

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

2 Peter 3:14-16
Lesson #13
Paul's Gospel
12/12/2021

2 Peter Finding our way as aliens in this World

Salutation	Three aspects of staying on track.		
Faith and the faith	Cultivate a mature faith in sync with Scripture.	Control your expectations and responses.	Clarify true and false hope.
1:1-4	1:5-15 1:16-21	2:1-22	3:1-18

Holiness

Heresy

Hope



Alien life coaching

Understand Paul's Gospel

1

2 Peter 2

"14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, 15 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, 16 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.**"

2

2 Peter 3:16

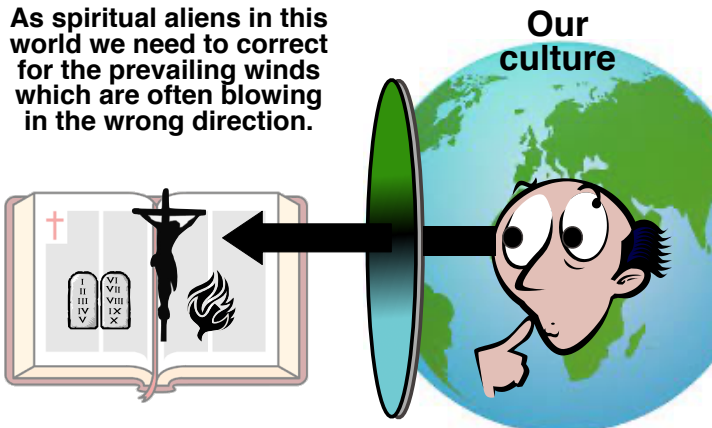
"16 ... some things **hard to understand**, which **the untaught and unstable distort**, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own **destruction.**"

- The Christian scriptures can be **misconstrued, confusing, and controversial.**
- True believers can **get off track and be misled** when interpreting the Bible.
- **Teachers** play a vital role in helping believers read the Bible properly.
- Distorting Paul's teaching can be **devastating.**

3

We interpret the Scripture through lenses.

As spiritual aliens in this world we need to correct for the prevailing winds which are often blowing in the wrong direction.



4

Paul's Gospel

1 Corinthians 15

"1 Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel which I preached to you**, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,"

Paul's Gospel is centered on the death and resurrection of Christ.

5

Jesus' Gospel

Mark 1

"¹⁴ Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God is at hand**; repent and **believe in the gospel**."

The disciples believed the promise (but not Jesus' death & resurrection)

Mark 16:14

"And afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because **they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen**." (Lk.24:13-39)

6

Jesus' Gospel was focused on Abraham's promise of the kingdom.

Matthew 4:23

"And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the **gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people."

The promised kingdom

Davidic
Model

Spirit
Indwelling

Gentile
Exclusion

The Messiah (his nature, identity, & mission)?

7

The Sermon on the Mount is full of warnings about failing to fulfill the spirit of the Law.

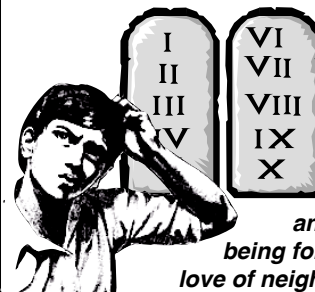
- ➔ **Matt.5:22-23** "whoever shall say 'you fool' shall be **guilty enough to go into the hell of fire**."
- ➔ **Matt.5:29-30** "And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for **it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell**. And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off, and throw it from you for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be into hell." (also Matt.18:8-9)
- ➔ **Matt.6:14-15** "For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But **if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions**."

8

The Jews reduced the Law to manageable superficial issues.

Luke 18:9-14

"The Pharisee and the Tax Collector"



Jesus revealed the true intent of the Law (Matt.5:17-48) which was "condemnation".

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst **for righteousness**."

Matthew 5:48

"be perfect **as your heavenly Father is perfect**."

Jesus equated

anger with murder (vs 21-22)
lust with adultery (vs 27-28)

any vows with false vows (vs 33-37)
being forgiven with forgiving others (6:15)
love of neighbor with love of enemy (vs 43-48)

9

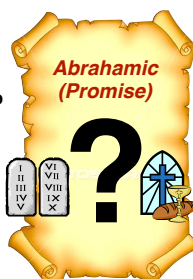
The 1st cent. controversy

1. To (not through) whom was the Gospel given?
2. What is the relationship between a.) faith and Mosaic Law and b.) Gentiles and Jews?

