

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 John 2:12-14
Lesson #8
Assurance
02/20/2022

Two challenges to the Gospel

1. Christ is not enough

- Do we put the Way of the Cross ahead of the Word of the Cross?
- What was finished at the Cross?

2. Faith is not enough

- Do we fail to make works a part of saving faith?
- What is the relationship between faith and works?



Characteristics of Gnosticism

1. Two spheres of life - Spiritual & Material.

- Christ could NOT have taken on a material form.
- The human dilemma is not sin but ignorance of our natural spirituality.
- What the body does is irrelevant in that it is not attached to the spirit.

2. Two classes of Christians - Enlightened and unenlightened.

- The “enlightened” were arrogant.
- The unenlightened were confused.

Some gnostic texts

- The Gospel of Judas
- The Gospel of Thomas
- The Gospel of Philip.
- The Acts of John
- The Acts of Peter
- The Acts of Thomas

were written from the 2nd - 4th century and excluded from the canon of Christian scriptures

1 John 2

“12 I am writing to you, little children, **because your sins are forgiven** you for His name’s sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because **you know Him** who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because **you have overcome** the evil one.

I have written to you, children, because **you know the Father**. 14 I have written to you, fathers, because **you know Him** who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because **you are strong**, and **the word of God abides in you**, and **you have overcome** the evil one.”

Two parallel lines in 1 John 2:12-14

children
(of John’s ministry)

“I **am** writing to you, little children, because your sins are **forgiven** you for His name’s sake. (1 Jn.2:12)

I **have** written to you, children, because you **know the Father**. (1 Jn.2:13)

fathers
(mature)

13 I **am** writing to you, fathers, because you **know Him** (Jesus) who has been from the beginning. (1 Jn.2:13)

14 I **have** written to you, fathers, because you **know Him** (Jesus) who has been from the beginning. (1 Jn.2:14)

young men

I **am** writing to you, young men, because you have **overcome** the evil one. (1 Jn.2:13)

I **have** written to you, young men, because you **are strong**, and **the word of God abides in you**, and you have **overcome** the evil one.” (1 Jn.2:14)

Interpretive paraphrase

1 John 2:12-14

“I have written to you before about these things (Gospel of John) and am repeating myself here. You are my children in the faith and I affirm your standing “in Christ” as forgiven sinners (as Jesus’ name suggests) who know the Father (God).

Those of you who are elders in the faith, know what I am saying and those of you who are younger in the faith, have demonstrated that you have the word and Spirit to stand against the accuser / confuser of God’s people.”

6

1 John 5:13

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know that you have eternal life.**”

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There is a pastoral lesson here.

Christian Assurance comes from

- 1. clarification** of the Word and Way of the Cross
- 2. confirmation** of abiding faith, hope, and love for and in the right things.

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1 John

**FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD
LIGHT IN A “DARK” AGE**

Basis of Fellowship			Behavior of Fellowship	
Jesus is the LIFE come in the flesh	Jesus is the LIGHT showing how to walk	Jesus is the LINK connecting us to the Father		
1:1-4	1:5-2:14	2:15-27	2:28-5:3	5:4-21

Abiding in God's Light

Abiding in God's Love



**Affirming
what we have
“in Christ”**

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**Paul’s letters
start with affirmations
not exhortations.**

What Christ has done *for* us.

What Christ is doing *in* and *through* us.

Our *position* in Christ by grace through faith

Our *behavior* in Christ by grace through discipline

At this point we are not exhorted to do anything but pray for God to help us see.

10

John 19

“28 After this, Jesus, knowing that **all things had already been accomplished**, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, 30 . . . , He said, **“It is finished!”** And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.”

**The Word of the Cross
reveals three things that are finished.**

**The Way of the Cross
addresses two things that are not.**

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The Word of the Cross finished 3 things

1. It satisfied the Law's demand with a substitutionary sacrifice.
It respected the Law's authority.
2. It terminated the Law's domain as a transactional covenant of works.
It ended the Law's condemnation.
3. It liberated the Law's detainees from bondage through their sharing in the death of Christ.
It put us outside the Law's reach.

12

The Word of the Cross - "It is finished"

1. It satisfied the Law's demand with a substitutionary sacrifice.
It respected the Law's authority.

Matthew 5

"17 Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.** 18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished."

Colossians 2:14

"**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law,** having become a curse for us."

13

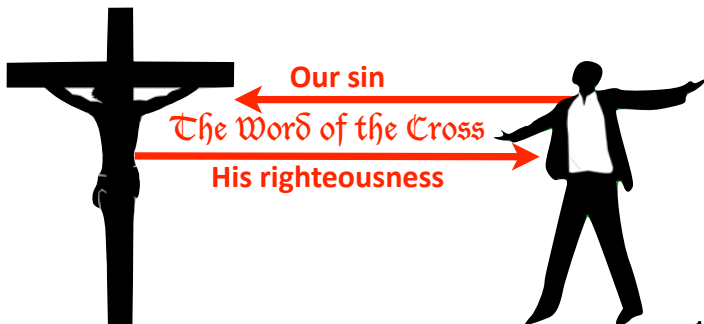
The great exchange

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."



