

"The Greeting"

Part 4

Romans 1:1-7

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we ended by looking at the Gospel of God which Paul mentions in Romans 1:1-2. Tonight, we are going to pick up where we stopped last week.

I. The Gospel of God

1. It is God's Gospel.

Notice Romans 1:1

When Paul tells us that he was separated unto the Gospel of God he is pointing to his motivation for separation. The Gospel was not man's idea as a way to satisfy God it was God's PROVISION for man so that man's sin could be paid for. Before the world was ever created God knew that Adam would disobey Him in the Garden of Eden. God knew that Adam's sin would plunge the entire human race into sin. God knew man would forever be lost without a Savior so therefore God determined to send His Son into this world of sin to die as our Substitute.

Revelation 13:8

⁸ And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

The Gospel satisfied the righteous demands of God. Let me show you a conversation between Abraham and Isaac as they made their way up Mount Moriah when Abraham was to offer Isaac as a burnt offering.

Genesis 22:7-8

⁷ And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

⁸ And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

This statement by Abraham was prophetic. It points to Jesus Christ who is the Lamb of God that would take away the sin of the world and who would satisfy the wrath of God on our behalf. He would be the Lamb which God provided for Himself.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word "propitiation" means "to appease". Jesus death on the cross APPEASED the wrath of God. We could also say that Jesus APPEASED the righteous demands of the Father. Therefore, Jesus was the LAMB which God provided to satisfy His own righteous demands as well as His wrath so that we could be forgiven of our sins, be reconciled to God and NEVER fear the wrath of God.

2. The Gospel was promised by the prophets.

Notice Romans 1:2

The promise of the Gospel was delivered through the prophets who were commissioned by God to be the channels through which the message would be delivered. When the prophets wrote the Old Testament books they did not sit down and decide to write on their own. They were not left to themselves to discern how God was working.

2 Peter 1:21

²¹ For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

There are 3 words in this verse that are very important.

- a. **Moved** - This has the idea of being "carried about".
- b. **Holy Ghost** - This refers to the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. This word for Spirit means "to breathe".

When the Old Testament prophets wrote the Scriptures, they were permitted to use their own literary style and while they wrote the Holy Spirit "breathed" into them the spiritual Truths which God would have them to record. These men were like ships that

were driven with the wind. The wind was the Holy Spirit that stirred these men to write the words of the Old Testament. Their writings all have ONE central theme.

Hebrews 10:1-7

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

³ But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

⁵ Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

⁶ In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Jesus Christ **IS** the Central Theme of the writings of the prophets. Now while they were moved by the Spirit and they wrote concerning Jesus Christ they never had the full picture.

Hebrews 1:1-2a

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son

The term "sundry times" according to Vines Dictionary means "*in many parts*" or "*portions*". The idea here is that the Old Testament prophets spoke of Jesus Christ but the picture was fragmented. Let me show you the words of A. Saphir on this thought:

"We notice the imperfect and fragmentary character of the old dispensation, when we consider not merely the words, but the types, which are living prophecies. There was not a single one which could stand by itself, it had always to be supplemented. Abel shows to us that the righteous shepherd was to suffer and die ; Enoch that the man of God would be

lifted up into the heavens ; Noah that there will be a Righteous One who will save not merely himself, but others, out of the destruction and judgment which sin draws down from a holy God. If we want to have an idea of the salvation of God we must combine the three —Abel, Enoch, and Noah—in one person; the Righteous Man, who suffers, saves, and enters into glory... ”

Martin Luther used a word picture that illustrates the Old Testament writers and the New Testament writers very well. He compared this to the men who carried the grapes back from the Promise Land. The grapes were on a pole between 2 men.

Numbers 13:23

²³ And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs.

The man in the front is a picture of the Old Testament prophets. He knew he was carrying something that would be a great encouragement to those who were waiting but he could not see what it was that he was carrying. The man in the back pictures the New Testament writer who came behind the prophets. This man could smell the fragrance and he could clearly see that which the man in the front was carrying.

