

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Matthew 5:17-20**  
**Lesson #33**  
**Jesus and Paul**  
**09/08/2019**

The Gospel of salvation by grace through faith apart from works is good news but is it true? **Paul vs. James**

- Some believe that this dissonance reflects two opposing views that **cannot be reconciled**.
- Others believe that James is speaking of “false faith” and that true faith will always be seen in the **“works of faith”**.



- I have suggested that James may be looking at justification **in the eyes of man**, while Paul was looking at it in the eyes of God.

1

**Paul (in God's eyes)**  
*Romans 3:20*

“because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified **in His sight**; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.”

**James (in man's eyes)**  
*James 2:18*

“**show me** your faith without the works, and I will **show you** my faith by my works.”



- **What does Jesus say?**  
It might surprise you.
- As Bereans we will seek the Scriptures to figure it out.

2

When we look to **Jesus' teaching** we see that he also seems to disagree with Paul.

*Matthew 5*

“<sup>17</sup> Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill**.<sup>18</sup> 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. . . .<sup>20</sup> For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.**”

*Matthew 7:19*

“Every tree that does not **bear good fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

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➡ The Sermon on the Mount is full of warnings about failing to fulfill the spirit of the Law. “whoever shall say ‘you fool’ shall be **guilty enough to go into the hell of fire.**” (**Matt. 5:22-23**).

➡ **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.**”<sup>4</sup>

## Five stumbling blocks to Gospel truth:

1. Confusing the Old **and New covenants**

2. Confusing the work of Christ **FOR us** and the work of the Spirit **IN and THROUGH us**

3. Confusing positional holiness through the Imputed righteousness by faith **and practiced holiness through love**

4. Confusing American “civil religion **with the true Gospel**.”

5. Confusing the Gospel preached by Jesus **and the Gospel preached by Paul “about Jesus”**



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## Paul's Gospel and Jesus' Gospel

*Mark 1*

"<sup>14</sup> Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "repent and believe in **the gospel**.""

**What were they supposed to believe?**

**NOTE:** At the end of Jesus' earthly life they still did not believe the resurrection (Luke 24)

*1 Corinthians 15*

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

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context - context - context - context

*Galatians 4*

"<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, **born under the Law**, <sup>5</sup> in order that **He might redeem those who were under the Law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"."

**Jesus ministered under the Old Covenant Law (of works)**

while Paul ministered under the New Covenant of faith. 7

**Jesus ministered here**

**Paul ministered here**

Old Testament and Gospels

Old Cov.

**Paul's Gospel**

Acts - Epistles

8

**The Law covenant of works could condemn but not save.**

*Ephesians 2*

"<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> **not as a result of works**, that no one should boast."

**Jesus ministered here**

Old Testament and Gospels

Old Cov.

**Paul's Gospel**

Acts - Epistles

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**Jesus recognized that his calling and purpose were centered on his passion & resurrection.**

*John 2:4,19*

**"My hour has not yet come."**

"Destroy this temple (**his body**), and in three days I will raise it up."

"Of all the great religious leaders of history, Jesus is unique in that he alone came for the purpose of dying."

Old Testament and Gospels

Old Cov.

