

# Walking Through the New Testament with Paul the Apostle by His Life and Pen

## LESSON NO. 6 - Read Acts 13:13-41 + Romans 3

**Recap:** All human beings are **without excuse**. Romans 1:19-21 All mankind has been created in the image of God [Genesis 1:26]. Upon birth [self-consciousness] all human beings are also given a God-consciousness [having been made in His image]. From the very first breath of life God begins revealing Himself to people through: 1.) Creation [Romans 1:20]. 2.) Conscience [Romans 2:15]. 3.) The Words of God through the Bible, John 12:47 and through preaching, Romans 10:14.

**Good Illustration:** Man is born into the world and immediately begins to “feel a tug on his heart” by Almighty God through Creation, Conscience and His Words. It is much like a boy born blind who holds onto the string to which a kite is attached and flies into the heavens. The blind boy “feels the tug” but cannot yet clearly see what is the force behind the tug of the string which he holds in his hand. The blind boy has a tremendous urge to “see and understand” the heavens and the power which moves the kite.

**Truth:** The Bible is totally true, inspired, inerrant Words of the infinite wisdom of Almighty God our Creator. The Bible is inexhaustible in the wisdom it can provide to the reader.

We will never be able to understand all the Bible perfectly, but God rewards our every attempt to learn from Him. To put a bit of perspective on this great truth, an excellent Bible teacher from Britain during the early 1900's was so taken with the depth of the Book of Romans that he taught it every Sunday for 14 straight years, one verse at a time.

We want to receive all that we can possibly receive from the Holy Spirit in the Book of Romans as He reveals Christ.

This places our opening statement in context as we will read the entire 3rd chapter of Romans, but we will spend today's lesson on only the very first two verses: "What advantage then has the Jew, or what *is* the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles (sayings) of God.

**Theme:** Paul + Barnabus go to Antioch in Pisidia to preach the Gospel. Read Acts 13:14.

**Question:** Why did Paul + Barnabus first visit the synagogue of the Jews on the Sabbath day in their hope to declare Jesus Christ?

**Answer:** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the **Jew first** and also for the Greek [Gentile, all non-Jewish people]. Romans 1:16

**Answer:** God's infinite Wisdom determined that the reconciliation of lost men and women would be accomplished through the sacrificial blood offering of His own Son, Jesus, as the spotless Lamb without blemish. Jesus' own death for sin-filled humanity would accomplish man's redemption. Jesus would redeem God's children through the payment of Jesus' death for their sins so they could live. It was the Just dying in place of the Unjust.

To accomplish this, Jesus would need a human body. He would, by necessity, need a human family, NOT a human father but a human mother. By necessity, a family comes from a larger group of people called a nation. By necessity, a nation needs to be governed and that nation would need a progenitor.

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With this in view we see God's Plan of Salvation, Redemption and Reconciliation unfolding. His Plan could be summed up by a single word: **Jew**.

God chose a progenitor [the beginning originator which begins the entire chain of events] and named this man Abraham. Next God chose a nation called Israel. From that nation of different heads of family clans, God chose one family, Judah, to be the line from which He would bring His Son into the world through a woman, Mary. To Israel, the nation, God gave a certain area of land. In that area of land, God named a certain town, Bethlehem, which He declared would be the birthplace of His Son through Mary. Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

Why is this so important? Our first 4 verses in Romans 3 set these great truths as foundation pillars for all us, both Jews and Gentiles.

What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God. Romans 3:1-4.

Let's look together at the **Scarlet Thread of History** to see God's wisdom historically displayed through Israel and the Jews for the salvation of the Gentiles.

\* Reconciliation, Redemption and Salvation will come through the Seed of a woman (Isaiah 7:14) by a virgin birth (not through a man). And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and **her Seed**; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." - Genesis 3:15

\* The virgin mother of Jesus would need a family [seed of Abraham], a nation [Israel] and a place [Bethlehem / Micah 5:2] to give birth to Jesus, the Messiah. Thus the Scarlet Thread of History begins its march down through time.

\* Blood was shed to cover the sin. Also, God clothed Adam & Eve with the skin of the animal. - Genesis 3:21

\* The Passover Lamb. Blood shed to cover the sins of the family, those "inside the house". - Exodus 12:3-13

\* The Day of Atonement Goat & the Scapegoat. Blood was shed once per year for the sins of the entire nation of Israel. - Leviticus 16:15-19, 34

\* Perfect Lamb of God. Jesus Christ became the one lamb who paid the death penalty one time. His death was sufficient to pay the penalty of all people who would believe and trust in Him as their Lord and Savior. - John 1:29

\* Perfect Punishment Paid. Jesus died on the cross at Calvary to fulfill the requirement that "the soul who sins shall die." His death was counted by God as the **One** acceptable substitute for all those who trust in Him. - Ezekiel 18:20

\* Perfect Substitute. Christ died in our place as our substitute. Romans 5:6-9 .

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## Summary for Lesson No. 6

The Jews were given the first opportunity to hear and believe Jesus. Upon their rejection of Jesus the Messiah, Paul was sent by God to declare the love of Jesus to all people, both Jew and Gentile.

God in His infinite wisdom chose a person [Abraham], a nation [Israel], a virgin [Mary], and a place [Bethlehem] to bring forth into the world His only begotten Son, Jesus, to become the Spotless Lamb who takes away the sin of all who would trust in Him. This is the essence of the Good News, the Gospel.

For all of his life, Paul carried an intense love for his Jewish brethren. Romans 9:1-5 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

Thus, Paul continually declared the importance of the Jew and the nation of Israel, who were first people group entrusted with the written words of God. At every opportunity Paul began by declaring these truths to the Jews through their own Holy Writings which were entrusted to them through prophets, priests and kings whom God raised up to teach His chosen people, the Jews of Israel.

Israel was charged by God to be a blessing to all the rest of the world, through the words God had entrusted to them. Sadly, Israel apostatized and failed to obey God's command to be a blessing to all nations and even rejected their Messiah whom was prophesied would come.

Whenever the Jews rejected the clear teaching of Jesus the Messiah from their own holy writings, Paul then went to the Gentiles to declare the risen Jesus Christ.

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Have you been so overwhelmed by the love of Jesus Christ, who died for you, that you desire to Tell Someone today and every day about Him? We can tell others at every opportunity about Jesus' Immeasurable, Matchless & Unfathomable love for all of us.

Your great salvation is too precious to be enjoyed in silence! Please write down the day and events of your salvation just as Paul recorded his own "new-birth" in Acts 9 and send it to us so we can rejoice with you. For a person to enter heaven they must first have a Salvation Story. Please send us your Story!

Do you have any questions? Please write and forward to [write2stm@gmail.com](mailto:write2stm@gmail.com) or [WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com](mailto:WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com). We will attempt to answer your questions as we are given clarity, time and opportunity.

All our love to you in Christ - Jon + Philis