God “moved” the prophets to write about the promise of the Gospel and even though it was fragmented it still pointed to Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world.

3. The Gospel concerns Jesus Christ.

Notice Romans 1:3-4

There are two ways which the Gospel concerns Jesus Christ and these two ways are very significant. It is impossible to separate these two for if one is denied then there is no Gospel at all. We are going to look at the high points of these two verses then we will look at the details. Let us look closely at the two ways in which the Gospel concerns Jesus Christ.

a. The Gospel concerns the humanity of Jesus Christ.

Notice Romans 1:3

This verse points to the Truth that Jesus Christ was fully man. He was of the seed of David according to the flesh. He was human and He had to be to qualify to be our Savior.

No angel could have come to the earth and died for the sins of man because God required that it had to be a man who would die as the Substitute for man. He had to be human to be the Substitute for man. In John's day there were those who denied the humanity of Jesus Christ. Let me show you what John recorded.

1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

² *Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:*

³ *And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*

There were those of John's day who denied the humanity of Jesus Christ and John warned his readers to very careful about listening to them.

b. The Gospel concerns the deity of Jesus Christ.

Notice Romans 1:4

Jesus was MADE of the seed of David and He was DECLARED to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection. Jesus was fully human and He was also fully God. The deity of Jesus Christ is so very important. If He was not God in the flesh then we have no hope. God required a sinless Substitute to die in our place on the cross. The Substitute had to be a human/a man but there was a major problem and that was that EVERY man born into this world is born a sinner. Man's sin nature is passed to us from our earthly fathers and therefore we are all born into sin. The only ONE who is sinless is God but He is a Spirit and a spirit cannot die because for death to occur the spirit must be separated from the body. Therefore, God took upon Him a human body and became a man to be our Substitute who would die on the cross and pay the penalty for our sins. He was born of a virgin therefore He did not have an earthly father so He did not have a sin nature. His Father was God. Jesus was therefore both man and God. He was the God-man. God became a man so that we could be saved and have eternal fellowship with the Father.

These two points, the HUMANITY and the DEITY of Jesus Christ, are seen in many ways throughout the Bible. For anyone to deny either of these two Truths is to preach a Jesus different than the Jesus of the Bible which means they are preaching another gospel. The

Old Testament writers presented both the Humanity of Jesus and the Deity of Jesus. They prophesied that as a MAN Jesus would suffer and die for the sins of man.

Isaiah 53:1-3, 8-11

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

² For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

The Old Testament prophets prophesied that as God He would establish His Kingdom on earth.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The prophets presented Jesus both as MAN and as GOD. In Isaiah 7 we can see both in one verse.

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son [His humanity], and shall call his name Immanuel [His deity].

When Jesus came the first time the Nation of Israel missed Him because they were looking for the Son of God to establish His Kingdom. They were not looking for a SUFFERING Messiah. The prophecies of the Kingdom in the Old Testament over shadowed the prophecies of His suffering in the Old Testament. Israel was under the oppression of the Roman Empire and they were looking for a King to set them free. When anyone would come that seemed to rise above the oppression such as John the Baptist they would ask, "Are you the Messiah?". They did their best to measure every leader that came on the scene with the prophecy of the Messiah concerning His promise to establish the Kingdom. When they inquired of John, he openly denied being the Messiah but when Jesus came and when He was asked He openly claimed to be the Messiah. But they rejected Him because they chose to ignore what the Old Testament said concerning His humanity and His suffering. He did not fit THEIR description of the Messiah so they rejected Him.

Let us notice one more example of Jesus' HUMANITY and DEITY working together in Him.

Mark 4:36-41

³⁶ And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

³⁷ And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

³⁸ And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

³⁹ And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

⁴⁰ And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Conclusion:

It is so important that we know these two Truths for it is Satan's desire to have us buy into another gospel which would really be no gospel at all.