**Paul's Gospel**

Acts - Epistles

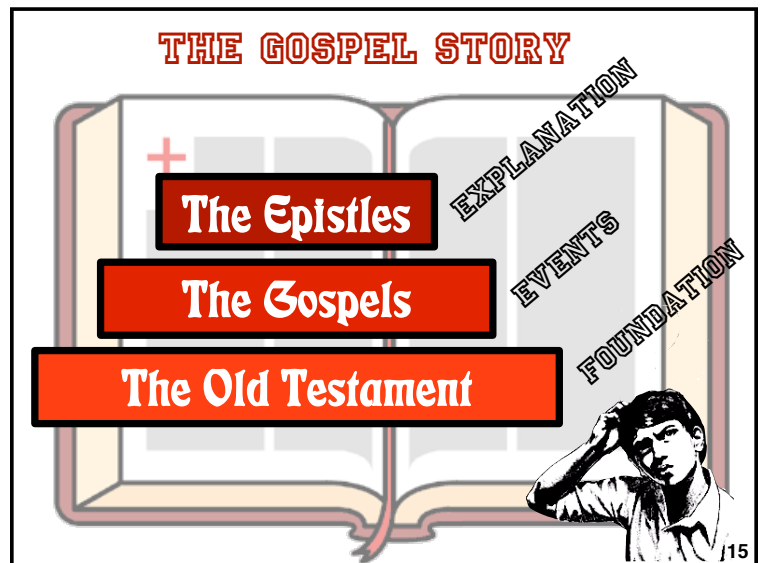
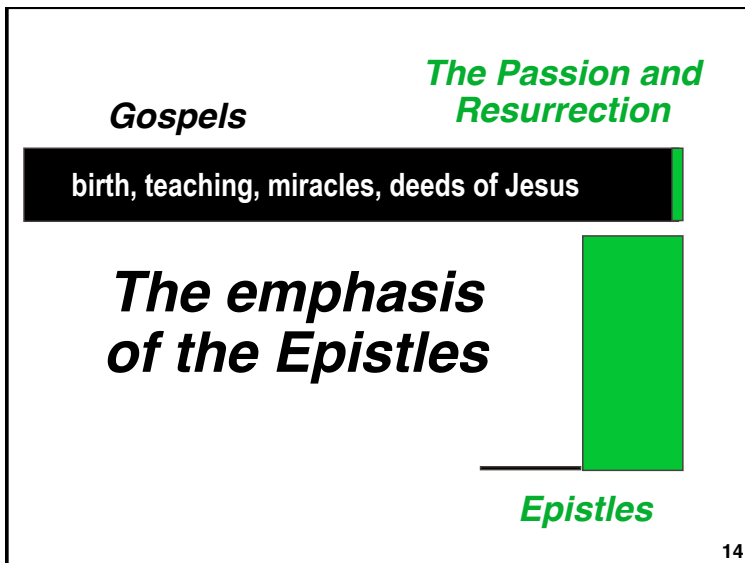
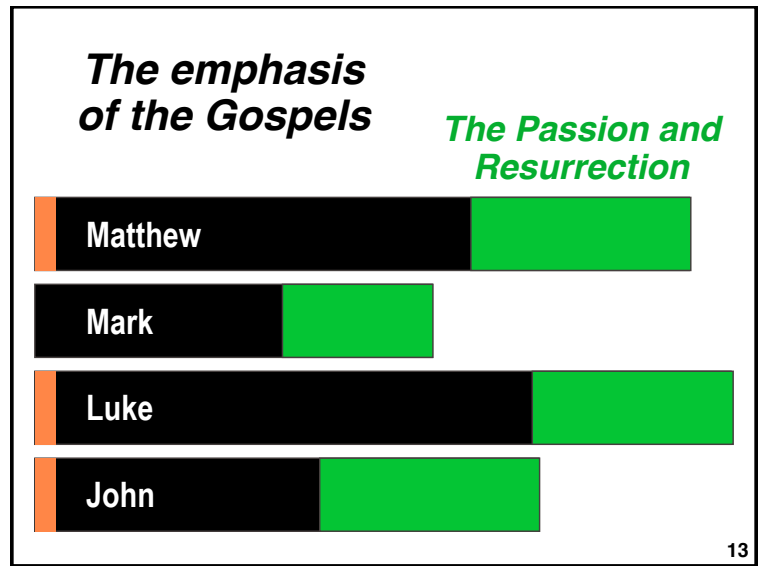
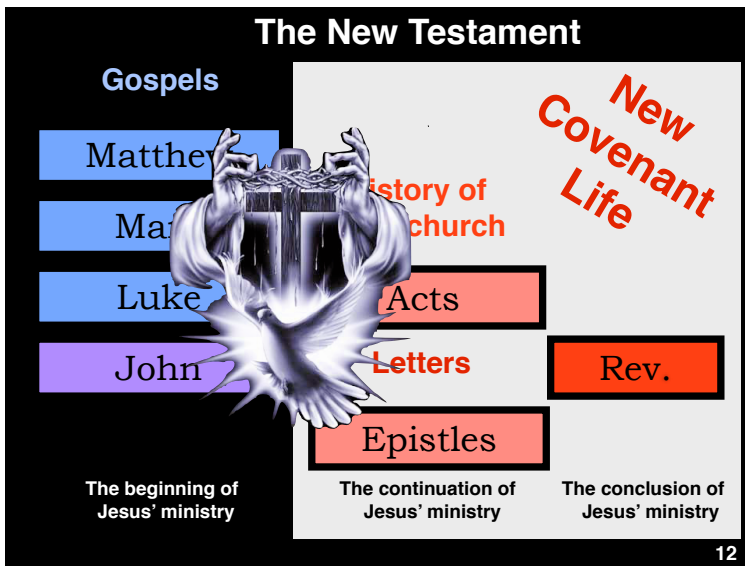
Fulton J. Sheen

