

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

LESSON NO. 28 - Please read Acts 17.

- Acts 17:23-31 **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD**. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.
- And **He has made from one blood every nation of men** to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.
- Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, **but now commands all men everywhere to repent**, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness **by the Man** [Jesus Christ] whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all **by raising Him** [Jesus] **from the dead.**"
- Revelation 20:12-15 And I saw **the dead, small and great, standing before God**, and **books were opened**. And another book was opened, which is **the Book of Life**. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

Truth: **Life is so short!** We all will die. All dead people will one day be raised from the dead.

- James 4:14 For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

- 2 Timothy 4:7-9 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, **there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and **not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

Question No. 1: Why did Paul write this to Timothy?

Answer: To encourage Timothy to not be afraid of suffering or death and look forward to being with Jesus in heaven.

- Philippians 1:21-23 **For to me, to live is Christ**, and **to die is gain**. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

Question No. 2: Do you think Paul was afraid of dying?

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Answer: **No.** Paul clearly saw the wonderful truth that when one gives their life back to their Creator, Jesus, that person gains eternal, complete joy. Trading the “vapor of life” for unending joy is the best trade any person can ever make.

- Acts 16:29-32 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” So they said, “**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

Question No. 3: What is the **single condition** stated above that is the entrance into the narrow gate [Matthew 7:12-14] which leads to eternal life with Jesus?

Answer: **Belief / Trust** in the **true Jesus Christ** of the Bible. This means a settled belief in the birth, life, death, burial, resurrection, accession into heaven and the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to rule.

Truth: Only the Bible declares the true Jesus Christ. If whatever one believes to be true about Jesus is NOT the Jesus declared in the Bible, that belief needs to be changed immediately.

Why? As we return to our opening truth, we all agree we all will die. The only question left to mankind is not, “Will I die?” but, rather, “When will I die?” “Where will I immediately go after my physical death, heaven or hell?”

We are told by the inspired words of Holy God that believing and trusting in the true Jesus ALONE by FAITH ALONE is the ONLY means available for salvation. This truth is clearly declared repeatedly by God. This is the reason it is critically important that we all believe and trust in Jesus Christ today which seals our eternal destiny immediately.

If anyone believes something untrue about Jesus, that error needs to be changed immediately or the danger of dying outside of Christ and forever condemned hangs over our heads every moment.

- Hebrews 9:22 without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Question No. 4. Is this an immutable [never changed] Law established by Holy Sovereign God to govern His universe?

Answer: Yes! It is necessary to believe and trust in Jesus Christ as the innocent Lamb of God whom God the Father allowed to be killed as our Substitute for our sins and rebellion against Him. Jesus had to die to take our place in death so we could be forgiven and live with Him forever.

- Genesis 3:6-7 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and **they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.**

- Genesis 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

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God killed an innocent animal to provide acceptable covering for Adam + Eve. The animal was a foreshadowing of God's immutable Law that the blood of the innocent must be shed to cover the sin and rebellion of people.

- Genesis 4:1-5,8 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat.

- And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Question No. 5. Why do people try to worship God by offering "deeds or works" that they think God must accept?

Answer: All people are born with a Conscience. The Conscience is a gift from God which "convicts people of their sinful rebellion" against Holy God and for hating their neighbors. People are born into the world with a predisposition to worship because their Conscience declares to them they are Guilty and they have no way to undo their sin.

People, in their fallen state, always want to create a **Religious System** to "help them seek" God and "some way appease" the Justice and Wrath of God. Adam + Eve's attempt to cover their sin by "clothing themselves" with their own works of sewing "fig leaves together" was unacceptable to God.

This action was man's FIRST futile attempt to create a **Religious System of Self Works** to atone for their obvious rebellion and sin against Holy God. All people since Adam and Eve are tempted to continue the futile and damning attempt to provide "their own works" to appease Holy God. All religious systems are begotten and evolve out of this grave error.

God will have NOTHING to do with "man-made futile attempts" to provide for themselves deeds to atone for their sins! God clearly brought death into the world by killing an animal to provide coverings for Adam + Eve. What did the animal do wrong? NOTHING! The animal was completely innocent, yet, in perfect Justice and perfect Love for Man made in His own image, God killed the innocent to provide an acceptable covering for the Guilty.

The death of the innocent animal was accepted as a Substitute in place of the death deserved by Adam + Eve. This was a foreshadowing of the death of Jesus Christ. The Innocent died for the Guilty!

This is the beginning of the Greatest Love Story Ever Told! Perfect Creator-God, Jesus, came to earth and assumed humanity to offer Himself as the Innocent Blood Sacrifice as a perfect Substitute for the sins of ALL PEOPLE who would believe and trust in Him as Lord and Savior.

- Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 Timothy 2:3-6 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who **desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is

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one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all.

Question No. 6. Is there any other way a person can be saved?

Answer: **No!** God will accept no other way.

- John 14:1-6 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwellings; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.** And where I go you know, and the way you know." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**"

Question No. 7: Is the Bible clearly stating that if I believe and trust Jesus Christ for the covering of my sins, after I physically die, will I go to heaven and live with Jesus forever?

Answer: **Yes!**

This brings us full circle to our beginning where Paul, through the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit, wrote this encouragement to Timothy:

- 2 Timothy 4:7-9 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, **there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and **not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

Question No. 8: Do you believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?

When you believe you will NOW have the incredible privilege of telling others this **Greatest Love Story Ever Told!**

Question No. 9. If you have NOT yet believed and trusted in Jesus, will you now believe? Will you trust Jesus for your present life and your eternal life?

- Romans 8:31-32 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **He [God] who did not spare His own Son**, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him [Jesus] also **freely give us all things?**

Question No. 10. Will you tell someone?

Truly, it is all about Jesus!

Do you have any questions? Your questions can be sent to:
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We love each of you,
In Christ -
Jon + Philis