Who is the "seed"?

Judaizers

- a. The physical seed of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob (Jewish people).
- b. They are identified by their obedience to the Law of Moses.
- c. This is clearly the emphasis of the O.T. and modeled by Jesus.



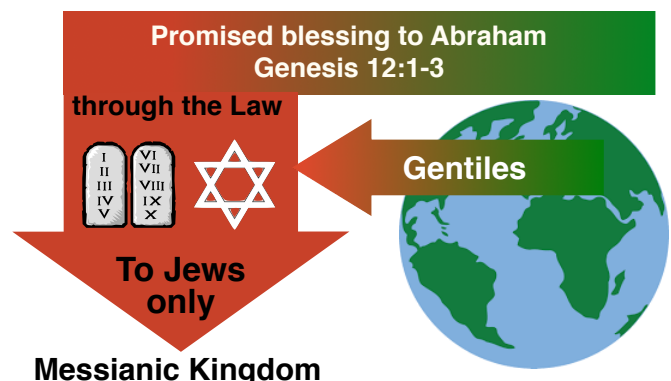
Paul

- a. The spiritual seed of Abraham (Jesus and those united with him).
- b. They are identified by their confessional faith.
- c. This is revealed as the Gospel (a mystery hidden from the O.T. prophets but revealed to Paul).

10

Israel's hope and longing was for:

The restored kingdom of Israel - a political messianic age of peace and prosperity for the whole world through **ISRAEL**.



11

Israel's **hope and longing** was for:
The restored kingdom of God - a political messianic age of peace and prosperity for the whole world through **JESUS CHRIST**.

Promised blessing to Abraham
 Genesis 12:1-3

Jew & Gentile

This controversy was settled by a Jerusalem council in Acts 15.

Messianic Kingdom

12

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

Old Covenant

Paul's Gospel
 Acts - Epistles

13

Acts 28
 "30 And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters, and was welcoming all who came to him, 31 **preaching the kingdom of God**, and **teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ**"

The Gospel of the kingdom
 (preached BY Jesus)

The Gospel of the Cross
 (preached ABOUT Jesus).

The **first** set the stage for the **second**.

14

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

Old Covenant

Paul's Gospel
 Acts - Epistles

15

Keep this timeline in view

John & Jesus' Gospel

Gal. 4

Paul's Gospel

O.T.

Old Covenant (under the Law)

N.T.

New Covenant (Grace from the Law)

Crucifixion
 Resurrection
 Pentecost

Repentance and faith in the **PROMISED Kingdom and Redeemer King**

Repentance and faith in the crucified and resurrected **JESUS CHRIST**

16

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

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

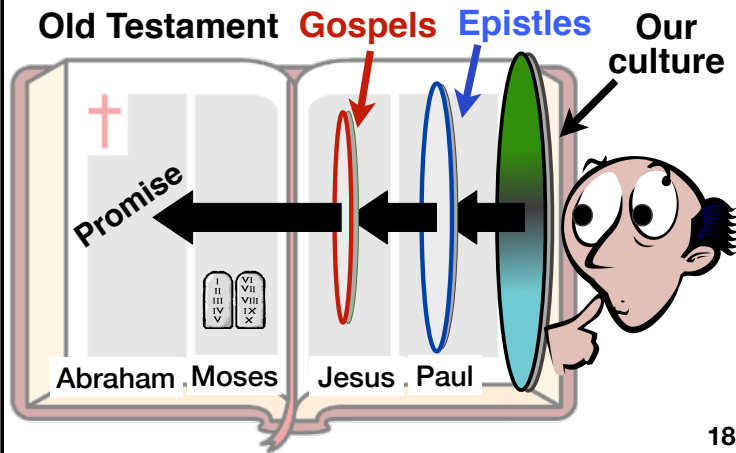
Old Testament - Gospels

Old Covenant

Paul's Gospel
 Acts - Epistles

17

We interpret the Scripture through lenses.



18

The Gospel is

One Gospel

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

19

The nature of saving faith

Trust in God

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

20

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.**

21

2 Peter

Next week
3:17-18

The true
meaning of
Christmas

22

23