
**Life experience (process & imperfect)**

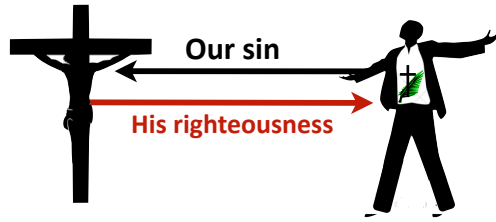
**Holiness** (y-axis)      **Time** (x-axis)

24

## The great exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



25

## Positional truth

- ✓ It is a decree & not a felt experience.
- ✓ It is not progressive.
- ✓ It is not related to human merit.
- ✓ It is not conditioned on moral reform.
- ✓ It fully satisfies the demands of a perfectly holy God.
- ✓ It must be learned through teaching & applied by faith.

26



**Positional**  
**righteousness**  
makes us fit for heaven.



**Practiced**  
**righteousness**  
makes us fit for earth.

27

**The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing.**

Christian communities that are not culturally diverse run the risk of being united around their cultural tribe.

Christian communities that emphasize one gift or ministry run the risk of dismembering the Body of Christ.

28

**The Word & Way of the Cross make up our message, mission, and manner.**

Social justice is not our purpose but the fruit of it.

Personal happiness is our expectation, but not in this life.

Our faith, hope, and love are not to be found in our works or this world, but in the person and work of Christ.

29

## Hebrews

Next week  
6:1-8

**The unforgivable sin**

30