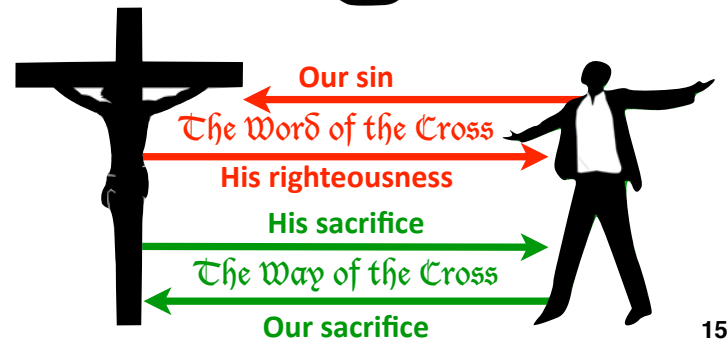
14

Romans 12:1

"I urge you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God,** to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice,**



acceptable to God, which is your spiritual **service of worship.**"



15

Three great imputations



16

The Word of the Cross - "It is finished"

2. It terminated the Law's domain as a transactional covenant of works.
It ended the Law's condemnation.

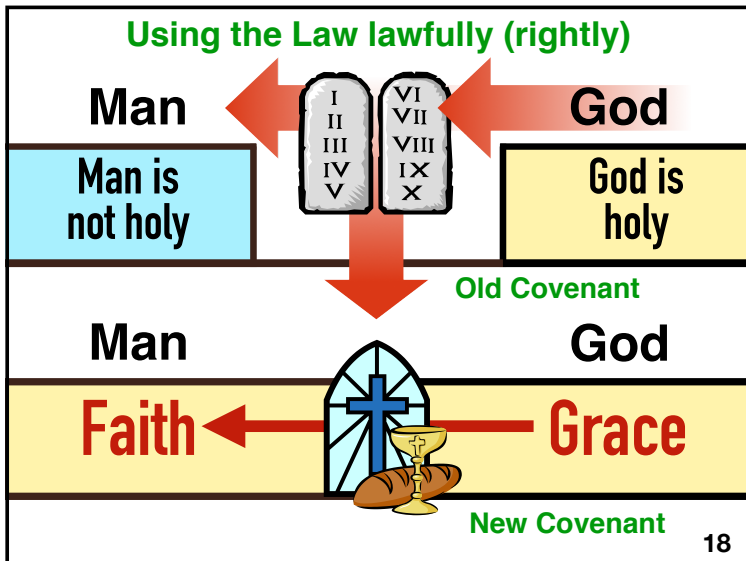
Galatians 3

"24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, **we are no longer under a tutor.**"

Hebrews 7

"18 For, on the one hand, there is a **setting aside of a former commandment** because of its weakness and uselessness 19 (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a **bringing in of a better hope.** through which we draw near to God."

17



The Word of the Cross - "It is finished"

3. It liberated the Law's detainees from bondage through their sharing in the death of Christ.
It put us outside the Law's reach.

Romans 7

"1 Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that **the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?** . . . 6 But now we have been **released from the Law, having died** to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter."

19

The Way of the Cross addresses two things that are not finished.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Faith

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

Fruit

"for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

20

Philippians 2

"12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling;** 13 **for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.**"

21

What is "FAITH"?

- ✓ **It is a gift from God to ALL those who bear His image.**
- ✓ **The issue is HOW do we chose to invest or use our faith.**
 Satan has no problem with "faith, hope, and love", so long as they are **MISPLACED.**
- ✓ **In the Scripture, "faith" is never viewed as a meritorious work, but rather as our choice in response to God's grace.**

22

Some SIGNS of true saving faith

- ✓ **It is a deep heartfelt TRANSFER OF TRUST to Christ.**
- ✓ **It does not DEPEND on obedience to the Law.**
- ✓ **It will normally produce INNER fruit (hope and love).**
- ✓ **It is expected to produce outer fruit (obedience to the ways of God).**

23

“12 I am writing to you, little children, because **your sins are forgiven** you for His name’s sake. 13 . . . I have written to you, children, because **you know the Father**.

What does it mean to be forgiven and to know God?

1. The **WORD** of the Cross - (Christ **FOR** us)

participation in the Death & Resurrection of Christ

2. The **WAY** of the Cross - (Christ **IN** and **THROUGH** us)

participation in the Body of Christ

What is our spiritual “self-image”?

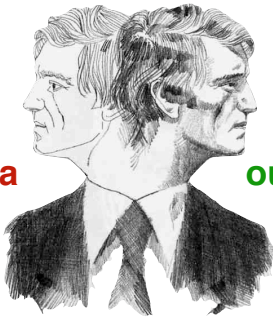
When we see self in **contrast** to Christ

When we see self in the **context** of Christ

Death  **Life**

Our faith is always showing.

We are presenting ourselves as a witness for Adam.



We are presenting ourselves as a witness for Christ.

1 John

Next week
2:15-17

Two contrasting kingdoms



APT TOTEACH
A bishop then must be ... apt to teach 1 Timothy 3:2

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