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*John*

- **2:4** – And Jesus said to her [his mother], "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? **My hour has not yet come.**"
- **5:28** – "Do not be astonished at this; for **the hour is coming** when all who are in their graves will hear his voice"
- **7:30** – Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because **his hour had not yet come.**
- **8:20** – He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because **his hour had not yet come.**
- **12:23** – Jesus answered them, "**The hour has come** for the Son of Man to be glorified."
- **12:27** – "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that **I have come to this hour.**"
- **13:1** – Now before the festival of the Passover, **Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father.** Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.
- **16:32** – "**The hour is coming, indeed it has come**, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me."
- **17:1** – After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "**Father, the hour has come**; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,"

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**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.”

**This can be understood as Jesus' endorsement of the apostles' teaching.**

**Paul's Gospel**

Old Testament and Gospels      Acts and Epistles

Old Cov.      New Cov.

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*John 14*

“25 These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**”

*John 16:7*

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. **But if I go, I will send him to you.**”

**Pentecost was the beginning of the N.C. community of the Spirit, the Body of Christ.**

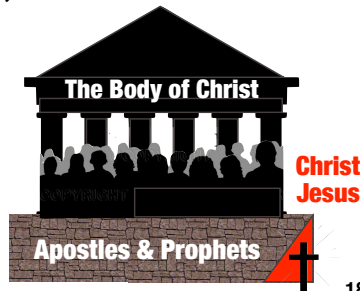
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### Ephesians 2

“<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, <sup>20</sup> having been built upon the **foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,**”

**Apostles (foundation)**  
explain the meaning of the  
cross and resurrection.

**Jesus (corner stone)**  
in his death and  
resurrection.



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### The dwelling place of God among men.



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The Apostles saw Pentecost as **the beginning** of the Gospel community of the Holy Spirit - 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.**” (Acts 1:4-5, 2:4)



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Paul’s Gospel was a **mystery until revealed to him** after Pentecost.

### 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;**”



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### Romans 16

“<sup>25</sup> 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,** <sup>26</sup> **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; <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.”

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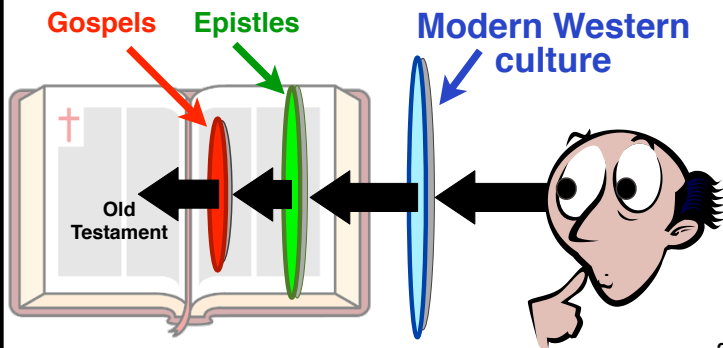
### Differing emphasis between Jesus and Paul

Jesus' Gospel of the Kingdom	Paul's Gospel of the Cross
Matthew, Mark, Luke	Acts, Epistles, (John)
Repentance from sins	Repentance from false hope
Practiced holiness	Positional holiness
Saving the body	Saving the soul
Our work	Christ's work
Preached to the Jews only	Preached to the world
Kingdom ethics centered	Cross and Resurrection centered
Fulfillment of the promise to Israel	A mystery before it was revealed to Paul
Temporal renewal	Eternal salvation

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## Bereans read the Bible through cultural lenses.



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## So what is the POINT?

- Be sensitive to the **contexts** of both author and reader - All is FOR us but not ABOUT or TO us?
- View Jesus' teaching as that of an O.C. Prophet, **prepping Israel and the world** for the "Word of the Cross" (Gospel).
- Jesus' teaching is a **window into the purpose and promise** of the O.C.
- The O.T. and GOSPELS are best understood and applied through the lens of the **N.T. letters**.

**This will prevent a lot of confusion in understanding law / grace, faith / works.**

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## Examples:

- Jesus' life and ministry is the basis of the New Covenant Gospel but **it also gives us important insight into life under the Old (Law) Covenant.**
- Much of Jesus' teaching (under the Law) is intended not to assure us so much as **drive us in despair to the coming Cross of Christ.**
- The Synoptic Gospel's (Matt. Mk. & Luke) differ from **John, which offers a perspective that is more a transition to the Epistles.**
- A vital element in sound interpretation is **CONTEXT (literary, historical, grammatical, theological).**

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